

Rehousing Plan for Ukrainian Households (Homes for Ukraine Scheme) (Housing, Andy Vincent)

Synopsis of report:

106 Ukrainian refugee households have been registered with families located across Runnymede since March 2022 under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and are being supported by Runnymede Borough Council.

Placements made under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme were originally made for between a 6-to-12-month period.

Although a small number of placements have broken down the majority are anticipated to last a minimum of 6 months.

Placements could therefore begin to end from October 2022. It is anticipated that a significant percentage of households will find their own longer-term housing, although many will approach the Local Authority for assistance.

This report sets out a graduated approach for supporting households with their longer-term housing and provides an analysis of the housing needs of the households and their location preferences.

Recommendation:

- I. Housing Committee Members support the approach set out for dealing with requests for support from Ukrainian households who approach the local authority for support with their housing.

1. Context of report

- 1.1 The Homes for Ukraine Scheme was launched on 14th March 2022. Households started arriving in the UK from 18th March 2022.
- 1.2 As of 1st August 2022, 211 households are registered on the government portal to locate within the borough.
- 1.3 The number of households who arrived each month are as follows (106): -

Month	Number of Households
March	4
April	27
May	42
June	20
July	13

- 1.4 Host families who have offered accommodation to Ukrainian families under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme were contractually obliged to offer accommodation for between 6 to 12 months.
- 1.5 Office for National Statistics research on the Experiences of Homes for Ukraine scheme sponsors published on 10th August 2022 indicates that 26% of hosts intend

to end placements before or at 6 months (Link to the research provided in background documents).

- 1.6 A small number of placements in Runnymede (5) have ended early, due to relationships between households breaking down.

2. Profile of Ukrainian Households

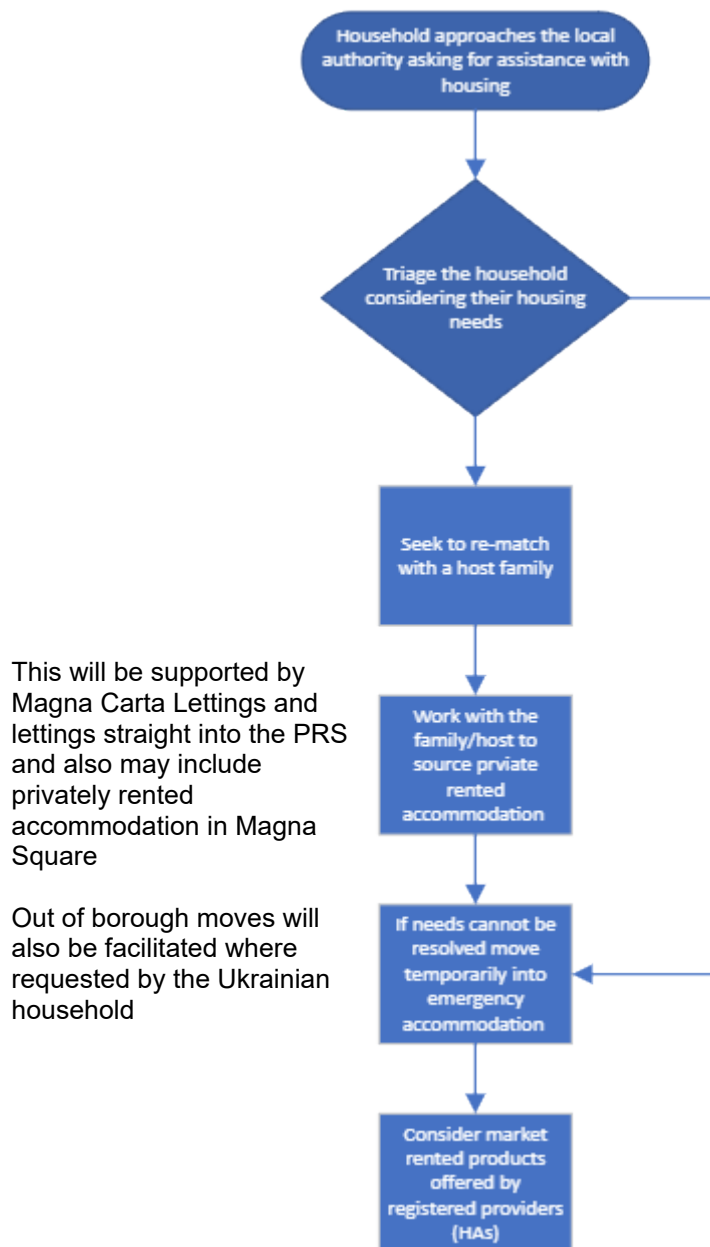
- 2.1 The profile of the households who have located in Runnymede via the Homes for Ukraine Scheme is as follows: -

