

REPORT TO: CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 23 OCTOBER 2023

REPORT ON: UPDATE ON UKRANIAN DISPLACED PERSONS PROGRAMME

REPORT BY: JOINT REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT NO: 233-2023

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide Elected Members with an update of the various funding streams allocated to support the above programme and outline the work that the Council has provided to support Ukrainian Displaced Persons (UDP).

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the Report including the details of the extensive services that have been provided in Section 5, over the period of the programme.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The cost of providing services to support the above programme will be covered by ring-fenced grant funding, details of which are included in paragraph 4.9 of this report.

4 BACKGROUND

4.1 On 24 February 2022, Russia invaded the Ukraine creating a humanitarian and refugee crisis. A total of 6.2 million Ukrainians, of which more than half are children, have fled the conflict and are now located across Europe. A further 5.1 million have been displaced within the Ukraine. To support their plight, the UK Home Office has issued 238,800 visas (as at 29 August 2023) to Ukrainian Displaced Persons of which 185,500 are now located in the UK, with Scotland welcoming 25,475.

4.2 Under the Ukrainian sponsorship scheme, Ukrainian displaced persons are able to stay in the UK for three years. The visas specifically relate to Ukrainian nationals or those who are the immediate family members of a Ukrainian national who were resident in the Ukraine prior to 1 January 2022. Under the Ukraine Family Scheme individuals arriving under the scheme are able to live and work in the UK for up to three years and access healthcare, benefits, employment support, education and other support where necessary (e.g. Social Care). The scheme is free and does not include any financial or language support requirements.

4.3 It should be noted that the formal status of Ukrainians who have come to the UK as a result of the war in their own country is that of displaced person, rather than refugee. The formal description is Ukrainian Displaced Person. Dundee City Council provides the same comprehensive level of support to displaced persons as it does to existing refugees located in the city. It should also be noted that refugees and displaced persons have been granted visas from the UK government. This differs from asylum seekers who are seeking international protection from the dangers of their country but where no UK visa has been granted to them. Asylum seekers are not part of this UK and Scottish Government humanitarian programme and are therefore outwith the remit of this report.

4.4 Prior to the invasion of the Ukraine, the Council already had in place an award-winning humanitarian programme which has catered for in the main Iraqi, Syrian and Afghan refugees. The first individuals under these schemes arrived in December 2015 with the most recent arrivals coming to Dundee in February 2022. The city currently hosts more than 200 refugees through these other programmes.

4.5 It is recognised that the knowledge and experience of the Humanitarian Team ensured that Dundee City was in a strong position to deal with the incoming Ukrainian displaced persons. The Council continues to provide a wide range support to refugees and displaced persons. This comprehensive support is a collective and co-ordinated effort across a number of service areas and partners and further details are provided in Section 5 of this report.

- 4.6 The unplanned arrival of a large number of Ukrainian displaced persons into the city over a short period of time did however highlight various challenges. A key limiting factor is the supply of housing although notably this can be considered a national problem and not just a localised issue. The consequence of this are that many individuals still remain in city hotels albeit this number continues to reduce. The Council continues to proactively seek solutions for those individuals not yet re-housed in more permanent accommodation.
- 4.7 The support provided to individuals by Dundee City Council follows three main threads. The Homes (Resettlement) programme; Hotels programme; and support to Education. The Humanitarian Partnership applies a holistic approach to these three support areas and services are integrated to enable the best possible outcomes. The Humanitarian team is actively supported by teams from across the Council. As at 6 September 2023, there are 410 individuals within the city comprising of with 322 in the Homes (Resettlement) programme and 88 located in various hotel accommodation.
- 4.8 In February 2023, the Scottish Government issued guidance outlining the criteria upon which various funding streams are eligible to be spent on. The funding currently in place is outlined below

