

# APPENDIX A



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## Cardiff Council's Support for Asylum Seekers & Refugees

**Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022**



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# Definitions- Refugee



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The 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of **Refugees** is:

*“A person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.”*

- In the UK, a person becomes a refugee when government agrees that an individual who has applied for asylum meets the definition in the Refugee Convention they will ‘recognise’ that person as a refugee and issue them with refugee status documentation.
- Usually refugees in the UK are given five years’ leave to remain as a refugee.
- They must then must apply for further leave, although their status as a refugee is not limited to five years.



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# Definitions- Asylum Seeker



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*A person who has left their country of origin and formally applied for asylum in another country but whose application has not yet been concluded.*

- Under international law, anyone has the right to apply for asylum in any country that has signed the 1951 Convention and to remain there until the authorities have assessed their claim.
- The UK asylum system is centralised, strictly controlled and complex.
- In the year ending June 2022, 76% of initial decisions resulted in a grant of asylum or other form of protection.



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# Introduction: Overview of migration schemes



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Immigration is a reserved matter for UK Government however the Welsh Government also has a policy approach to support refugee and asylum seekers through access to public services e.g. education, health.

## Pathways to sanctuary in the UK

- 1. Refugee Resettlement Schemes:** Refugee resettlement involves the selection and transfer of refugees from a country in which they have sought protection – usually somewhere with a large number of refugees – to a third country which has agreed to admit them as refugees where they can rebuild their lives.
- 2. Claiming asylum:** A person who has left their country of origin and formally applied for asylum in another country but whose application has not yet been concluded. In the UK, it is only possible to claim asylum ‘in-country’ and there is no legal way to travel to the UK for the specific purpose of seeking asylum.
- 3. Dedicated Visa schemes:** In recent years, specific visa schemes have opened in response to human rights abuses and humanitarian crises, enabling certain national groups to enter the UK and access specified services (e.g. Ukraine – access to public funds, Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) visa scheme- no access to public funds)



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# Migration Pathways



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## Asylum pathway

Asylum Seekers  
accommodated under S.95/S.4  
Immigration Act 1999

Asylum Seekers  
accommodated under s.98  
Immigration Act 1999 (Initial  
Accommodation)

## Refugee Resettlement Pathway

ARAP/ACRS in bridging  
accommodation

UKRS/VPRS/ ARAP/ACRS in  
settled accommodation in  
Cardiff (Private Rented Sector)

## Ukraine Visa Schemes

Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Super  
Sponsor Scheme)

Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme

Ukraine Family Visa Scheme



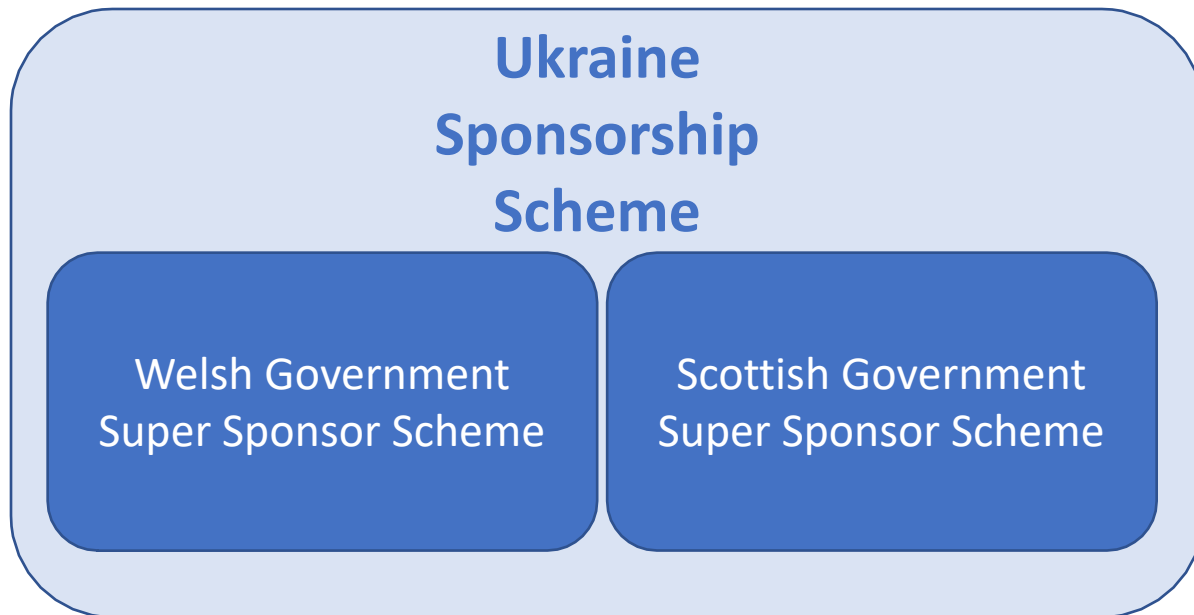
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# Ukraine Response: Pathways



