

Corporate Governance Committee

30th September 2022

Homes for Ukraine Scheme risks

Tom Purnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Gurjit Samra-Rai, Temporary Head of Service Safer Communities and Resettlement

Comms and media activity



L Leicester Mercury

Leicestershire must to be ready to help Ukraine refugees say council leaders

The leader and deputy leader of Leicestershire County Council have said the ... With the Russian military assault of Ukraine intensifying,...



M Melton Times

Special team formed to help Ukraine people seeking refuge in Leicestershire

Under a government scheme a large number of Ukrainians will be able ... a huge task so Leicestershire County Council leader, Nick Rushton,...



Corporate Risk 'B'

Risk description amended September 2022 to focus on the risks behind the Council's responsibilities

If because of the ongoing war in Ukraine, the Homes for Ukraine Scheme continues beyond its original planned duration, increasing numbers of hosts are likely to end their sponsorships and refugees (or guests) are expected to encounter challenges in securing new sponsors or privately rented accommodation, then the cost and service pressures on the Council and partners are likely to increase, safeguarding issues might increase and there will be a reputation risk if the scheme fails to provide the support guests require. Cost of living pressures are exacerbating this issue both in relation to hosts and guests.

Homes for Ukraine Scheme - Background

- Russia invaded February 2022
- Government Guidance April 2022
- British Sponsors support Ukrainian Guests with visas and accommodation
- Hosts committing for 6 months to a year
- 1 year scheme
- First guests arrived April 2022
- Currently 770 guests have arrived (1355 have applied for visas related to Leicestershire hosts)
- A Local Resilience Forum Group continues to provide strategic co-ordination with partners (especially the County Council and district councils) collaborating well on implementation in Leicestershire

Some issues

- Numbers of arrivals will increase as visas are granted and further applications are made and approved.
- Pace of arrivals has been steady to date after initial surge but future pace uncertain and depends on events in Ukraine and Government actions in processing visas and extending the scheme (or not).
- Issuing of updated Government guidance setting out whether and how the scheme will be extended has been delayed by the process to change the PM and the national mourning period. Still awaited.
- Inconsistencies and lack of join up between H4US, Ukraine Family Schemes and other migration/asylum schemes. Inconsistencies relate to funding to guests/refugees, and to Councils
- Only some of the demands on Council services are being funded by Government – increased pressure at time of challenging budget situation
- Key emerging challenge is rematching guests with new hosts, or finding private rented accommodation where rematching isn't possible. Both are proving challenging.
- These challenges replicated across the East Midlands (and almost certainly nationally)

Corporate Risks

- The Homes for Ukraine Scheme continues beyond its original planned duration
- Increasingly hosts end their sponsorships leading to homelessness and social care issues, exacerbated by challenges in accessing and securing private rented accommodation
- Cost and service pressures on the Council and partners increase, safeguarding issues increase and an impact on Council's reputation if scheme fails to provide the support guests require
- Cost of living pressures exacerbate risks for guests, sponsors and Councils
- Community tensions
- Government funding is not extended beyond the first year but service pressures continue.

Thank you. Any questions?

Gurjit Samra-Rai

Temporary Head of Service Safer Communities and Resettlement