Description	Amount (£m)
Refugee Tariff *	4.394
Thank You Payments *	0.131
Scottish Government Grants (Homes (Resettlement) Programme) ***	0.396
Welcome Activity Funding (Hotel Programme) ***	0.629
Total Funding Received to Support Humanitarian Team Programme	5.550
Education Tariff **	0.718
Total Revenue Funding	6.268
Resettlement Capital Funding ***	0.450
Moving on Fund **	0.923
Total Funding	7.641

*UK Government funded directly based on information provided to Scottish Government

**UK Government funding distributed by the Scottish Government

***Scottish Government Super Sponsor Funding

The key funding sources to support the Humanitarian Team Programme include the following:

- 4.9 UK Government funding in the main is provided by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. In addition, the Department for Education supplemented funding by providing monies for educational needs for displaced Ukrainians aged 2-18. There are currently no known plans for the UK government to fund educational tariff payments for 2023/24 or beyond.
- 4.10 Dundee City has received funding of £0.131m for Thank You payments to date. This represents payments to households hosting Ukrainian displaced persons. Whilst these payments form part of the Humanitarian Team programme funding they are passed directly to the hosts.
- 4.11 Additional funding through the Scottish Government's Super Sponsor scheme has included focused grants to support the Homes (Resettlement) and Hotels programmes and funding to support the ongoing integration of Ukrainian displaced persons (Moving on Fund). The aim of this additional funding is to provide a quicker and safer route for individuals from the Ukraine to come to a place of sanctuary. Finally, the funding from this scheme helps supplement the commissioning of hotels for individuals by funding additional hotel rooms. This part of the programme is out with the remit of the Council who have responsibility to support individuals once they have arrived at the hotels.

- 4.12 The Super Sponsor scheme was paused to new applications on 13 July 2022 when the Scottish Government took the decision to temporarily halt the scheme in order to focus on providing support and sanctuary to those displaced people who had already arrived in Scotland.
- 4.13 As is common practice for all Dundee City humanitarian programmes tariff funding specifically provided for education is ring fenced and used exclusively for educational purposes. This amounted to £0.718m which was passed to the Children & Families assist increasing learning capacity. This complimented a further £0.550m which was identified from the general tariff funding which forms part of the Humanitarian Team funding identified in the previous section of this report. The supplemental funding is to help support the needs of displaced Ukrainian children within the Council's education system. This will enable the Council's education provision to meet the needs of the Ukrainians aged 2-18 through to 31 March 2026.
- 4.14 The overall revenue funding received has been allocated to a programme that will provide support to Ukrainian displaced persons for a period of just short of 4 years as set out in the table below:

Programme	Actuals (£m)	Planned Costs (£m)			Totals
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	(£m)
Ukrainian Homes (Thread 1) (Housing & Social Work)	0.407	0.730	0.798	0.871	2.806
Ukrainian Hotels (Thread 2) (Housing & Social Work)	0.544	0.300	0.330	0.363	1.537
Ukrainian Education (Thread 3a) (Children & Families - Project)	0.042	0.176	0.194	0.138	0.550
Ukrainian Education (Thread 3b) (Children & Families - Tariff)	0.584	0.134	0.000	0.000	0.718
Unallocated contingency					0.657
Totals	1.577	1.053	1.158	1.200	6.268

- 4.15 It is appreciated that there is no immediate expectation that the conflict in the Ukraine will conclude in the near future therefore Dundee City must plan accordingly. The programmes in place have therefore been assumed to cover the period to 31 March 2026. At this date, all current visas will be exhausted. The programmes have been structured to enable the support to evolve over the lifetime of the Ukrainian programme as needs change. There is a recognition that should the conflict extend beyond the 31 March 2026 further funding would require to be sought.
- 4.16 Further additional specific funding has been provided for the following purposes:

Resettlement Capital Funding

To mitigate the limited housing opportunities available in the city the Council made an application to this Scottish Government fund on 16 December 2022. The application was to secure funding to expedite the turnover of 54 Dundee City Council void properties. These properties had previously shown a low demand in terms of take-up. Dundee City Council was successful in securing funding of £0.450m in total from the funding available. This covered the costs of the relets and the furnishing of the properties. The Council is on track to have these properties completed and relets by the autumn of 2023. To date, the Council have allocated 53 of these properties to different households containing 113 people.

