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**Report To:** Inverclyde Integration Joint Board      **Date:** 26 September 2022

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Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership      **Report No:** IJB/37/2022/AH

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**Subject:** Resettlement and Wider Dispersal in Inverclyde

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Inverclyde Integration 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 62 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 13 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) are increasing although the scheme has been temporarily suspended, many visas have already been issued. 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 That the IJB notes:
- The ongoing work and future plans for resettlement and wider dispersal within Inverclyde.

## **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)

Further families are due to arrive into Inverclyde over the coming year.

4.2 The National Transfer Scheme for UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children) Scheme has resulted in 5 young people being supported within Inverclyde. Cycle 9 of National Transfer Scheme has yet to be announced however Inverclyde will be expected to take one young person from Scotland's quota of 45.

## **5.0 Ukrainian Resettlement**

5.1 In response to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, 2022 the Scottish Government has participated in the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and the Ukrainian Super Sponsor Scheme (Warm Scottish Welcome).

5.2 To date 15 Ukrainian families (29 individuals) under the Homes for Ukraine Private Sponsor Scheme are currently residing with host families or in temporary accommodation across Inverclyde.

5.3 Under the Super Sponsor Scheme (Warm Scottish Welcome) Ukrainians have been able to apply for a visa naming the Scottish Government as their sponsor. To date over 5000 Ukrainians have arrived through this scheme with many more still to arrive. The Super Sponsor Scheme has been temporarily suspended and a review underway. There have been a number of Expressions of Interest from hosts across Inverclyde who have had all required checks undertaken. To date these hosts are awaiting Ukrainian individuals and families to be matched by the Scottish Government/ CoSLA.

5.4 Many of the recent arrivals who are awaiting to be matched are being accommodated in hotels across Scotland. Locally the Scottish Government has commissioned the Gin House Hotel in Greenock to provide accommodation. Currently there are 13 family groups (41 individuals) accommodated within the hotel. All hotel residents have had health assessments undertaken and registered with a GP and access to other health services as required. Initial £200 monetary payments have been made and the Advice team have been supporting the Integration Team to ensure applications for Universal Credit and a range of other appropriate benefits have been made. Children are currently being enrolled within local schools and employability support in place to encourage the Ukrainian adults to seek employment. The majority of families have settled in well and Your Voice Community Connectors have been in touch to help familiarise the residents with the local community.

5.5 As previously noted the Scottish Government and CoSLA have commenced a national matching process, due to the time lag with this approval from the Scottish Government to commence local matching is now in place. However initial scoping work indicates that there would be limited matches due to the number of family groups that have been sent to the hotel vs the majority of those on the cleared hosts' lists only offering smaller accommodation options e.g. single rooms in a house and some hosts' offers will not be available to later in the year.

5.6 It is important that we get any local matching right so that it is sustained or we will then see these hosting relationships breaking down and this will then put pressure on the local authority to find other contingency and / or accommodation solutions. To date

four families have been matched to local permanent accommodation through local matching with plans to upscale this as more properties become available.

- 5.7 The UK Government opened up a safe route for unaccompanied Ukrainian children as an extension of Homes for Ukraine. The UK guidance does not sufficiently cover the Scottish legal context for such arrangements therefore Scottish guidance is being prepared along with proposals to support Local Authorities to meet the additional demands. It is estimated that around 80 young people will potentially be placed in Scotland.

