

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

| | |
|------------|----------------------------------|
| EQIA Title | Homes for Ukraine Scheme in Kent |
|------------|----------------------------------|

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Responsible Officer | Jennie Hocken - ST INF |
|---------------------|------------------------|

Type of Activity

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Service Change | No |
| Service Redesign | No |
| Project/Programme | Project/Programme |
| Commissioning/Procurement | No |
| Strategy/Policy | No |
| Details of other Service Activity | No |

Accountability and Responsibility

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Directorate | Strategic and Corporate Services |
| Responsible Service | Finance and Infrastructure divisions |
| Responsible Head of Service | Rebecca Spore - ST INF |
| Responsible Director | Rebecca Spore - ST INF |

Aims and Objectives

Context

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has seen the largest humanitarian crisis since the Second World War with approximately 4 million Ukrainian refugees leaving Ukraine to neighbouring countries to flee the conflict. The UK Government has positively responded with the development of two key pathways to enable refugees to enter the UK.

The two key schemes which are operating are the 'Extended Family Scheme', where family members can come to the UK where they have existing family in the UK, and the 'Homes for Ukraine Scheme' which is where Ukrainian Refugees are sponsored to come to the UK by a host family or individual. Initially, individual members of the public can sponsor a guest from Ukraine who meet the eligibility criteria for this scheme. In later phases, organisations and community groups will be able to sponsor multiple guests.

Under the scheme, the sponsor receives a £350 per month 'Thank You' payment provided that they meet the scheme requirements. Numbers are uncapped and restricted only by the number of eligible sponsors that come forward. Those accessing the scheme will be able to live and work in the UK for up to three years and access benefits, healthcare, employment, and other support. Those arriving need to meet standard security checks prior to being issued with a visa.

Requirement of Local Government as part of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme

The government have issued guidance which sets out the following roles for Councils:

1. The establishment of welcome point arrangements to support any short-term arrival needs at key arrival points in the UK. In the case of Kent consideration is needed for the portal points at both Dover and Folkestone.
2. Receipt and onward sharing of data
3. Accommodation, DBS, Safeguarding and Welfare Checks
4. £200 payment for each guest
5. Provision of school places
6. Service referrals to specialist services
7. Support to access local Jobcentre Plus appointments for benefit assessments and job-seeking.
8. Homelessness support should the sponsor/guest relationship break down.
9. Supporting community integration

10. Administering 'Thank you' payments to sponsorships

Detailed government guidance is expected and KCC is working closely with Districts and other partners to ensure that appropriate arrangements are put in place. For KCC, there are a number of services which will have a key role to play in the delivery of the scheme in relation to the safeguarding checks and providing access and support to key services such as education provision and Countywide infrastructure which is necessary to support the delivery of the scheme.

Aims and Objectives in Kent

- to ensure that Ukrainian refugees have equality of access to the financial support delegated by the Government
- to implement a consistent approach to the management of the payments to Ukrainian refugees and to their sponsors
- to ensure that risks around fraudulent access to the funding are assessed and mitigated
- to identify the proposed timescales for the time-limited activity and develop a clear exit strategy for this one-off funding

Summary of Equality Impact

The refugees who will be part of the scheme will be from a wide diversity of groups, with no impact on the funding relating to any protected characteristic.

The scheme is Government funded so will not financially negatively impact any Kent residents.

This EQIA Screening has been completed and found that there is a limited negative impact on protected characteristics.

Adverse Equality Impact Rating: Low

Section B – Evidence

| | |
|---|-----|
| Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity? | Yes |
| It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way? | Yes |
| Is there national evidence/data that you can use? | Yes |
| Have you consulted with stakeholders? | Yes |

Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?

Yes – Members are aware of this Government scheme, and a Key decision is being requested. We are liaising closely with District and Borough Councils regarding the provision of the scheme.

Engagement with the Ukrainian refugees at this stage is not possible, the scheme is aimed at supporting them and the sponsors offering homes but no negative impact on these groups is currently identified.

This is a Government scheme with statutory responsibility for the provision devolved to local authorities, we are continuing to follow the emerging guidance from Government and liaise with them as appropriate. Members of the public have been made aware of the scheme through government communication. No local consultation with members of the public is appropriate at this time.

Corporate Management team and involved officers.

Due to the fast moving nature of the situation consultation with any public groups at this stage would have a severe negative impact on those we are supporting, and there are no identified Equality or Diversity issues identified at this time.

| | |
|---|----|
| Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years? | No |
|---|----|

| | |
|--|-----|
| Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity? | Yes |
|--|-----|

Section C – Impact

Who may be impacted by the activity?

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Service Users/clients | Service users/clients |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|

| | |
|-------|----|
| Staff | No |
|-------|----|

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Residents/Communities/Citizens | Residents/communities/citizens |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|

| | |
|---|-----|
| Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing? | Yes |
|---|-----|

Details of Positive Impacts

The provision of financial support to Ukrainian refugees through the scheme and the ability to match those volunteering their homes to refugees and allow them to fulfil their desired contribution.

Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions

19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Are there negative impacts for age? | No |
|-------------------------------------|----|

Details of negative impacts for Age

Not Applicable

Mitigating Actions for Age

Not Applicable

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age | Not Applicable |
|--|----------------|

20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability

| | |
|--|----|
| Are there negative impacts for Disability? | No |
|--|----|

Details of Negative Impacts for Disability

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Disability

Not Applicable

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Responsible Officer for Disability | Not Applicable |
|------------------------------------|----------------|

21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Are there negative impacts for Sex | No |
|------------------------------------|----|

Details of negative impacts for Sex

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Sex

Not Applicable

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Responsible Officer for Sex | Not Applicable |
|-----------------------------|----------------|

22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender

| | |
|--|----|
| Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender | No |
|--|----|

Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender

Not Applicable

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender | |
| Not Applicable | |
| Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender | Not Applicable |
| 23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race | |
| Are there negative impacts for Race | No |
| Negative impacts for Race | |
| Not Applicable | |
| Mitigating actions for Race | |
| Not Applicable | |
| Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race | Not Applicable |
| 24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief | |
| Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief | No |
| Negative impacts for Religion and belief | |
| Not Applicable | |
| Mitigating actions for Religion and belief | |
| Not Applicable | |
| Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief | Not Applicable |
| 25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation | |
| Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation | No |
| Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation | |
| Not Applicable | |
| Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation | |
| Not Applicable | |
| Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation | Not Applicable |
| 26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity | |
| Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity | No |
| Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity | |
| Not Applicable | |
| Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity | |
| Not Applicable | |
| Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity | Not Applicable |
| 27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships | |
| Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships | No |
| Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships | |
| Not Applicable | |
| Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships | |
| Not Applicable | |
| Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships | Not Applicable |
| 28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities | |
| Are there negative impacts for Carer's | No |

| | |
|--|----------------|
| responsibilities | |
| Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities | |
| Not Applicable | |
| Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities | |
| Not Applicable | |
| Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities | Not Applicable |