Moving on Fund

On 12 September 2023, the Scottish Government announced further funding of £0.922m and discussions are ongoing in terms of how this will be spent although it is recognised that Scottish Government has sought that these monies be used to support displaced Ukrainians into settled accommodation.

5 SERVICES PROVIDED

5.1 Services Provided as part Ukrainian Displaced Persons Programme

The pathway of the Ukrainian support programmes, similar to existing refugee schemes, is to integrate individuals into the wider Dundee society. This is primarily delivered by supporting the transfer of people into more permanent accommodation along with language and employment support and enabling clients to access services. To support this approach the Humanitarian team provides a wide range of services and other external bodies.

The Humanitarian Team is the hub of the support programme. It is a cross-departmental team which includes housing, social work, and educational expertise. Whilst the Humanitarian Team may define the strategy of the support and provide operational services there is still a requirement for a significant contribution from a wide variety of other services provided by all council departments. To enable the best outcomes these services have been integrated into the support programme to create the best possible outcomes for Ukrainian displaced people.

A core part of the success of the programme is the strong interlinks and relationships between all services combined with a highly skilled workforce and strong leadership. To better explain as to how each service contributes to the greater outcomes of the humanitarian programme each core element has been broken down into a segment to outline their particular role. The first three headings represent the main support strands of Homes (Resettlement), Hotels and Education. Thereafter details are provided of how other core services feed into the programme.

5.2 Humanitarian Team – Homes (Resettlement)

The focus of the Homes programme is the resettlement of individuals into accommodation and providing a range of support to allow integration into the wider community. There are two main resettlement schemes in operation;

- a) Homes for Ukraine Scheme - This is the primary scheme and involves private individuals connecting with Ukrainians and offering space in their own homes. The individuals are considered the “sponsors” and the displaced persons are considered the “guests”. A variation to the Homes for Ukraine scheme is the Scottish Government’s Warm Scottish Welcome Scheme (part of the Scottish Super Sponsor scheme). In this case the Scottish Government is classed as the “sponsor” and the Ukrainian displaced person the “guest” who is matched to accommodation.
- b) Family Visa Scheme – A family visa can be applied for when a Ukrainian displaced person has family already settled in the United Kingdom. The UK resident family are expected to support the arriving family member(s) and there is no direct role or involvement for the local authority in this case. These families do not qualify for any additional financial support from the Humanitarian funds that have been made available to support Ukrainian displaced persons. Under this scheme the displaced person can seek employment and where appropriate can seek recourse to mainstream public funds. Those on this scheme can access services in a similar manner to members of the public. The scheme makes no provision for the resident family to provide accommodation. On a small number of occasions, the lack obligation to provide housing has led to some difficulty whereby Dundee City Council has been required to provide homelessness services.

The Homes for Ukraine Scheme is supported by Dundee City Council. The Homes resettlement team which forms part of the Humanitarian team has responsibility for delivering this support. In particular, the team is required to undertake a variety of checks on sponsors.

The offer from sponsors is to accommodate a guest for a minimum of six months. Payments of a prescribed level are made to the sponsors. These thank you payments are administered and monitored by the Homes resettlement team.

Dundee City Council is required to undertake enhanced disclosure checks for all those over 16 at the sponsor’s address. In addition, the Council will undertake sufficient safeguarding checks in order that the sponsor and those who live with the sponsor are appropriate hosts. The Council will also undertake a physical inspection of the sponsor’s property to check that it complies with legislative requirements and is suitable for the displaced person(s).