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# Ukraine Response: Sponsorship Scheme



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- The Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme allows Ukrainian nationals and their family members to come to the UK if they have a named sponsor who can provide accommodation.
- The scheme opened on 18th March for visa applications from Ukrainian applicants who have named people in the UK willing to sponsor them. Either the Ukrainian or the sponsor can complete the application.
- The Sponsorship Scheme is uncapped- there is no limit to the total number of people who can arrive under the scheme.
- Local authority tariff per individual arrival- core tariff of £10,500 per person, additional tariffs for children depending on age to cover the cost of school places.
- Right to work, education, access to public funds etc. on arrival in the UK.
- £200 cash subsistence on arrival, Sponsor able to 'opt in' to receive £350 per month 'thank you' payments- for up to 12 months.



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# Ukraine Response: Welsh Government Super Sponsor Scheme



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- The Welsh Government is a 'super sponsor', this means they commit to provide initial accommodation, support and care in Wales, removing the need for applicants to be matched to a named person before they are cleared to travel to the UK through the visa system.
- Welcome centres were established across Wales to accommodate people when they arrive. They will then go on to medium and longer-term accommodation.
- There are a number of initial accommodation settings in Cardiff. There are grant awards in place to cover the costs of service provision including a day rate of approximately £12 per person/per day for support costs.
- Across the Sponsorship Scheme and Super Sponsor scheme, a staff team provide support to Ukrainian nationals and their hosts, including accessing housing, health, education, employment and other public and voluntary sector services.



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# Ukraine Response: Family Visa Scheme



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- The Ukraine Family Scheme allows applicants to join family members, or extend their stay, in the UK.
- Arrivals also have right to work, education and entitlement to public funds on arrival. Councils do not receive any funding for those arriving under the Family Visa Scheme.
- Arrivals not entitled to £200 cash subsistence on arrival, family sponsors not eligible for £350 per month 'thank you' payments.
- No data available at local level but cases tend to present with two scenarios:
  - 1) Accommodation is overcrowded and requiring housing assistance
  - 2) Struggling to financially support relatives who have arrived from Ukraine



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# Afghan Resettlement



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- In August 2021, as the situation in Afghanistan deteriorated rapidly and dangerously, 15,000 people were evacuated to the United Kingdom, including a number of Afghan nationals who worked with the British armed forces (arriving under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP)).
- A number of Councils were requested to provide support to those arriving in the evacuation, Cardiff supported this and remains committed to resettlement efforts.
- The UK formally opened the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) on 6 January 2022 and 5,000 people have arrived in the first year of the scheme. Up to 20,000 people will arrive in future years through ACRS and more through ARAP.
- The ACRS aims to resettle Afghan nationals who have been displaced from their homes due to the current crisis and will prioritise women, girls, children and those most in need, who are likely to face human rights abuses and dehumanising treatment by the Taliban.
- The ARAP scheme offers relocation and/or other assistance to former Locally Employed Staff from Afghanistan.



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# Afghan Resettlement



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- Locally, we have support approximately 700 people through our initial accommodation provision to date, with 90% of those arriving during the August evacuation now matched with long-term homes across the UK.
- The Council receives a day-rate of £28 per person per day to support those in bridging accommodation to provide wraparound support services.



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# Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme/ United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme



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- The Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) was launched in January 2014 and has helped those in the greatest need, including people requiring urgent medical treatment, survivors of violence and torture, and women and children at risk. Arrivals under the scheme were primarily from Syria.
- The final number of refugees who have found safety in the UK under the VPRS was 20,319
- Cardiff resettled 95 people, 21 families, under the VPRS between 2014 and 2020.
- Families arriving under this scheme receive support for five years and our support provider, Taff Housing, continues to work with resettled families across the Cardiff & Vale region.
- A tariff applies for those resettled locally under a refugee resettlement pathway, the exact amounts have varied by scheme but current funding scheme for ARAP/ACRS resettlement is as below:
  - £20,520 per person, over 3 years
  - £4,500 per child for education
  - £850 to cover English language provision for adults requiring this support and;
  - £2,600 to cover healthcare



