



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **CABINET**

**12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

### **SUPPORT TO REFUGEES, UKRAINE NATIONALS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN RCT**

#### **REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH COUNCILLOR BOB HARRIS, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES**

**Author: Cheryl Emery, Head of Community Safety and Community Housing.**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the support being provided by the Council to refugees, Ukraine nationals and asylum seekers in Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) and outlines the considerable work undertaken by the Council and our partner organisations, to respond positively and as effectively as possible across all the resettlement schemes.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the increasing numbers of refugees, Ukrainian nationals and asylum seekers being resettled in RCT and the emerging housing, support and financial demands this presents.
- 2.2 Note the significant actions being taken to support and welcome people re-settling in RCT by the Council, our partners and stakeholders.

#### **3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Council continues to operate sustainably across all UK resettlement schemes. The Council has robust systems in place to support those moving to RCT, and these have evolved in recent years as our experience and understanding of resettlement has grown.

- 3.2 The excellent local partnership work taking place between the Council, third sector organisations, CTM University Health Board and the very strong links with Further and Higher Education establishments within the Authority, ensures the coordinated approach to resettlement work in RCT has received widespread recognition. Participation in long standing and new UK resettlement schemes allows us to build on this partnership approach and contribute to the Welsh Government's (WG) stated ambition for Wales as a Nation of Sanctuary.
- 3.3 The Council's voluntary participation in many resettlement programmes enables the local authority and our communities to share in the global responsibility to provide a safe and legal route to the UK for some of the most vulnerable displaced people, wherever humanitarian need is greatest.

#### 4. **BACKGROUND**

##### **REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMMES IN RCT**

- 4.1 The Council is committed to providing support to refugee families assessed by the United Nations as particularly vulnerable and therefore eligible for formal resettlement.
- 4.2 Resettlement is organised through different government funded schemes and overseen by the Home Office. In addition to support from the Council, families have allocated support workers from the Welsh Refugee Council (WRC) who help them to re-adjust, orientate, and understand UK systems and services alongside providing practical support with day-to-day living and working towards independence by the end of the support period. The Council currently works with the Home Office to resettle displaced people, refugees and asylum seekers in RCT through the following schemes:

##### **UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS)**

- 4.3 The Home Office has established the UKRS to identify the most vulnerable refugees, who have been assessed for resettlement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). These vulnerable refugees are nominated for resettlement in the UK mainly from the Middle East (notably Syria) and North Africa, but also from refugee camps in other areas.
- 4.4 This scheme replaces schemes in which the Council has actively participated since 2015, namely the:
- **Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS)** (2016 to 2021), which resettled 20,000 people in the UK. *In RCT, we have*

**resettled 11 families (50 individuals) since our participation in the programme.** 3 of those families (10 individuals) have since moved to live in other parts of the UK.

- **Resettlement of Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) (2017 to 2021),** which resettled 3,000 people in the UK. **2 families (5 individuals) were resettled in RCT** and 1 family (2 individuals) has since returned to Turkey.

4.5 At this time, RCT has a total of 9 families (43 individuals) from across both the VPRS and VCRS programmes that continue to reside in the borough who are settled and state they are happy.

4.6 Rhondda Cynon Taf's first family arrival for the newly established UKRS is expected in January 2023.

#### **Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)**

4.7 The Council is also participating fully in the National Transfer Scheme for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) overseen by the Director of Children Services in RCT in partnership with Bridgend County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. While still waiting on the final distribution of the number of UASC to be accommodated across Cwm Taf Morgannwg, to date, two properties (offering 8 units of private rented accommodation) have been secured in the RCT with **5 unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people accommodated to date** and receiving support from Children's Services.

#### **Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP)**

4.8 In preparation for the withdrawal of UK troops in Afghanistan, the Home Office established the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP). ARAP offers the opportunity for resettlement to locally employed staff and their families who worked for the UK government in Afghanistan. While Afghan families are awaiting resettlement in the UK with a local authority, the Home Office provides them with hotel accommodation. The resettlement of Afghan families operates in the same way as the resettlement of families from Syria and other areas of the world facing humanitarian crises. The Council has been an active participant in the ARAP scheme since 2016 following a Cabinet decision.

