



North Devon Council

Report Date: Monday, 4 September 2023

Topic: Refugee Support Contract

Report by: Service Manager - Housing

1. INTRODUCTION

Since 2002 NDC have supported the arrival of those households from Ukraine (HFU) due to the war in their country, NDC currently have 151 households. The Pickwell Foundation have been the support service delivering the daily support for these households. NDC have also signed up to a further 12 units of accommodation for those households from Afghan under the ARAP scheme. The funding regulations from government states that each household must be offered support services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Request for members to authorise in consultation Senior Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, to make any necessary amendments to the Grant Agreement for provision of support to Ukraine Refugee's dated the 17th May 2022 with the Pickwell Foundation to account for the Homes for Ukraine scheme and the ARAP scheme.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1.1. To continue to accept the government funding under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and ARAP schemes

3.1.2. To put in place the continued provision of funding for the Pickwell Foundation in regards to the Homes for Ukraine scheme and in addition the ARAP scheme.

4. REPORT

4.1.1. Attached is the first half yearly report (June – December) published by the Pickwell Foundation relating to their work under the HFU scheme. In this report it highlights the work they undertake and reported outcomes for this period of time.

4.1.2. The HFU funding stipulates that all new arrivals should receive an initial face to face welfare visit at the property, the guidance for these visits is confirmed in the .Gov web site [Welfare checks and follow up visits: Homes for Ukraine - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/welfare-checks-and-follow-up-visits-homes-for-ukraine). On-going support then continues for both guests and hosts during the time they are in NDC area under the scheme.

4.1.3. Pickwell have been able to demonstrate via their report and on-going excellent results in being able to maintain existing accommodation and to also re-match those households requiring alternative accommodation. As

reported this has resulted in little use of TA for households under this scheme and due to this NDC have been able to retain significant savings from the HFU funding.

- 4.1.4. NDC have agreed to 12 units of family accommodation for those under the ARAP scheme at RMB Chivenor. The families arriving will require additional support to re-settle in the NDC area. The funding regulations as with the HFU scheme stipulate that support services will need to be delivered to those households in the LA area. The guidance on the support required is highlighted in the guidance via web site - [Funding instruction: Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme and Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) – Case Work 1.13.
- 4.1.5. The funding for the HFU scheme has been agreed for Year Two however we do not yet have confirmation in regards to Year 3. The funding for those households are confirmed for a three year period, paid to LA on a yearly basis.
- 4.1.6. HFU: Funding received in 22/23 = 938,700
 - 4.1.6.1.1. Pickwell Payments 22/23 = £271,799.70
 - 4.1.6.1.2. TA Costs 22/23 = 0
- 4.1.7. Currently there is a spend of £9,455.00 since June 23 on TA, this is due to hosts now reaching a year anniversary and wanting to end the placement, and some where the placement has broken down.
- 4.1.8. The other spends from this grant have been to cover additional staffing costs, initial property inspections, top-up for host payments to increase from £350 up to £500, welcome payments to guests
- 4.1.9. The contract has asked for the same level of payment of £1,500 per person for year two. This will include new arrivals and for those currently resident, the support service will continue to work with hosts and guests to avoid the loss of accommodation.
- 4.1.10. They are also the point of contact for re-matching and sourcing private rented accommodation. Pickwell also attend a number of meetings with both external partners and the home office in regards to further developments and requests for data, this has been beneficial for NDC.
- 4.1.11. In September 2023 NDC will begin to receive families in Chivenor under the ARAP scheme, as it agreed it will be 12 units of accommodation. Part of the funding agreement from the Home Office is similar to the HFU scheme whereas the LA needs to provide support to the families arriving in area.
- 4.1.12. Pickwell Foundation have been able to employ a specialist Afghan support officer and a number of volunteers to be able to deliver this support.

4.1.13. Pickwell have submitted a contract request and quote for costings, again this is at £1,500 per person on arrival and will re-submit for year two and three.

4.1.14. The funding for the scheme has been set out by government and agreed for a three year period, this will result in a grant of £20,520 per person over this period (including children). Estimating household numbers or 50/55 in the units could result in funding of between £1,026,000 & £1,128,600 for NDC over the three year period, with an estimated payment to Pickwell of £225,000.

4.1.15. The funding will also be used to cover any additional staffing costs ie the employment of a full time NDC Refugee-Resettlement officer on a 3 year fixed term contract, assistance to move into move on settled accommodation in the Private Rented sector.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Potential impact on homelessness and the increase need for TA if dedicated support is unable to be delivered

5.2. Impact on budget spend if NDC do not continue to receive government funding for both schemes

6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1. None

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1. None

8. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

8.1. What impact, positive or negative, does the subject of this report have on:

8.1.1. The commercialisation agenda: N/A

8.1.2. Improving customer focus and/or

8.1.3. Regeneration or economic development –Positive – Population of families of working age, increased income into the area

9. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

9.1. Article of Part 3 Annex 1 paragraph:

9.2. Referred or delegated power?

10. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

10.1.1.1. This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.



11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
(The background papers are available for inspection and kept by the author of the report).

PICKWELL HALF YEARLY REPORT

12. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers

Jon Triggs Director Of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive.

Jeremy Mann – Head Of Planning, Housing & Health

Simon Fuller – Snr Solicitor & Monitoring officer