The Homes resettlement team work with the guests living with hosts to secure permanent accommodation. To date, there has been a flow of displaced persons moving to local authority accommodation, registered social landlord accommodation and private lets. The team works directly with the Housing Service, Homefinder and registered social landlords to secure permanent housing. Beyond this the team helps setting up the individuals' tenancy, furnishing the property and organises their utilities. When a family secures permanent accommodation, the team provides direct support. In particular they are offered tenancy sustainment support to allow a smooth transition into their new home and beyond.

For those living in hotels the Homes resettlement team provide similar services in terms of the move to permanent accommodation. The team will manage the transition from hotel to housing in order to minimise any disruption to the lives of the displaced persons.

The team's remit also includes enabling the integration of individuals into the wider Dundee community. The team does not act isolation but instead their contribution forms part of an integrated service provision. The team works with the Hotels team and services from across Dundee City Council. This includes Housing, Children & Families, English Speakers other Languages Team, Welfare Rights, Dundee Health & Social Care Partnership and other external agencies and third sector organisations in order to deliver the appropriate support. The roles of these support services are outlined in the following paragraphs.

5.3 Humanitarian Team – Hotels

The Hotel Support Team was established in July 2022 in response to The Scottish Government's advisement of the creation of additional contingency hotel accommodation to support the flow of Ukrainian guests from the welcome hubs in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen, The move to establish additional accommodation was undertaken quickly with 3 hotels commissioned initially to provide accommodation to Ukrainian guest, and a further hotel offering individual accommodation to a small number of families.

Over the period of usage, eight hotels in the city have provided accommodation with some hotels closing to guests and reopening in response to both the fluctuating number of people coming into the city and the commissioning process undertaken by the Scottish Government.

The majority of those arriving in Dundee hotels are new arrivals and receive financial, health and emotional support. Assistance is given to hotel guests to register with primary care services, education and employment and the Hotel team works closely with other services, including the Humanitarian Support Team, to ensure access to a range of supports.

Following the pause in visa allocation, numbers have steadily reduced across the hotel population, with guests moving into accommodation within communities as part of the homes for Ukraine scheme. Given the numbers within the city, and the difficulty in identifying suitable accommodation, a partnership was established between Dundee, Angus and Perth & Kinross to support people currently within Dundee to access both hosting arrangements of accommodation out with the city boundaries. This provided less successful, with the majority of guests choosing to remain within Dundee. As a form of support, the Scottish Government allocated an additional staff member to work with guests to facilitate moves. Currently Dundee has 84 guests within hotel accommodation.

In line with the reducing number of guests, and the settled nature of those currently residing in hotels, the support team reduced from 5 (FTE) staff to 2 (FTE) staff.

5.4 Humanitarian Team – Education

Children & Families contribute directly to the strategy of the Humanitarian team. As a result of the enrolment of over 100 pupils from Ukraine since April 2022, the services English as an Additional Language (EAL) team which is part of the wider Accessibility & Inclusion Service, has supported schools and nurseries, across the city. The English as an Additional Language teachers currently support many of these pupils to help them learn English alongside other existing bilingual pupils in the city's schools.

For the school session prior to the 2023 summer break a number of Ukrainian pupils joined SQA ESOL (Nat 4, 5 & Higher) classes which are run at Dundee & Angus college. More have joined the classes since schools returned after the summer holidays. Children and Families also offer some Ukrainian

pupils the opportunity to sit a language exam in their home language (A level Russian). This opportunity will again be offered this session.

The team consists of teachers (4.4 FTE) and an Early Years Educator (1.0 FTE). As a result of the number of Ukrainian pupils who have enrolled in Dundee City schools, the team has recruited an additional teacher (1.0 FTE) on a two-year secondment. In addition, two Ukrainian/Russian speaking assistants have been employed. These assistants have been offered temporary contracts (15 hours per week). These posts have been funded from the Humanitarian funding made available to the department. The role of the assistants is to support pupils in nursery, primary and secondary schools with their learning and also to assist families and schools with interpreting & translation needs.