4.9 **To date RCT has resettled 6 Afghan families, (29 individuals),** and with the help of our commissioned specialist support provider, the WRC, these families have been supported to integrate into the community and all children have been enrolled in local schools.

- 4.10 While continuing to actively support the ARAP scheme, the provision of additional properties for the Afghan (ARAP) scheme is proving a challenge due to the limited availability of suitable, sustainable accommodation for these households.

### **UK ASYLUM DISPERSAL SCHEME**

- 4.11 On the [17th June 2021](#) Cabinet agreed that the Council would become an asylum dispersal area, working with the Home Office, Wales Strategic Migration Partnership (WSMP) and Clear Spring's Ready Homes to support and accommodate 5 families with a review of the operation of the scheme in RCT after an initial period of 12 months.
- 4.12 During April 2022 however, the Home Office announced a new 'Full Dispersal' approach for the UK. This requires all local authorities in England and Wales to become asylum dispersal areas due to continual high numbers of arrivals into the UK applying for asylum protection. At that time, over 10,000 individuals were in temporary accommodation (including hotels and migrant camps) in England, mainly in the Kent area, placing overwhelming pressure on local council services.
- 4.13 The WSMP is leading the development of regional plan arrangements on behalf of the 22 local authorities in Wales. Based on the 2011 Census Data, there is a requirement for Wales to offer over 2300 bedspaces, secured by Clear Spring's Ready Homes on behalf of UK Government, in order to house approximately 2344 people seeking asylum. The WSMP has developed a Dispersal Plan for Wales, following engagement with all 22 LAs and this must be agreed by the Home Office.
- 4.14 The key strategic principles of the intended approach across Wales are: strategic intent as a Nation of Sanctuary; immediate integration; access to advice and services; taking a trauma informed approach; partnership working; sustainable funding; effective coordination; voluntary and community sector support; and equity and fairness.
- 4.15 Beyond these strategic principles, there are also agreed key operating principles, which include:
- Consultation with LAs on selected properties to share local insight;
  - Effective data sharing and contract compliance from providers;
  - Procurement of properties in an area limited by criteria i.e. dispersal limits per LA area, move on ceilings (ensure all areas achieve 75% of their allocation before increasing numbers in any one area), procurement to not cause escalation in local market rents;

- Properties procured directly from private landlords taking into account specific local needs and safeguarding;
- Any proposed use of contingency accommodation/large scale sites will be shared by the Home Office with councils, WSMP and Welsh Government in advance.

4.16 In terms of the expectation for each local authority, it will be based on population-based apportionment with two models being considered for Wales:

- **Model 1- 22 LA model based on population share**
- **Model 2- 19 LA model** (with any population split taking into account Cardiff, Swansea, and Newport's existing active involvement meaning these areas are either already, or close to, fulfilling their proportional rates based on existing long-term participation)

4.17 The table below outlines proposed share for the Rhondda Cynon Taf area, based on both apportionment models:

Local Authority	Rhondda Cynon Taf
Census 2011 population	234,410
A Max number (200:1 ratio)	1,172
S 75% of 200:1	879
C Allocation by Dec 23 Model 1	179
a Allocation by Dec 23 Model 2	236

ABased on the above allocations **by the end of December 2023, it is proposed that between 179 to 236 asylum seekers will be located to Rhondda Cynon Taf**, subject to the availability of appropriate accommodation, and input from the local authority on gathered local intelligence.

4.18 As this Council had already engaged proactively with the Home Office following the previous Cabinet decision, the first meeting on the proposed new dispersal model occurred with Council representatives on 25 July 2022, and a fortnightly engagement meeting is now established between officers and Clear Spring's Ready Homes.

4.19 New private rented properties proposed by Clear spring's Ready Homes to house individuals on the Asylum Dispersal scheme are always considered and reviewed by the Community Safety Partnership, Police, Health, Education and Housing to ensure that they are appropriate although the Home Office sets out limited reasons to object to potential properties being used. Part of this work involves a

consideration of local policing issues, availability and capacity of health care and the provision of local school places.

