



Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date:	19 June 2023
Report By:	Kate Rocks Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership	Report No:	
Contact Officer:	Alan Best	Contact No:	01475 715212
Subject:	Resettlement and Wider Dispersal in Inverclyde		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Inverclyde Alliance Board on Resettlement and Wider Dispersal.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Inverclyde has worked in partnership with the Home Office and other partners to successfully deliver a range of resettlement schemes within Inverclyde and to date there are over 80 families being supported within the Inverclyde community.
- 2.2 53 men seeking asylum are currently accommodated within a local hotel, and in addition to this contingency hotel, the Home Office has commenced wider asylum dispersal. Inverclyde partners are working with Mears Housing (Home office contractor) to ensure all proposed private properties are suitable for use.
- 2.3 A local hotel is being utilised by the Scottish Government for Ukrainian families through the Super Sponsor Scheme and proposals for locally matching them into local hosts and/or homes is underway.
- 2.4 The numbers coming into Scotland through the Super Sponsor scheme for Ukrainian Displaced People (UDPs) was higher than expected and the scheme is currently suspended. A partnership approach to all resettlement and asylum work is underway with a range of local and national partners involved.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board:
- a. Note the range of support provided by a range of partners in Inverclyde

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Chief Officer
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4.0 Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Schemes

4.1 Since 2014, Inverclyde has participated in a number of refugee resettlement schemes and currently support the following families:

- 17 Afghan families - 85 individuals (under two Afghan schemes)
- 32 Syrian families - 138 individuals (under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme)
- 7 Sudanese families- 25 individuals (under the Vulnerable Children's Scheme)

A number of families have chosen to move to Glasgow, the main reasons cited for this include proximity to a mosque, to be closer to family/ wider community and availability of employment.

4.2 The National Transfer Scheme for UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children) Scheme has resulted in 5 young people being supported within Inverclyde. Each young person is supported by a designated Social Worker.

5.0 Ukrainian Resettlement

5.1 In response to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the Scottish Government has participated in the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and the Ukrainian Super Sponsor Scheme (Warm Scottish Welcome). There are currently 143 Ukrainians residing with host families or in temporary accommodation across Inverclyde. 39 individuals have returned to Ukraine.

5.2 Locally the Scottish Government has commissioned the Gin House Hotel in Greenock to provide accommodation. Currently there are 4 family groups (10 individuals) accommodated within the hotel and Scottish Government have decommissioned 6 rooms at the hotel. All hotel residents receive health assessments and are registered with a GP and are supported to access to other health services as required. Initial £200 monetary payments have been made and the Advice team supports the Integration Team to ensure applications for Universal Credit and a range of other appropriate benefits are made. Children are enrolled within local schools and employability support is in place to encourage the Ukrainian adults to seek employment. The majority of families have settled in well and Your Voice Community Connectors help familiarise the residents with the local community. River Clyde Homes have 14 properties in the process of upgrading 14 properties to be available at the end of June and Oak tree Housing have 18 properties now available.

6.0 Asylum Seekers

6.1 There are currently 52 males within the Holiday Inn Express. The Asylum Community Team provide twice weekly support which includes individual health assessments, support to access wider health services and signposting to other community support. This team recently won the Outstanding Achievement Award at the Pride of Inverclyde Awards ceremony. The HSCP works closely with the Home Office and CoSLA in planning arrangements and with a range of local partners in ensuring individuals being accommodated in Inverclyde are safe and supported.

6.2 Inverclyde is now replicating Glasgow's Housing Procurement protocol which involves Mears Housing identifying private properties they wish to consider utilising for wider dispersal, and appropriate checks being undertaken by the local partners to identify the suitability of these properties; landlord registration; police concerns and the proximity to education and availability of services. The number of spaces available in each local authority is agreed in partnership with CoSLA and the Home Office.

6.3 If an asylum seeker receives a positive outcome of their asylum application they have 4 weeks to move on from their Mears property. If they receive a negative decision, they have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and this may place additional pressure on the local authority to support on a short term basis. There have been no negative decisions in Inverclyde to date. The HSCP has provided two payments of £250 (total £500) via the use of Section 12 payments in supporting the immediate needs of individuals seeking asylum.

7.0 Capacity

7.1 To cope with the increasing resettlement, the New Scots Integration Team is increasing in capacity to include a new team leader, additional Integration workers; a Child and Family worker and finance/administration support. Each of the refugee resettlement schemes receive different funding allocations with additional education resources being allocated through the Ukraine schemes.

7.2 Your Voice and a range of local and national 3rd sector organisations are supporting both the refugees and the people seeking asylum to ensure they are linked locally into activities and the community.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Legal: None
Finance: None
Human Resources: None
Equality and Diversity: None
Alliance Partnership Plan: None

9.0 CONSULTATIONS

9.1 NA for the purpose of this report

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None