

Decision under Delegated Powers

Officer Making the Decision

Eileen Mallon, Strategic Director for Communities, Planning & Housing

Recommendation

That cash funds can be provided to Ukrainian families who have arrived in the UK through the Family Visa Scheme where:

- The family have not yet received their first Universal Credit payment
- The family have no other access to money, for example following a breakdown in the relationship with their hosts
- Referrals have been made wherever possible to charities, including food banks, and to the Household Support Fund, for financial or practical support
- The payment is subject to the relevant procedure note as agreed by the s151 officer / deputy s151 officer

Reason

To ensure families have some access to some cash to enable them to purchase food and other essentials or for use in an emergency.

Authority for Decision

Under the Constitution, officers with delegated authority are able to take such action as may in his or her opinion be necessary or appropriate in connection with all operational management matters for those functions and service areas for which he or she has responsibility.

Decision and Date

Approved 26th July 2022

Eileen Mallon

Strategic Director of Communities, Planning and Housing

Background

The Ukraine Family Scheme allows applicants to join family members in the UK for up to 3 years.

Family members in the UK are expected to provide accommodation and support for their family fleeing Ukraine. People arriving under the Scheme are eligible to live and work in the UK and are eligible for benefits.

Where there is a breakdown in the provision of accommodation, people arriving through the Scheme are eligible for housing support through the Local Authority.

Financial Implications

The funds have been paid from the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme budget which is fully funded by the Home Office at no cost to the Council.

Risk Management

The risk to a family if they are unable to access cash or food would be moderate, as would the potential reputational damage to the Council had it become public knowledge that a homeless family fleeing the Ukrainian conflict had no access to money.

Key Decision: No

Background Papers: None