**To date 1 family has been placed in an RCT property.** The asylum-seeking family are supported by Clear Spring's Ready Homes whilst their asylum claim is determined by the Home Office. They have been provided with housing and wrap around support to meet their essential needs. Both Clear Spring's Ready Homes along with Migrant Help provide the support and there have been no issues to-date reported to the Council.

There has been a total of 24 potential properties in the RCT area identified by Clear springs Ready Homes, 5 of which Clear Spring's Ready Homes have determined they are no longer pursuing.

### **THE UKRAINE RESPONSE**

- 4.20 The UK Government's Homes for Ukraine Response was launched on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 to support thousands of people displaced by the war. These arrangements support three UK visa entry routes for Ukrainian nationals fleeing the conflict in Ukraine

**The Family Visa:** extended family members already living in the UK can apply for a 3-year visa for family members. The Ukraine Family Scheme is an extension of the existing family visa process which has been amended to extend the definition of 'close' and 'extended' family member and to remove the income test and the requirement for payment to apply. Families are expected to live together, and Ukrainian nationals will have immediate access to benefits and public services, and the right to work and study. Local authorities have not been allocated a formal role in this scheme, are not in receipt of information on the number of refugees arriving in their area under this scheme and are not being funded to support refugees arriving through this route.

**The UK Government Homes for Ukraine Scheme:** individual hosts offer space in their home or accommodation they have available to unrelated arrivals within the scheme.

**The Welsh Government Super-Sponsor:** where visas are applied for on the basis on national sponsorship with accommodation and support provided by Welsh Government.

All visas permit those Ukrainians who arrive under any of these arrangements to live and work in the UK for up to 3 years and access benefits, healthcare, employment.

### **The Council's Ukraine Response**

## **The Family Visa Entry Route**

- 4.21 Capture of this information is entirely dependent of individual residents seeking service support. Although UK Government does not provide any financial support for Council to help those arriving under this visa route, the Council has put in place an equitable support package for those who become known to services including: a Wellbeing Assessment; £200 emergency support payment and 6 months free Leisure for Life Membership for both the Ukrainian nationals and their family.

***Currently in RCT, 11 Ukrainian individuals who entered the UK via a Family Visa have requested support/further assistance.***

## **The UK Government's Homes for Ukraine Scheme**

- 4.22 In response to meeting the needs of Ukraine nationals arriving under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, in early March 2022, a new multi-disciplinary Humanitarian Response Group (HuG) was set up by the Council. This Team comprised Senior Officers from Community Development Team, Adult and Children Services, Education, the Customer Contact Centre. This Senior Council Officer Team implemented Council process to receive Welsh Government Data and referral pathways into the Council.
- 4.23 The Homes for Ukrainian Scheme allows private individuals (hosts) to sponsor named Ukrainians. Each sponsor household is entitled to a UK Government £350 'thank you' payment per month (up to a maximum of 12) administered by local authority. Host properties are subject to a property check by Council Officer against UK Government standards and hosts are required to undergo a DBS check as part of safeguarding procedures. Upon arrival in the County Borough, and within 3 working days if children have arrived with adults, the Humanitarian Response Team will arrange a visit to each Ukrainian at the property of the host to conduct a holistic Wellbeing Assessment. This ensures initial support is made available to both the arrivals and hosts as well as providing ongoing referrals to statutory and other support services as required including the resettlement team. The completion of the Wellbeing Assessment ensures that host 'thank you' payments and guest emergency support payments of £200 are processed efficiently.
- 4.24 On completion of the Wellbeing Assessment arrivals are referred for support from the Councils newly established Resettlement Team with the staffing structure consisting of a manager and 3 temporary Resettlement Officers. The Resettlement Team provides advice,

support, and integration support for up to 12 months, which includes welfare benefits, health, employment, housing advice, safeguarding, mediation and community links.

The Resettlement Team are currently supporting all families and individuals that have arrived in RCT under any of the UK refugee and resettlement schemes. This includes **54 hosts across the borough who have welcomed Ukrainian guests** into their homes. Support is also being made available to **106 guests in host placements and 1 family that has recently moved on from an RCT Welcome Centre having secured their own accommodation**. This equates to a total of 74 adults and 32 children. To date, the team have assisted 17 households to move out of their host placement and secure alternative accommodation. It is pleasing to note 34 Ukrainian guests residing with hosts have been supported to secure employment.

