

Variation to existing partnership arrangements to provide support for Ukrainian refugees arriving through 'Homes for Ukraine' in Doncaster, East Riding and Rotherham

Date: 02/02/2023

Report of: Dinah Beckett, Migration Yorkshire

Report to: Director of Communities, Housing and Environment

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

The 'Homes for Ukraine' Scheme was launched in March 2022. As part of the Scheme local authorities are required to deliver integration services to Ukrainian refugees who arrive through the scheme.

Doncaster, East Riding and Rotherham Councils requested to vary their existing Partnership Agreements with Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) to add the provision of a 'wraparound integration service' for Ukrainian refugees who have arrived through Homes for Ukraine. A variation to the existing Grant Agreement with the British Refugee Council is required to deliver this service.

Recommendations

The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment is requested to:

- a) Approve a variation to the existing Partnership Agreement between Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) and City of Doncaster Council to provide for 12 months of integration support for Ukrainian refugees who have arrived in the UK through Homes for Ukraine from 1st April 2022 to 28th February 2023. This means the variation agreement has a retrospective commencement date based on when the service commenced of 1st May 2022 and end date of 29th February 2024.
- b) Approve a variation to the existing Partnership Agreement between Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) and East Riding of Yorkshire Council to provide for 12 months of integration support to Ukrainian refugees who have arrived in the UK through Homes for Ukraine from 1st April 2022 to 28th February 2023. This means the variation agreement has a

retrospective commencement date based on when the service commenced of 1st May 2022 and end date of 29th February 2024.

- c) Approve a variation to the existing Partnership Agreement between Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to provide for 12 months of integration support to Ukrainian refugees who have arrived in the UK through Homes for Ukraine from 1st April 2022 to 31st December 2022. This means the variation agreement has a retrospective commencement date based on when the service commenced of 1st September 2022 and end date of 31st December 2023.
- d) Approve a variation to the existing Grant Agreement between Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) and the British Refugee Council to deliver the above services in Doncaster, East Riding and Rotherham. This means the variation agreement has a retrospective commencement date depending on when the service commenced of 1st May 2022 and end date of 29th February 2024.
- e) Approve a variation in the payment flow in the above agreements which will permit Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) to receive Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) grant funding via City of Doncaster Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, and allow the onward payment of such funds to the British Refugee Council. The British Refugee Council will directly invoice Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) for work done; subsequently Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) will invoice the relevant partner local authority (partner LA) for the work at the same cost.
- f) To approve the entry into such other agreements that the Head of Migration Yorkshire believes are needed to enable the delivery of a wraparound integration service to Ukrainian refugees in the 'Homes for Ukraine' Sponsorship Scheme.

What is this report about?

- 1.1 The report outlines the proposal for Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) to enter into variations to existing partnership arrangements with partner LAs, City of Doncaster Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and delivery partner the British Refugee Council.
- 1.2 Under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, the DLUHC provides funding to partner LAs of £10,500 grant tariff per arrival (March to December 2022) reduced to £5,900 per arrival after 1st January 2023; a condition of the funding is that LAs must commission or provide services to ensure Ukrainian guests 'are provided with a source of advice and support to assist with registering for mainstream benefits and services, including where necessary specialist public health services and community integration' These services are known as 'wraparound support'.
- 1.3 Some partner LAs are not in a position to provide wraparound support directly.
- 1.4 Migration Yorkshire is in a strong position to facilitate the provision of wraparound support through our existing partnership with the British Refugee Council. See paragraph 1.7.
- 1.5 The wraparound support for Ukrainian refugees will be a variation to existing Partnership Agreements with partner LAs from 2016 to 2024, to participate in the Vulnerable People's Resettlement Scheme (VPRS). Under this arrangement, support is provided by the British

Refugee Council to those people resettled in regional LA areas under the relevant programme. Some of these Partnership Agreements have been subsequently varied in 2021 to support Afghan guests in bridging accommodation.