## **6.0 Asylum Contingency Hotel and Wider Dispersal**

- 6.1 The Holiday Inn Express is currently being utilised by the Home Office as a Contingency hotel with 71 single males accommodated on a full board basis. Health assessments have been undertaken for all men on arrival and regular health clinics held in the hotel. YourVoice 3rd sector organisation are successfully linking the men into local activities.
- 6.2 As reported previously the Home Office has advised they intend to widen dispersal across the UK including Scotland for people seeking asylum whilst awaiting their decision. Plans for a regional based approach are developing and Phase one of this will involve the local authorities surrounding Glasgow (including Inverclyde) being utilised for wider dispersal.
- 6.3 To date there are approx. 5050 asylum seekers in Glasgow accommodated within 2400 properties supported by Mears Housing (the Home Office contractor). The Home Office is currently consulting on potential numbers for dispersal over the coming years. For each new 'bed' leased through the dispersal programme, the local authority will receive £3,500.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 If an asylum seeker receives a positive outcome of their asylum application they have four 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. Since Covid, no Home Office negative decisions have been issued and further update from the Home Office regarding this is awaited.

## **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. The Scottish Refugee Council is looking to deploy additional resource to Inverclyde to support the Ukrainian community and there is a potential for further support from the Scottish Government.
- 7.3 The numbers coming into Scotland through the Super Sponsor scheme for Ukrainian Displaced People (UDPs) are increasing although the scheme has been temporarily

suspended, many visas have already been issued. As of August, over 12,000 UDPs with a Scottish sponsor have arrived in the UK – the large majority of these (8,880) through the super sponsor scheme, with 3,206 sponsored privately. The numbers projected could be as high as 35,000 therefore situation, and our response at a national and local level, is fluid with will require to scale up to support future delivery requirements.

## 8.0 IMPLICATIONS

### FINANCE

8.1

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs / (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

### LEGAL

8.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### HUMAN RESOURCES

8.3 There are no specific human resources implications arising from this report.

### EQUALITIES

8.4 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES
x	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

8.4.1 How does this report address our Equality Outcomes?

Equalities Outcome	Implications
People, including individuals from the above protected characteristic groups, can access HSCP services.	All HSCP services are available to all refugees, displaced people and people seeking asylum
Discrimination faced by people covered by the protected characteristics across HSCP services is reduced if not eliminated.	All HSCP services are designed to promote fairness and better outcomes for individuals and should make it easy for all to receive services

	at the point of need.
People with protected characteristics feel safe within their communities.	None
People with protected characteristics feel included in the planning and developing of services.	None
HSCP staff understand the needs of people with different protected characteristic and promote diversity in the work that they do.	None
Opportunities to support Learning Disability service users experiencing gender based violence are maximised.	None
Positive attitudes towards the resettled refugee community in Inverclyde are promoted.	The HSCP positively supports and welcomes all refugees, displaced people and people seeking asylum

## CLINICAL OR CARE GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

8.5 There are no clinical or care governance implications arising from this report.

## NATIONAL WELLBEING OUTCOMES

8.6 How does this report support delivery of the National Wellbeing Outcomes?

<b>National Wellbeing Outcome</b>	<b>Implications</b>
People are able to look after and improve their own health and wellbeing and live in good health for longer.	All refugees, displaced people and people seeking asylum are supported to access health and care services
People, including those with disabilities or long term conditions or who are frail are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community	None
People who use health and social care services have positive experiences of those services, and have their dignity respected.	All refugees, displaced people and people seeking asylum are supported to access health and care services
Health and social care services are centred on helping to maintain or improve the quality of life of people who use those services.	None
Health and social care services contribute to reducing health inequalities.	None
People who provide unpaid care are supported to look after their own health and wellbeing, including reducing any negative impact of their caring role on their own health and wellbeing.	None
People using health and social care services are safe from harm.	None
People who work in health and social care services feel engaged with the work they do and are supported to continuously improve the information, support, care and treatment they provide.	None
Resources are used effectively in the provision of health and social care services.	None

## 9.0 DIRECTIONS

9.1

<b>Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both</b>	Direction to:	
	1. No Direction Required	x
	2. Inverclyde Council	
	3. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde (GG&C)	
	4. Inverclyde Council and NHS GG&C	

## 10.0 CONSULTATION

10.1 The report has been prepared by the Chief Officer of Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) after due consideration with relevant senior officers in the HSCP.

## 11.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 None.