The funding in place has also enabled the recruitment of a Ukrainian speaking Pupil Support Assistant (secondary) and Primary and Early Years Support Assistant last session. The two support assistants work across the four schools with the highest numbers of Ukrainian pupils. Their role is to support pupils with their learning and to assist staff with pastoral care.

The majority of pupils have settled in well but, as with the monolingual community, some have additional support needs. The team works collaboratively with the Autism team (part of the wider Accessibility and Inclusion Service) and Support for Learning service in schools to provide a comprehensive support service.

The picture is constantly changing as new families arrive from the Ukraine or from other parts of Scotland/UK and other families leave because they have either returned to Ukraine or are matched to accommodation in other areas of Scotland/UK. The team is required to quickly adapt to this dynamic environment.

To provide context, the Ukrainian picture fits into the support team's already busy profile. Dundee City has over 1,500 bilingual children and young people in our schools of which 92 different languages are represented. The top five most commonly spoken languages in Dundee schools are Polish, Urdu, Punjabi, Arabic and Russian (as of November 2022).

Since 2015, the team have also supported and continue to support over 100 Syrian and Iraqi refugee children and their families. The team works in partnership with the Dundee City Council Humanitarian Protection Partnership, Humanitarian Accommodation Support Team, ESOL team and the Scottish Refugee Council to support Ukrainian families across the city with ongoing aim of meeting the needs of refugee and displaced children.

5.5 Housing

One of the critical limiting factors of the programme is finding appropriate housing in an environment where there is both a local and national shortage of housing. Working within the limited resources available to the Housing division the Humanitarian team was required to take a pragmatic approach that could be balanced against the wider demand for housing across the city. The service actioned a 10% reduction in current homeless lets to allocate to the Humanitarian protocol. This approach was agreed by Committee through the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (Item V, Minute of Meeting of Neighbourhood Services Committee – 26 September 2022, report 249-2022 refers).

There is currently a total of 322 Ukrainian displaced persons (154 households) who have been housed. This process has taken place in partnership with our Common Housing Register Partners, Homefinder and host families. Excluding host families, the Council have housed 261 people (107 households).

Private leasing scheme - Dundee City Council had previously submitted to the Scottish Government a Homefinder proposal to secure funding to support rent in advance and rent deposit guarantee schemes for Ukrainian families being accommodated in the Private Rented Sector. Council officers met with the Scottish Government and were advised that this was not something the Scottish Government were looking to take forward at that time. However, since that initial meeting the Scottish Government have confirmed that a Longer-Term Accommodation Group has been established to consider long term housing options. This includes consideration as to how the original Homefinder proposal could be adapted to become a private leasing model. These discussions are ongoing, and members will be updated as the discussions progress.

In the meantime, the Homefinder team within Dundee City Council continue to support Ukrainian families who are referred to the service in order to be rehoused within the Private Rented Sector. appropriate.

Open Market Acquisition - The operational procedure to support the delivery of the Open Market Acquisition Strategy approved by members (Item III, Minute of Meeting of Neighbourhood Services Committee – 22 August 2022, report 134-2022 refers) was finalised at the end of January 2023 to ensure an appropriate process to enable transactions on the open market. Housing are continuing to meet with private new build developers to maximise any opportunity to buy “off the shelf” housing and have successfully purchased properties using this route.

Homes for Ukraine scheme - As noted in the Homes resettlement scheme section of the report we are currently supporting 322 people (154 households) in the community in a mixture of hosted accommodation - 61 people (47 households) private lets - 55 people (17 households) Local Authority housing 112 people (54 households) and Registered Social Landlord properties 94 people (36 households). Homefinder has supported 14 families who have moved into private rented accommodation. Dundee City has supported 28 families who have moved from host properties to permanent housing.