Family Type	Number
Children over 10	37
Children under 10	26

- 2.2 Families with children will ideally need to be located within easy traveling distance of a specific school, when making allocations under homelessness legislation the Council would try to accommodate schools but due to the small size of the borough and high cost of private rented sector this may not always be possible.
- 2.3 Single people and couples are likely to have more flexibility around where they are located. The Council will try to assist those in or seeking employment to secure accommodation near good transport networks.

3. Housing Plan

- 3.1 It is anticipated that a significant percentage of households housed through the Homes for Ukraine Scheme will find their own longer-term accommodation.
- 3.2 There is anecdotal information that a number of households have already sourced their own accommodation.
- 3.3 Households who approach Runnymede Borough Council for support with their housing will go through the following process: -



3.4 In order to facilitate the above process; we will: -

- Approach private rented landlords in the borough to encourage them to support Ukrainian households.
- Advertise to identify more potential host families.
- Where required provide deposits and top-up rent payments to facilitate moves into the private rented sector.
- If a household has connections elsewhere and wants to join them, we will support with finding PRS in that area for them.
- Liaise with RBCi on vacancies within their stock.

3.5 Runnymede Borough Council is not proposing to alter its Housing Allocations Scheme to enable Ukrainian households to access the Runnymede Housing Register. Due to local connection criteria within the scheme Ukrainian refugee households will not be able to join the register.

4. Policy Framework Implications

- 4.1 Households are entitled to support from the Local Authority with their housing under existing homelessness legislation.
- 4.2 The Council's policy position is articulated within the Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, DLUHC Guidance, Rough Sleeping – no second night out policy etc.

5. Resource implications

- 5.1 A central government grant is received for each individual supported under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme – this equates to £10,500. Surrey County Council have agreed to give Runnymede £4,075 per person to support this initiative at a district level.
- 5.2 Up to 40% of the RBC allocation has been identified for housing within each grant (£1,630). This will enable the provision of rent deposits where required and rent top-ups to increase the pool of available accommodation if the household is only in receipt of Universal Credit.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 Households who have come to the UK via the Homes for Ukraine Scheme or via the Ukraine Family Scheme are entitled to support from the Local Authority with their housing.
- 6.2 This support is provided under the existing homelessness legislation – Housing Act 1996, as amended by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.
- 6.3 Runnymede Borough Council are required to provide accommodation under our relief and main duty responsibilities should a Ukrainian household become homeless under the Homelessness Reduction Act and Housing Act 1996.

7. Equality implications

- 7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment of the housing plan for Ukrainian households has been undertaken. This assessment looks at whether any equalities issues exist when delivering different housing outcomes for households in different circumstances or when approaching the authority at different times.

8. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

- 8.1 All privately rented accommodation must have a RdSAP rating above an E.
- 8.2 Efforts will be made to source accommodation with the highest energy efficiency rating to minimise the potential for households to be in fuel poverty i.e. when over 10% of gross income is being spent on heating a home.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1 This report sets out a plan for housing Ukrainian households once their original placement with a host family has ended.

- 9.2 Assessing the cost implications of implementing the plan is difficult to gage.
- 9.3 It is anticipated that the plan will not exceed the finance available from government funding. However, the central government provided Homelessness Prevention Grant can be utilised if the Ukrainian grant funding is exhausted.

(To resolve)

Background papers

Homes for Ukraine Scheme - [‘Homes for Ukraine’ scheme launches - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-launches)

Office for National Statistics Research on Experiences of Homes for Ukraine scheme sponsors, UK - [Experiences of Homes for Ukraine scheme sponsors, UK - Office for National Statistics](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/immigration/articlesandreports/articles/2022/05/20220501-experiences-of-homes-for-ukraine-scheme-sponsors)