

POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL REPORT

REPORT TO:	Corporate Performance Panel		
DATE:	10 April 2024		
TITLE:	Homes for Ukraine		
TYPE OF REPORT:	Briefing		
PORTFOLIO(S):	People and Communities		
REPORT AUTHOR:	Mark Whitmore		
OPEN/EXEMPT		WILL BE SUBJECT TO A FUTURE CABINET REPORT:	<i>Yes/No</i>

BRIEFING NOTE ON HOMES FOR UKRAINE SCHEME

PURPOSE OF REPORT/SUMMARY: An information report was sought by CPP on the operation of the Homes for Ukraine scheme in West Norfolk. A briefing report is attached as Appendix 1 for Members' consideration.
KEY ISSUES: Members are referred to the attached Briefing Note
OPTIONS CONSIDERED: Not relevant
RECOMMENDATIONS: That the Briefing Note is noted.
REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS: To fulfil the Panel's remit

REPORT DETAIL

1. Introduction

An information report was sought by CPP on the operation of the Homes for Ukraine scheme in West Norfolk.

A briefing report is attached as Appendix 1 for Members' consideration.

2. Issues for the Panel to Consider

Members are referred to CPP's terms of reference for the remit of any recommendations it may wish to propose following consideration of the Briefing Note as Appendix 1, which includes making reports and/or recommendations to Full Council and/or the Cabinet (which includes individual Cabinet Members) in connection with the discharge of any of their functions.

3. Corporate Priorities

Provision of support to our communities

4. Financial Implications

Not applicable as this is an information paper.

5. Any other Implications/Risks

Not applicable as this is an information paper

6. Equal Opportunity Considerations

Not applicable as this is an information paper

7. Environmental Considerations

Not applicable as this is an information paper

8. Consultation

None

9. Conclusion

Provision of support under the Homes for Ukraine scheme will continue for as long as the scheme remains in place.

10. Background Papers

None

Briefing Note to CPP on Homes for Ukraine Scheme April 2024

The Borough Council has supported the Ukraine Sponsorship Visa scheme since its inception at the outbreak of the war. The scheme is managed by the Community Health & Wellbeing Manager and is delivered by a directly employed Ukraine Support Officer and through a service level agreement with the Hanseatic Union.

Hanseatic Union continue to operate a Welcome Centre based in King's Court, this arrangement has been extended until March 2025 following Governments extension of the scheme in February 2024.

Whilst the scheme is still seeing new arrivals numbers have significantly reduced and support is predominately around assisting clients already in West Norfolk.

Current position in West Norfolk

52 hosts supporting 83 guests.

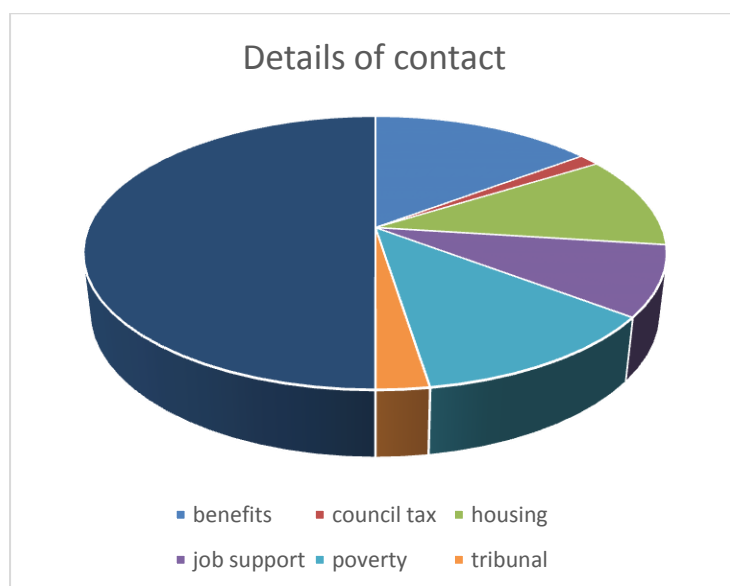
There have been 2 new arrivals in March.

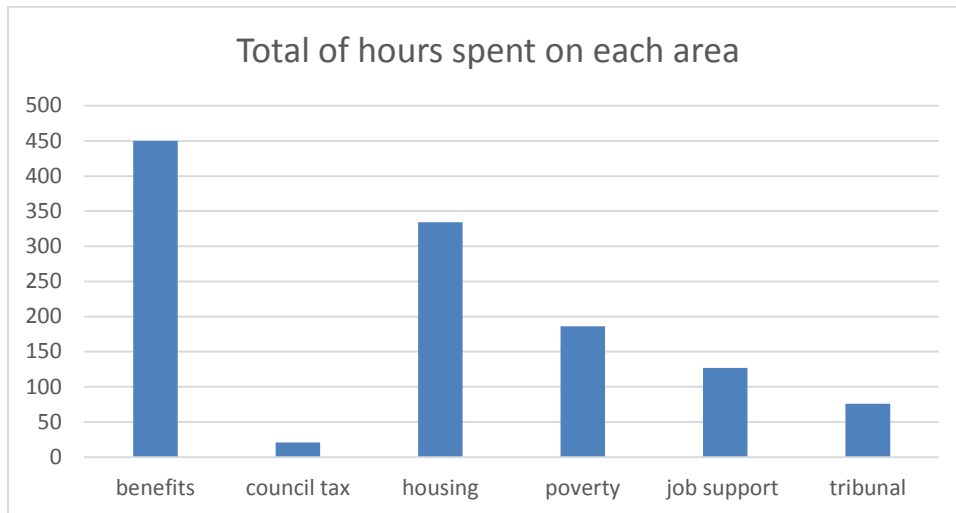
1 family is being supported with a move on from their hosts by July 2024.

There have been no breakdowns of host/ guest relationships or the need to use temporary accommodation for a number of months.

Support provided by Hanseatic Union

In the 2023 calendar year Hanseatic Union have provided 1194 hours of support to guests across 764 individual contacts for support. This is work that the council could not have supported alone and covered provision of advice on access to benefits, housing, cost of living and work. A breakdown of the contacts and hours spent in each area are shown in the graphs below.





Challenges for 2024

The provision of support for guests under the scheme is now well-established and there are no specific concerns or challenges related to the ongoing provision.

The challenges for the next year to eighteen months will be managing any proposed national closure of the scheme and supporting guests and hosts through this process. The council will continue to work with our partners at Norfolk County Council and Central Government to manage this scenario should it occur.

There have been ongoing discussions around the location of the Welcome Centre in the Council Offices. The current position is that the Welcome Centre will remain in King's Court however consideration and exploration of other town centre locations will continue and discussed with the Hanseatic Union. Officers are committed to ensuring any location is central and easily accessible by public transport.