

Item	Date
37.7	04/12/2023
Title	For
Refugee Resettlement and Asylum Dispersal	<i>Information</i>
Summary of Issues	
<p>The Refugee Resettlement sub-group continues to meet quarterly and is well attended by a range of PSB partners and other relevant partners. Ceredigion County Council is funded by UK Government to actively support Ukrainians for 12 months, Afghans for 3 years and Syrians for 5 years.</p> <p>Currently we are actively supporting 22 families - 18 from Ukraine, 3 from Syria and 1 from Afghanistan. Far more families have been welcomed to Ceredigion, and many are now settled here. Those who have chosen to settle here access public services like any other Ceredigion resident.</p> <p>450 Ukrainians are still living in the 10 initial accommodation sites that remain open in Wales. There is an all-Wales plan to find permanent accommodation for them. Ceredigion has committed to accommodating 64 people but have welcomed only 21 so far. Most families want to move to a large town or city and into the private rental sector. We continue to welcome a small number of Ukrainians however, some directly from Ukraine and some from other areas across the UK. They are happy with the 'Homes for Ukraine' hosting arrangements.</p> <p>Hotels hosting refugees from Afghanistan closed during the summer, the process was relatively smooth. Wales Strategic Migration Partnership reported that just 4 families in Wales were unable to find move-on accommodation, they were referred to their local authority Homelessness Team.</p> <p>UK Government has recently granted visas to Afghan families who fled to Pakistan. They are currently arriving to the UK and will be hosted in MOD properties.</p> <p>2 families from Afghanistan had resettled to Ceredigion in December 2021 and April 2022. Unfortunately 1 of the families became homeless because their landlord needed to sell the house. They were supported by our Homelessness team to emergency accommodation but have since moved to North Wales where they have family.</p> <p>The UK Resettlement scheme continues to run but we have been unable to offer a property to house any families since April 2022 due to the lack of affordable housing in the private rental sector and the gap between local rents and the Local Housing Allowance. This barrier is raised continuously with Welsh Government and UK Government.</p>	

Since February 2023, 6 refugee families have been, or been at risk of, homelessness. All have children. There are currently 8 families in emergency temporary accommodation.

Coleg Ceredigion and Adult Learning Wales continue to offer English classes to adults and Dysgu Bro offer Welsh classes. Take up, and language development, varies with each individual. Some of the refugees have found work, supported by our colleagues in DWP. Many who have found work are underemployed however and would benefit from language classes that focus on their specific expertise.

Hywel Dda Community Outreach team continue to ensure that families know about the health services available to them and are able to access these.

A group of relevant officers met with our local ClearSprings Ready Homes officer to prepare for the arrival of one family seeking asylum. ClearSprings Ready Homes is the main support provider, but this support ends when the family receive a decision on their asylum application. It is in the interests of local public services to be part of this process as we will be responsible for delivery of services if the family receives a positive outcome, are given refugee status and decide to stay in this area.

#### Financial Implications

External funding covers most of the costs incurred by the Local Authority. The Health Board is reimbursed for some, but not all, of the resettlement schemes.

#### Recommendations

The Public Services Board note the progress of Refugee Resettlement schemes in Ceredigion and continue to support the work of the sub-group.

#### Attachments

None

#### Reporting Officer

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