5.6 ESOL English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services

The local ESOL programme is delivered by the Dundee & Angus ESOL Partnership. The partnership is made up of three constituent bodies; Dundee City Council, Dundee & Angus College and the Dundee International Women’s Centre. Since the commencement of the humanitarian crisis in the Ukraine the partnership has worked with 155 Ukrainian displaced persons.

The Dundee & Angus ESOL Partnership have in place a clear framework which has enabled them to respond to the Ukrainian crisis. The constituent bodies have worked together to create a learner pathway for new arrivals. Collaborative work across the Humanitarian partnership and beyond has resulted in increased opportunities for ESOL learners.

The ESOL partnership continue to make improvements to better coordinate the provision with a view of avoiding duplication whenever possible and creating a cohesive progression pathway for learners. The Dundee City Council ESOL team focuses mainly on foundation and beginner levels, including ESOL literacies work; delivering elementary courses; and pre-intermediate courses. The college team delivers additional elementary courses; pre-intermediate courses; and upper-intermediate courses. To support the programme the Dundee International Women’s Centre offers similar levels of proficiency courses to female (only) Ukrainian displaced persons.

Dundee City Council and Dundee & Angus College ran three testing sessions in late August that allowed the partnership to determine ongoing demand and enabled them to prepare a timetable for ESOL work going forward. This approach allowed the partnership to determine needs and class sizes. The exercise should lead to high levels attendance with specific cognisance made to provide a wide choice of locations and varying levels and intensity of study.

Collaborative work across the Humanitarian partnership and beyond is resulting in increased opportunities for ESOL learners. ESOL partners in Dundee are in regular contact with the equivalent Angus and Fife ESOL teams. In particular there are close links to assist Ukraine displaced persons continuing their learning when they move from one local authority area to another.

The Dundee City Council ESOL team have compiled a community profile which provides details of the local humanitarian response with particular reference to Ukrainian refugees amongst other programmes. The report can be found here [Community profile resettled refugees 2023](#)

5.7 Adult Employability Team (AES)

The above team provides tailor made services to people that are looking to move into work and for employers that are looking to recruit and continues to work closely with the Humanitarian team as part of the integrated service provision. The programme for displaced persons (and refugees) is known as “Get Ready for Work”. The team has gained significant experience in this field having worked with Iraqi, Syrian and Afghan refugees since January 2018. The team has also played a key role in integrating individuals into the workforce something that has assisted in their integration into the wider community.

To date, 22 Ukrainian displaced persons have now moved into employment and 2 others are now in further education. In addition, 9 individuals are in the process of obtaining construction certification and currently completing CSCS construction courses. These individuals have work placements in place with Robertson Construction on completion of their courses.

The Adult Employability Service is a key factor in helping individuals persons building a new life in Dundee. In particular the service enables individuals to improve their prospects and to be offered real choices and opportunities. The team helps people gain confidence and build self-esteem and gain access to volunteering, work experience and accredited training. The outcome is that they become self-motivated, independent learners and proactive job seekers.

The detailed support that is provided to the individuals takes many different forms. This can include advice on how and where to apply for employment; preparation of CVs; interview training; translation of Ukrainian experience to the local job market; focused liaising with employers; in job support and signposting to services (e.g. ESOL) to improve communication skills. This list is not exhaustive.

Where skills are transferable such as a trade or profession direction and support is provided to enable individuals to work locally. It is recognised that there may be certain criteria that people may need to fulfil before they can take up employment in the UK (e.g. passing professional exams). To enable continuity the Employability team has taken a pragmatic approach. An example of this is an individual who is a dentist in his home country. To work in the UK, they need to pass exams and meet certain other criteria. In the interim the Employability team has found work for this Ukrainian displaced person as a translator supporting the Humanitarian team as he continues his studies. This has assisted the Humanitarian team greatly whilst providing the individual with an environment where he can improve his language and other skills as he looks to continue his professional dentistry career.