- 4.25 Longer term planning and ongoing support after the provision of accommodation by sponsors comes to an end is currently unclear, particularly for housing. Hosts are entitled to receive 'thank you' payments for up to 12 months and were required to commit to a minimum of 6 months of hosting. As covered throughout this report, Ukrainian guests are entitled to statutory support, including homelessness provision, which creates a significant risk for the council if move on cannot be secured for Ukraine nationals before hosting arrangements end, due to the already high demand for temporary accommodation in respect of single homeless people.

The Resettlement Team also work closely with host arrangements to help prevent breakdown of relationship and avoid the risk of homelessness. To date the Council has only received one homelessness presentation due a Ukrainian guest experiencing domestic abuse who was later placed in refuge and accommodated in another borough.

### **Welsh Government Super Sponsor Scheme and Welcome Centres**

- 4.26 In addition, and in response to the Ukrainian crisis, the Council has worked with partners to establish Welcome Centre provision in RCT, offering immediate, initial accommodation to Ukrainian Nationals arriving under the WG Super Sponsor Scheme. Welcome Centres are intended as short-term accommodation pending move on being secured to more sustainable, independent accommodation. Welcome Centres are established according to detailed WG specifications in terms of support on site, education and play provision, meals and access to immediate and on-going health and trauma support. Funding is provided by WG to cover the costs of operating Welcome Centres.



## **Welcome Centre A**

- 4.27 Discussions with WG commenced early May 2022 to establish and open a Welcome Centre within RCTCBC. With a location confirmed, immediate work was undertaken by the Council to make the location suitable for the needs of those fleeing Ukraine and to offer a secure and safe environment for guests. This Welcome Centre is for families only and was the first Welcome Centre in Wales to accommodate pets.
- 4.28 Senior Officers worked closely with a Hotelier to take responsibility for the accommodation and security of the site, as well as working with a local catering company to provide the expected fully catered meal provision.
- 4.29 To comply with guidance from Welsh Government and to offer an effective response, a Multi-Agency Team was established to provide the wrap around support families may require. This included Council Teams (Community Development, Adult and Children Services, Employment Support, Youth Engagement and Participation, Play Teams, Staying Well @ Work) and with external partners- Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board, Citizens Advice, Health, DWP, British Red Cross, Coleg yr Cymoedd, University of South Wales, South Wales Police, Mental Health Services, Save the Children and Barod.
- 4.30 Ukrainian families are provided with a full Wellbeing Assessment on arrival which captures the journey to the UK and RCT and seeks to identify any areas of specialist need such as disabilities or trauma responses. The Humanitarian Response Team have all received training in relation to Trauma Informed practice provided by CTM Health colleagues. With daily ongoing support provided to access GP appointments, secure employment, and engage in ESOL and other Education both on and off site. A programme of ESOL sessions have been run on site and off site at the University of South Wales, along with Council Play Teams delivering opportunities to the children.

Guests are provided with support to access the full range of support available to all residents of RCT, this includes access to the Council's Employment Support Service. All members of the family receive their £200 emergency support payment on arrival and access to free Leisure for Life Membership for 6 months.

- 4.31 On the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2022, the Minister for Social Justice, Jane Hutt (MS) and the Minister for Constitution, Mick Antoniw (MS) attended the Welcome Centre to welcome the families to RCT. The families were provided the opportunity to speak with both Ministers about their personal experiences and highlight any further support needs.

- 4.32 The Centre has welcomed a **total of 14 families** between the 29<sup>th</sup> of June and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022. 2 families have since returned to Europe, 1 family has returned to Ukraine and 1 family successfully moving into private rented accommodation having secured local employment and become financially independent. At present, there are 10 families at the Centre, comprising 19 adults and 19 children.

All families have been provided with ongoing wrap around support and family plans to help facilitate move on arrangements and all school aged children have secured education, of which 3 are in a college placement. Councils play a key role in supporting the integration of Ukrainian families into their local communities with employment support offered to all working age adults and 6 Adults assisted (to date) to secure local employment.

