

# Hertfordshire Strategic Migration Steering Group (SMSG)

In this edition of the bulletin there is a focus on:

1. Asylum Seeker accommodation – as further sites have become operational in Hertfordshire,
2. and Homes for Ukraine scheme, which includes information on the latest Government announcements.

## Asylum Sites

### Small boat crossings

As reported in the news, numbers of people seeking asylum in the UK continues to increase. Gov.uk reported the following data in respect of small boat crossings:

Weekly number of migrants detected in small boats		
Date	Migrants Detected	Boats Detected
24 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	1,766	41
31 <sup>st</sup> October 2022 – 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	46	1
7 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	1,825	48
14 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	400	8
21 <sup>st</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	36	1
28 <sup>th</sup> November 2022 – 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	1,902	37
5 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	645	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,620</b>	<b>151</b>

There are currently 12 sites in Hertfordshire accommodating around 1,362 asylum seekers.

The continuing influx of asylum seekers into the UK impacts on Hertfordshire locally. In the last few weeks, we have seen further temporary accommodation sites open.

Asylum sites are commissioned by the Home Office and a service provider called Clear Springs delivers the day-to-day management and support at the sites.

Strategic Migration Steering Group partners support by ensuring the site is fit for purpose, Fire prevention and Environmental health checks. Services are provided by NHS i.e., identifying a GP

practise to support an Asylum site, Education provide school places and the voluntary sector support in a variety of ways.

### Asylum Accommodations by District/Borough – Data current as of 23<sup>rd</sup> December

District/Borough	Asylum Accommodation	Number in Accommodation
<b>Dacorum</b>	Accommodation 1	184
	Accommodation 2	57
	Accommodation 3	270
<b>Hertsmere</b>	Accommodation 1	42
<b>North Herts</b>	Accommodation 1	80
	Accommodation 2	0
<b>St Albans</b>	Accommodation 1	152
	Accommodation 2	48
<b>Stevenage</b>	Accommodation 1	187
<b>Welwyn Hatfield</b>	Accommodation 1	106
	Accommodation 2	122
<b>Broxbourne</b>	Accommodation 1	114
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1,362</b>

## Ukraine

### Recent government announcements on Homes for Ukraine

The Government have announced that Homes for Ukraine hosts ‘thank you’ payments will increase to £500 a month after a Ukrainian’s first year of sponsorship and will be extended from 12 months to 24 months. The Government has also announced that from 1st January 2023, councils will receive a reduced amount now £5,900 to help support each new arrival. Government will also provide £150 million of new UK-wide funding in the 2023/24 financial year to local authorities and devolved governments to help mitigate homelessness in place of the tariff. Councils in England to get new £500m fund to acquire housing stock for those fleeing conflict (including from Ukraine and Afghanistan) and reduce homelessness.

We are waiting for further clarity and guidance on what elements of this announcement will mean for Hertfordshire.

We are also asking new potential hosts to come forward and apply to re-match existing guests through the scheme.

The latest numbers from Gov.uk show that from December 20<sup>th</sup> there have been a total 79,300 visas through the Ukraine Family Scheme and a total of 175,900 visas through Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme.

### Family Visa Scheme

At present, the SMSG does not have sight of any data regarding arrivals to Hertfordshire through the Ukraine Family Visa Scheme.

### Homes for Ukraine Scheme

The SMSG response continues to capture data on several aspects of the Homes4Ukraine scheme as it is operating within Hertfordshire.

#### Arrivals on the Homes4Ukraine Scheme - Data current as at December 19<sup>th</sup>

Arrivals in County			
	Adult	Child	Total
<b>Broxbourne</b>	31	14	<b>45</b>
<b>Dacorum</b>	167	91	<b>258</b>
<b>East Herts</b>	198	120	<b>318</b>
<b>Hertsmere</b>	89	47	<b>136</b>
<b>North Herts</b>	168	104	<b>272</b>
<b>St Albans</b>	231	148	<b>379</b>
<b>Stevenage</b>	24	9	<b>33</b>
<b>Three Rivers</b>	112	37	<b>149</b>
<b>Watford</b>	38	22	<b>60</b>
<b>Welwyn Hatfield</b>	101	60	<b>161</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1159</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>1811</b>

Sponsors with a match	
<b>Broxbourne</b>	44
<b>Dacorum</b>	163
<b>East Herts</b>	190
<b>Hertsmere</b>	101
<b>North Herts</b>	165
<b>St Albans</b>	217
<b>Stevenage</b>	27
<b>Three Rivers</b>	105
<b>Watford</b>	71
<b>Welwyn Hatfield</b>	98
<b>Total</b>	<b>1181</b>

#### Guests who have left sponsor accommodation - Data current as of December 19<sup>th</sup>

Reason	Count
Left the UK (not Ukraine)	13
Moved out of Hertfordshire	49
Private Rented Accommodation	177
Rematched	14
Returned to Ukraine	162
Social Housing	3
Temporary Accommodation	44
Unknown	29
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>491</b>

## **Recent information issued to sponsors and guests on options for when placements are coming to an end.**

### Moving on from current hosting arrangements

Many Ukrainian guests have now been living in Hertfordshire for almost six months and will be looking to the future and their longer-term housing arrangements. The main options for accommodation beyond the six months are for guests to continue with their original host sponsor, to find a new host sponsor, or secure their own private rented accommodation. [Please follow this link to direct hosts of actions they need to do if their sponsorship is coming to an end.](#)

### How to find a new sponsor

Some Ukrainian guests will choose to look for a new host sponsor and this process is referred to as 're-matching'. In the first instance guests are encouraged to seek new hosts themselves ('community re-matching') and there are organisations, such as Homes4Ukraine and voluntary organisations, that can help with this. However, we ask that Hertfordshire County Council is notified of and involved with this process via [h4ukraine@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:h4ukraine@hertfordshire.gov.uk).