- 1.6 Under the proposed variation agreements, the British Refugee Council will directly invoice Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) for work done; subsequently Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) will invoice the partner LA for the work at the same cost and the partner LA will pay Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) using the funding it has received from DLUHC. This will be per head based on arrivals therefore this amount may vary slightly if fewer/more arrivals.
- 1.7 Migration Yorkshire is based within Leeds City Council, but works across the region, reporting into a Migration Yorkshire Board made up of the fifteen member Local Authorities. Migration Yorkshire provides strategic leadership and local support across the Yorkshire and Humber region. It works with national, regional and local partners to ensure that the region can deal with, and benefit from, migration and works with agencies across the statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors to help support the delivery of high-quality services to migrants in a way that benefits everyone living in local communities.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 2.1 The British Refugee Council has agreed to deliver wraparound support to people who have arrived through the Homes for Ukraine scheme in Doncaster, East Riding and Rotherham as part of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme (see Appendices 2A and 2B). A variation to the existing Partnership Agreements between:

- Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) and City of Doncaster Council
- Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) and East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

and a variation to the existing Grant Agreement between:

- Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) and British Refugee Council

will enable the partner LAs to meet their obligations under the Homes for Ukraine scheme for integration services which will mean Ukrainian guests are able to better access services and improve integration outcomes.

- 2.2 The wraparound service is open to all Ukrainians, of any age as long as they arrived in the area via the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme. The service will contribute to:

- Keeping people safe from harm, protecting the most vulnerable – for instance through ensuring people understand their rights and are informed about life in the UK. Reporting critical incidents and providing support to individuals and families affected by domestic abuse, hate crime, modern slavery or other complex needs.
- Supporting to improve skills, helping people into work and into better jobs – for example through support with access to schooling and other further education
- Minimising homelessness through a greater focus on prevention through advice around housing options

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 3.1 This service will not directly impact Leeds residents but will have a larger regional social value. Some of the Ukrainians accessing this service may move to Leeds in the future.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: n/a

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 4.1 The need for this service was identified through consultation with relevant local authorities in Yorkshire and Humber, in negotiation with the British Refugee Council and has been done at speed because of the rapid implementation of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

What are the resource implications?

- 5.1 In assessing the financial impact of this decision for the purposes of this report, we have taken into account the total value of the grant funding received from DLUHC via City of Doncaster Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council being paid to the British Refugee Council for delivering the service. The wraparound service delivered by the British Refugee Council in each area will be entirely paid for by the commissioning local authority in that area. There will be no cost to Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) for this arrangement as Leeds City Council is the facilitator/enabler of the arrangement, therefore the net cost/income is zero. Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) will facilitate the arrangement by processing payments through the existing mechanism developed as part of the original Partnership arrangements, and at no extra cost.
- 5.2 DLUHC provides regular data updates on Ukrainian Sponsorship visas. The data includes visa applications, visas issued and arrivals in each LA area of the UK. The costs have been calculated based on arrivals, however more people may arrive before the end of the agreement and some arrivals may not take up the offer of the wraparound service, so the calculations below are subject to a variability.
- 5.3 The price of the service for Doncaster Council has been agreed at £3,328 per person, payable for every eligible Ukrainian Sponsorship Visa holder who engages with the wraparound service. Based on the 180 arrivals in Doncaster to 3 January 2023 accessing the wraparound service, the total price would be £615,680.
- 5.4 The price of the service for East Riding Council has been agreed at £3,328 per person, payable for every eligible Ukrainian Sponsorship Visa holder who engages with the wraparound service. Based on the 406 arrivals in East Riding to 3 January 2023 accessing the wraparound service, the total price would be £1,351,168.
- 5.5 The price of the service for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council has been agreed at £3,219 per person, payable for every eligible Ukrainian Sponsorship Visa holder who engages with the wraparound service. Based on the 147 arrivals in Rotherham to 3 January 2023 accessing the wraparound service, the total price would be £473,193.
- 5.6 There will be a change in the flow of funding from the existing agreements. For the other refugee resettlement schemes, Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) receives Grant funding from the Home Office and top-slices this to pay British Refugee Council, the