The Centre will continue to operate until 31.3.23 with any remaining guests supported by the Council and WG to find alternative accommodation by that date.

### **Welcome Centre B**

- 4.33 Discussions with Welsh Government and a third party commenced late early June 2022 to add an additional single occupancy Welcome Centre in RCT.

The Humanitarian Response Team are responsible for the wrap around support and assessment of wellbeing at this site and continue to follow the same process and partnership working approaches established for Welcome Centre A. Accommodation and catering are the responsibility of the hosting party.

- 4.34 **56 single adults have arrived on site** between 11<sup>th</sup> July to the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022 with 4 individuals deciding to leave the Welcome Centre before an assessment of wellbeing could be completed. Currently there are 32 individuals residing at Welcome Centre B with 18 adults securing employment to-date. The Centre will continue to operate until 31.1.23 and again, guests at the Centre will need to be supported by the Council and WG to find alternative accommodation prior to closure of the Centre.

### **Challenges to Secure Sustainable Housing for Ukrainian Nationals**

- 4.35 Despite all Ukrainian guests being provided with support and plans to help facilitate move on, there are significant challenges in finding suitable move on accommodation. This is due to the current housing crisis and the limited availability of properties in both the social and private sector. Most Ukrainians are eligible to receive Universal Credit

or are in low income employment, which makes many of the available properties in the private rented sector unaffordable in the absence of additional financial help to meet significant rent shortfalls.

- 4.36 Move on is becoming critical with Welcome Centre B due to close on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023. Most Ukrainian guests placed in the Centre are single people in need of 1 bedroom accommodation which is largely unaffordable for them and with limited availability of suitable housing stock in all parts of RCT.
- 4.37 Welcome Centre A is also earmarked for closure in March 2023 with many families settled in the local area and all children attending schools. The challenge will be to secure affordable and suitable accommodation for their needs in the local area.
- 4.38 Many host arrangements are at the point of breakdown with hosts advising they are not able to accommodate Ukrainian guests for an extended period beyond the initial 6 months they agreed to. UK Government thank you payments for hosts also end after a maximum of 12 months post arrival.
- 4.39 Some Ukrainian guests have indicated that they do not wish to remain in RCT and wish to seek housing in larger cities such as Cardiff and Swansea which are at saturation point in respect of available, affordable housing.
- 4.40 Funding arrangements for the Resettlement Team are also uncertain with all roles currently funded using the tariff payments and grants received by the Council as part of the WG and UK Government funding support for Councils and currently there is no commitment at this time of any longer- term funding arrangements.
- 4.41 In order to increase the general supply of social housing, during 22/23 the WG has made available additional capital funding for housing associations to return long term empty properties into use as transitional housing. While these properties are not specifically for Ukraine nationals, the additional supply of housing will help ease pressure on the local housing register. Both RHA and Trivallis Housing Associations have made successful bids for funding totalling £995,262 that will deliver 16 houses for occupation in RCT by 31.3.2023.

## **5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

- 5.1 This report is provided for information only and seeks to update Cabinet on the Council's ongoing and proactive participation in a wide range of UK Programmes to support displaced Ukrainians, refugees

and asylum seekers of all ages who have to leave their homes as a result of conflicts or persecution. The Council seeks to ensure the specific needs of individuals arriving via the resettlement programmes are met by applying the guidance issued by WG and UK Government in the operation of all schemes.

## **6. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no Welsh Language implications arising from the content of this report.

## **7 CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT**

- 7.1 There are no consultation implications arising from this report however involvement of key partners and engagement with refugees and displaced persons are ongoing and established processes.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 All of the UK resettlement schemes identified in this report are funded through varying Home Office grants available to the Council. All are time limited funding arrangements and are bespoke to the scheme under which an individual arrives in the UK and include:

- For the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP), the tariff funding tapers over three years after arrival, with the initial tariff set at £10,500 and with associated tapering amount for education support depending on a child's age.
- The United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme funding package available will mirror that currently paid under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme and previously reported to Cabinet.
- For Asylum Dispersal, UK Government provide £3500 for any new accommodation spaces occupied in any given year. This is a one off payment upon first occupation of a bed space.