To date, the team has been able to place a wide range of displaced persons into professions, trades and other occupations.

Prior to the various humanitarian crises which have led to individuals arriving in Dundee city the Adult Employability Service already had a dedicated role as part of the Council's Employability Pathway Programme (EPP). The team has adapted to the unique difficulties that have come with humanitarian crises something that has allowed them to provide direct and robust support to the Humanitarian Team's strategy of local integration. The team continues to support individuals into the work force.

5.8 Corporate Services (Welfare Benefits)

The Council's Advice Services commenced supporting the Ukrainian displaced persons in July 2022. At the outset the Council's Connect team provided guidance on UK benefits to the Ukrainian displaced persons on their arrival with a view to determining each individual and family's entitlement. After undertaking a full benefits' check the Council staff assisted individuals in applying for the appropriate benefits. Based on the benefits criteria and the family's status claims are made for benefits including Universal Credit, Child Benefit, Scottish Child Payment for working age families and single families or pension credit for older families.

Notably some circumstances meant that some benefits (including Child Benefit applications) were required to be completed on paper forms at the request of the Department of Work and Pensions with subsequent applications being completed online after they had been formally stamped and approved. In addition, where appropriate applications were made for disability allowance including Attendance Allowance, Child disability payments and adult disability payments.

In respect of passported benefits council staff provided direct support. For those aged 22 or under the Council's advisers assisted individuals in applying for bus passes. For those of school age council staff assisted in the application for school clothing grants and free school meals.

The system of support has evolved during the humanitarian programme, initially three advisers (including a Russian speaker) worked from the various hotels hosting Ukrainian displaced persons. As the programme settled the support was amended to reflect the needs of individuals. Currently a single dedicated Connect Officer is tasked with offering weekly sessions and supporting any ongoing needs.

The Connect Officer continues to make benefit checks and support applications. In addition, the officer is tasked with supporting changes which have occurred to the benefits system. This includes the extension of the Scottish Child payment to Children under 16 which was implemented in November

2022. On the back of these changes the Connect Officer is required as appropriate with reengaging individuals in order that all appropriate benefits continue to be claimed.

As families have moved from the hotel environment to their own tenancies the Connect Adviser has reviewed and reassessed their circumstances. In particular, supporting claims for appropriate support and advising them of any changes that may impact on them with their move to a new type of accommodation.

Since their first arrival the Council has taken a holistic, tailored and comprehensive approach to enabling Ukrainian displaced persons to claim benefits.

Since the commencement of the humanitarian crisis over £1.3million of benefits has been claimed to support individuals in the city. There is an expectation that further new claims will be awarded in the coming weeks. The Council will continue to assist individuals Persons receiving all benefits that they are entitled to receive.

5.9 Health & Social Care Partnership (DHSP)

DH&SCP provide the health care support for people arriving from Ukraine. Primarily focused on supporting those arriving through the hotel accommodation, the Health Inequalities nursing team delivered daily health assessment clinics to new guests at the peak time of arrivals. The team provided the first point of health assessment for minor ailments and supported onward referrals for longer term conditions, the team ensured those presenting. Additional medical support was provided through Out of Hours services, with doctors attending the initial health assessment services, until an assessment pathway was developed. The team continues to respond to health requests of those newly arriving in the city until individuals are allocated a GP.

This work was undertaken without additional funding, and is managed through current resources, which impacts on availability for other community work.

5.10 External Bodies

The programme is supported by a number of external agencies. Direct support is provided by Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue, Scottish Refugee Council, Dundee & Angus College as well as Dundee International Women's Centre amongst a number of third sector providers. These agencies are critical to allowing Dundee City Council to provide a holistic and comprehensive support mechanism to the Ukrainian displaced persons.

6 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendation for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate Senior Manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

7 CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted on the content of this report.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

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28 SEPTEMBER 2023

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28 SEPTEMBER 2023

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