remaining funds are paid to the LA. For this scheme, the DLUHC funding will be received directly by the partner LA who will pay Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) who will then pay British Refugee Council under the terms of its Grant Agreement.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 6.1 Lower numbers of people take up the offer of service than arrive in each area. This is managed as the British Refugee Council will only claim for actual numbers on a per head basis, which removes the financial risk of both Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) and partner LAs.
- 6.2 Higher numbers of arrivals over the duration of the agreement than included in the data release of 3 January 2023 which has been used for this report. This is managed as the British Refugee Council can be flexible to meet the needs of more arrivals, any capacity issues can be addressed through regular monitoring meetings. Every arrival attracts the tariff payment for the partner LA, so the partner LA is able to commission the service flexibly to meet the local arrivals.
- 6.3 The wraparound service of a poor standard and does not meet the needs of Ukrainian Sponsorship visa holders. This is managed by clear expectations of the service from LA; the British Refugee Council has a history of working for partner LAs delivering high quality integration services and use an Outcomes Star assessment model to monitor individual's progress.

What are the legal implications?

- 7.1 This decision is a Key Decision due to the sums of money being transferred in and out of Leeds City Council (as the facilitator of the arrangement) and is subject to call-in. This report contains information which is confidential for public interest reasons.
- 7.2 The requested variations pertain to Leeds City Council's existing Partnership Agreements with the partner LAs and Grant Agreement with the British Refugee Council, which permit the parties to vary the agreements to allow for additional service delivery.
- 7.3 As the requested variations pertain to partnership arrangements, specifically a Partnership Agreement and a Grant Agreement, they are not subject to Leeds City Council's Contracts Procedure Rules (see clauses 1.4 and 1.5.2 of the Council's Contracts Procedure Rules) or the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 but good practice and transparency will be observed throughout.
- 7.4 Subsidy control has been considered and no issues have been identified as the variations are not considered subsidies.
- 7.5 There is no overriding legal obstacle preventing the variation of the existing Partnership Agreements between Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) and City of Doncaster Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, and the existing Grant Agreement between Leeds City Council (Migration Yorkshire) and the British Refugee Council. In making their final decision, the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment should be satisfied that the course of action chosen represents best value for Leeds City Council.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 8.1 Ukrainians have already arrived in the region, with limited or no notice. A variation to the existing Partnership Agreements with City of Doncaster Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and a variation to the existing Grant Agreement with the British Refugee Council ensures work can begin promptly, to ensure that appropriate wraparound support is provided to Ukrainian guests, under Local Authorities integration support funding from DLUHC.
- 8.2 The partner Local Authorities using the service do not have the capacity to deliver the service directly.
- 8.3 Another local authority considered commissioning British Refugee Council to deliver the wraparound service (Appendix 2A) but subsequently chose to deliver the service in-house.

How will success be measured?

- 9.1 Migration Yorkshire will monitor how many arrivals access the service and outcomes will be measured against the proposals. British Refugee Council uses an 'Outcomes Star' tool which will be able to analyse refugee's integration outcomes as a result of their intervention.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

- 10.1 The work has already begun due to arrivals of Ukrainians. Migration Yorkshire has been liaising between the partner LAs and the British Refugee Council to start the service, this will be monitored on an ongoing basis with quarterly reports, planning and project monitoring meetings.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening
- Appendix 2A – British Refugee Council Proposal A - Confidential
- Appendix 2B – British Refugee Council Proposal B - Confidential

Background papers

- [Homes for Ukraine: guidance for councils - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-visa-data-by-country-upper-and-lower-tier-local-authority#summary-table-data-as-received-from-the-home-office-as-at-3-january-2023)
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-visa-data-by-country-upper-and-lower-tier-local-authority#summary-table-data-as-received-from-the-home-office-as-at-3-january-2023>