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# Asylum Seekers

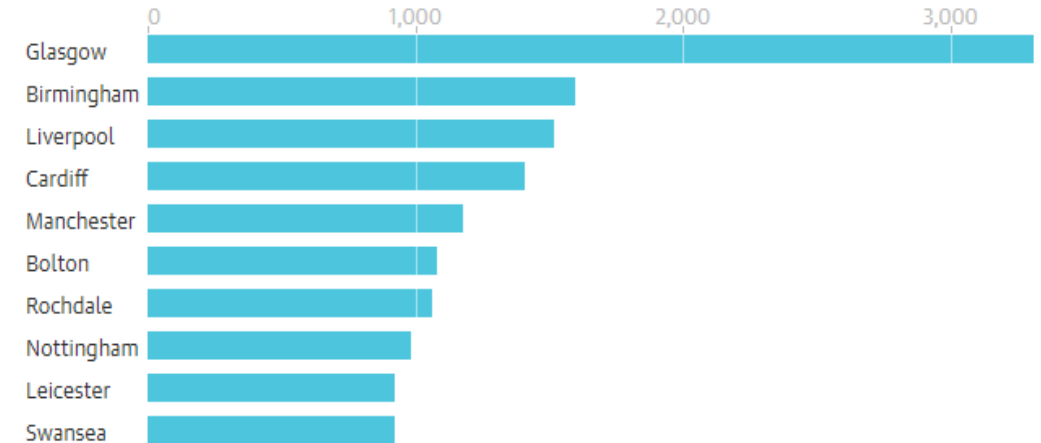
- Under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, asylum seekers can apply for support while waiting for their claim (or appeal) to be considered.
- Support can be for accommodation and/or subsistence, according to their circumstances and on condition that they satisfy a destitution test. If provided, accommodation is offered in a dispersal area—i.e. away from London and the South East.
- Cardiff currently housing 50% of Wales' regional share and being the fourth most common asylum dispersal destination in the UK.
- The Council has a limited role in the support of asylum seekers (statutory/universal services only).
- Since the privatisation of asylum accommodation, local government does not receive any dedicated funding for a asylum-seeker specific support service, unlike the other schemes.



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**Ten local authorities** are home to **one third** of all asylum seekers in the UK



Guardian graphic | Source: Home Office, 31 December 2016



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# Asylum Seekers- Changes to Asylum Dispersal



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- In April 2022, the Home Office introduced its 'Full Dispersal' policy, meaning that all councils in England, Scotland and Wales are now asylum dispersal areas – meaning that the Home Office's contracted providers can source accommodation in their area.
- For each new bedspace identified, local government receives £3,500 as a one-off payment to support service provision.
- In 2022, the Council received a one-off 'thank you' payment of £250 per asylum seeker at the initiation of a funding review.
- Longer-term funding arrangements are currently being reviewed by UK Government, which could enable local government to deliver additional services to this population group. Cardiff is participating in an ongoing cost-tracing exercise to inform the future model.



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# Support themes



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Employment

Housing

Education

English Language  
(ESOL)

Mental Health

Community  
Welcome



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# Strengths and areas for future development



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## Strengths

- Dedicated in-house team established to support Ukraine response, including a move-on team to deliver transition to long-term housing arrangements.
- Award winning support service in Afghan Bridging Accommodation (UK Housing Hero Awards 2022- 'Team of the Year award'), strong partnership with Ministry of Defence, Home Office, Council departments, Health Board and voluntary sector.
- Early years partnership- parenting support and dedicated team for families with under 5's, including partnership with health visiting and maternity services.
- Dedicated refugee employability service based in Central Library (UKRS/VPRS) clients- opportunity to further develop this.
- Established move-on service for new refugees coming through the asylum route- effective partnership between Housing Options and Welsh Refugee Council which prevents homelessness during the 28-day move-on period.



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# Strengths and areas for future development



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## Areas for future development

- Service-user led service development- looking at use of focus groups and client evaluation of services within Ukraine and Afghan schemes
- Women's service offer- to review whether the current service offer reflects the support needs of women and girls, including ESOL and employment
- Adolescent and young person's service offer- support for 13-25 year age group
- Development of partnerships with occupation shortage sectors and private sector employers/ philanthropy
- Longer-term strategic approach including inclusion metrics on e.g. employment, education, participation locally
- Training offer for professionals to raise awareness of rights, entitlements, trauma-informed approaches.



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