### Finding somewhere to rent

Guests may wish to look for their own private rented accommodation, but it is important to understand that renting in Hertfordshire can be both challenging and expensive. There are not many affordable rental properties available on the open market in Hertfordshire, which means they are taken up quickly. [If guests find a suitable property, guests must be ready to move at speed to be successful, holding enough immediately available money for deposits and fees.](#)

## **Other News**

### Additional Payment

As a result of the SMSG housing sub-group, a list of proposals were taken to the Chief Executives and Leaders of all Hertfordshire Local Authorities as to how to tackle the possibility of rising homelessness cases. As a result, Hertfordshire County Council realises that the winter months might cause problems for sponsors and are offering an additional one-off payment of £500 to help sponsors continue to host during the winter months. The additional payment will arrive in January in addition to the £350 monthly 'thank you' payments.

### Where to turn if inflation is causing hardship

As inflation reduces our spending capacity some sponsors and guests may be struggling with their bills or have anxiety around what the future may hold. Our Money Advice Unit at Hertfordshire County Council have prepared a useful factsheet highlighting the various support that is available. [To view or download our financial factsheet, please visit our dedicated webpage.](#)

## Webinar dates

Date	Topic	Target Audience
Weds 18th Jan 6.30pm – 8pm	Webinar: Homes for Ukraine - Making the most of your hosting experience <a href="#">Register here for 18 Jan webinar</a>	Hosts only
Mon 23rd Jan 11am – 12pm	Workshop: Recent arrivals in Herts: background, information, and resources	Staff working directly with guests and hosts from Hertfordshire County Council commissioned services
Mon 30th Jan 11am – 12pm	Webinar: Recent arrivals in Herts: background, information, and resources	Wider ACS and other staff, volunteers, and partner agencies
Mon 6th Feb 2pm – 3:15pm	Webinar: Cybercrime, fraud, modern slavery, and human trafficking	Staff, volunteers, and partner agencies
Weds 22nd Feb 6pm – 7:30pm	Webinar: Homes for Ukraine (housing and benefits)	Guests & Hosts

[To find out what dates are coming up, please visit the 'diary section' on the Hertfordshire County Council website.](#)

## Contact

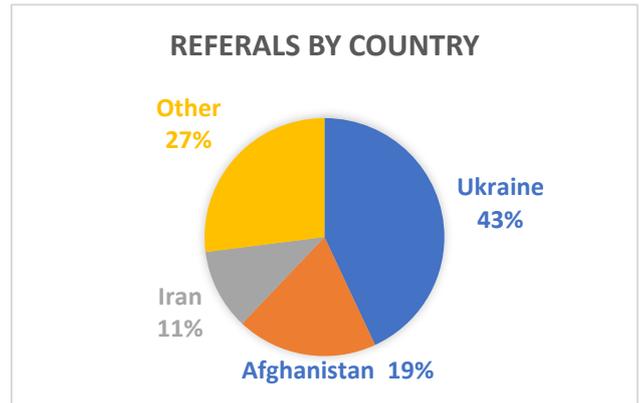
Should you have any feedback or questions relating to the Ukraine support schemes and how they are operating in Hertfordshire, please contact [ukrainesupport@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ukrainesupport@hertfordshire.gov.uk).

## Support Across Migration Schemes

### Flourish

Flourish is a mental wellbeing service providing holistic support for all refugees, asylum seekers and migrant hosts over the age of 16. It opened July 2023 and numbers always start slowly for a new service, but once established and since October in particular, referrals have risen rapidly, with demand further increasing every week. The full 6-month report will be available later in January, but interim numbers give an insight into where demand is coming from the first 5 months:

- 350 attendances in groups
- 137 individual referrals
- The profile of referrals shows a relatively even distribution across all ages, but majority female.
- The breakdown of country of origin is:
  - 59 Ukrainian
  - 26 Afghan
  - 15 Iran
  - 37 Other



- There are currently 55 on the waiting list and this is expected to rise further.
- Presentations vary, but many cases involve serious trauma and significant mental health concerns. There can be a delay after a very traumatic experience before people feel ready to address the impact of their experiences and this pattern is observed in the service, especially with Afghans who experienced complex trauma but arrived over a year ago. Several complex cases referred on to HPFT, have been assessed to not be treatment ready for treatment so Flourish continues to work with them to get ready.
- Referrals are starting to increase from asylum seeker contingency hotels, but most still are from the more established hotels.

### Young People's Sanctuary

A new service starting 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023, delivered by Barnardo's and One YMCA for 11–16-year-olds. The aim of the service is to create opportunities for young people to build support and friendship networks, reduce isolation and encourage community integration. Support available will include a 121-link worker to support the young person and connect them to other services, group activities, 121 counselling, and a 6-week wellbeing course designed to equip them with the tools to overcome everyday obstacles, build resilience and learn more about themselves and the world around them.

The link to the referral form and parental consent form is [Young People's Sanctuary \(mailchi.mp\)](#) and the contact email address is [youngpeoplesanctuary@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:youngpeoplesanctuary@barnardos.org.uk).

# WE NEED YOU



Could you host  
Ukrainian families  
fleeing war?



To find out more about being part of Hertfordshire's  
Homes for Ukraine scheme  
email [h4ukraine@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:h4ukraine@hertfordshire.gov.uk)  
or visit [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine)