- 8.2 The Homes for Ukraine response has many complex financial arrangements, each depending on the arrival route agreed by UK and WG. Payments are time limited with most UK Government funded components due to end by March 2023. Claims are made retrospectively based on numbers of Ukraine nationals in the County. Each individual attracts a payment tariff of £10,500 with additional payments for education support dependant of the age of the child. UK Government also reimburses the Council for the £350 monthly thank you payment to hosts and the emergency support payments to arrivals which are administered on their behalf.

8.3 The operating costs of the accommodation providers for the Welcome Centres and funding for the specialist wrap around support mobilised by the Council are met by WG.

8.4 The combined impacts of the various resettlement schemes and spontaneous arrivals creates significant ongoing financial pressure on local services including housing, education and health particularly in the context of previous Covid-related demand, emerging cost of living issues and high numbers of households placed in temporary accommodation in the borough.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

9.1 The Council has full regard to any legal implications and legislation in respect of the Council's response to meeting the needs of refugees and asylum seekers and follows Government policy and guidance in respect of resettlement arrangements.

## **10. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.**

10.1 The positive progress the Council continues to make across all UK Resettlement Programmes contributes to the Council's Corporate three main priorities as follow:

Ensuring People are independent, healthy and successful: Community integration is a key objective in our work with refugees, to help them overcome and or manage their health needs to become healthy and independent and to lead successful lives in RCT. All Displaced People, Refugees and Asylum Seekers have access to support services both from the Council and other partners that meet their needs. Much emphasis is placed on providing services which help them learn English and in helping them improve their skills and accessing employment. All children within families are supported to access education and college provision.

Creating places: where proud to live work and play: Tackling isolation is also a key element of our Resettlement work helping build up well - being, personal confidence and self- esteem helping individuals to integrate and engage in activities their local communities. We also work closely with other Council departments i.e., Communities for Work to assist individuals to access volunteering, training, and employment opportunities.

Enabling prosperity: creating the opportunity for people and businesses: to be innovative; be entrepreneurial and fulfil their potential and prosper: In recognition many of the refugees we work with are

professionals and have fled high paid jobs. Many are encouraged to take up their old roles where possible and to learn new life skills which can help provide access to new employment opportunities as well as enable them to prosper and seek their own personal goals.

10.2 The Sustainable Development Principle and the 5 ways of working have been fully considered in our participation in the Resettlement Programmes which are heavily focused on meeting the long-term needs of refugees and asylum seekers through the provision of affordable housing, access to education and employment and provision of ongoing support.

10.3 In consideration of the seven wellbeing goals, the objective is to improve the quality of life for people being supported by Resettlement Programmes in RCT through the provision of many interventions. These include highlighting clients who will need long term support to help them sustain their home as well as integrate into their local communities and help them to work to their strengths and support them to achieve their aspirations.

## **11. STRATEGIC OR RELEVANT TO ELECTORAL WARDS**

11.1 The Resettlement Programmes work across the whole of the County Borough to support and house displaced people, refugees and those seeking asylum.

## **12. CONCLUSIONS**

12.1 To date, over 320 refugees, asylum seekers and Ukraine nationals have been supported into accommodation in RCT with new arrivals weekly under the various schemes. As a result of the UK Asylum Dispersal Scheme, these numbers are expected to increase significantly in the next 12 months. Many of these arrivals have already been supported to secure employment, education, health services and sustainable housing through the multi-disciplinary work of a wide range of Council Departments and the support of external partners including the local health board.

12.2 The Council has a long-established commitment to supporting those unable to remain in their home country and make a positive contribution to ensuring Wales is a Nation of Sanctuary

12.3 Cabinet is recommended to note the challenges and actions being taken in response to delivery of the resettlement programmes in Rhondda Cynon Taf by Council staff and its many partner organisations.

**Other Information: *Relevant Scrutiny Committee:***  
Community Services Scrutiny Committee

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

**SUPPORT TO REFUGEES, UKRAINE NATIONALS AND ASYLUM  
SEEKERS IN RCT**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND  
COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH COUNCILLOR BOB  
HARRIS, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES**

**Background Papers**

17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 - Cabinet

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