

Education Support for Refugees (Ukraine)

Committee name	Children, Families and Education Select Committee
Officer reporting	Daniel Kennedy – Central Services Directorate Tracie Bushell – Central Services Directorate
Papers with report	None
Wards	All

HEADLINES

This paper provides the Committee with an update on the support being provided to households who are living in Hillingdon who have been displaced by the conflict in Ukraine. Specifically, the paper provides the Committee with an update on the education support for children and how grant funding is being used to assist children settle and integrate into schools and their communities, and to improve their learning outcomes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee notes the information presented within the report and asks questions about the support being provided to children.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Working with a range of public and voluntary sector partners, Hillingdon Council has and continues to provide leadership to co-ordinate arrangements with hosts and a range of support services to assist those displaced by the conflict in Ukraine. Partnership working with the voluntary sector is providing direct support to households who need it for a range of services. This includes applying for a school place for their child(ren), registering with a GP, information about accessing health care services, access to financial assistance where this is required, access to adult learning and employment, options for re-housing as well as assistance to connect with support networks.

Since the launch of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme in March 2022, Hillingdon has received 399 guests, of which 123 are children under the age of 18 years old. As at the end of January 2023 there are now a total of 62 children living in Hillingdon under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme following some children and their families moving onto other accommodation and resettlement arrangements.

Hillingdon Council and voluntary sector partners maintain regular contact with those who have settled in Hillingdon.

In addition to the initial support to families upon arrival and subsequent support to settle into Hillingdon's communities, the government has provided local areas with funding per pupil for the financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24, which includes support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The allocation of funding for each phase of education based on the date of arrival is shown in Table 1 below. The funding awarded for education per pupil reduces over time, proportionate to the remainder of the academic year.

Table 1: Funding Allocation per pupil by Phase

Phase	March 2022 - May 2022	June 2022 - August 2022	September 2022 - November 2022	December 2022 - February 2023
Early Years	£3,000	£2,250	£1,500	£750
Primary	£6,580	£4,935	£3,290	£1,645
Secondary	£8,755	£6,586	£4,378	£2,189

Current Support

The Council, schools and voluntary sector partners are providing a range of support services to children who have been displaced by the conflict in Ukraine to resettle and integrate into Hillingdon's communities; to help them feel safe, welcomed and to achieve the best outcomes. In terms of support to children and young people this includes the following, which at school level is being progressed through close working with schools across the Borough. Support is being provided school by school and taking into account the needs of individual children, on a case-by-case basis.

- Information and resources for schools to support Ukrainian children are available to all schools via the Education Services LEAP digital platform.
- The Education Psychology Service have received requests from some schools for additional support with children from Ukraine and in response they have launched a targeted support offer. This has been in place from January 2023. This support offer covers social emotional needs as well as the practice of welcome and induction. The team are connecting with CAMHS who are offering free training on supporting vulnerable Ukrainian adolescents. Further discussions and reviews are continuing with schools and education teams to ensure the support needs of children and young people with emotional and social needs are being met.
- The Virtual Schools team are providing advice and guidance to schools to support refugee children, including children from Ukraine.
- The Post-16 team is working with post-16 providers to ensure children and young people are securing access to a suitable education. The team are working with Harrow, Richmond and Uxbridge College to access courses, which will include ESOL (to develop skills in English speaking and writing) and other courses. Currently two Ukrainian young people have been placed on a course at a college and have been provided with resources to support their studies. The Post-16 team are creating a pathway for Ukrainian children and young people to access support.

To complement the education support for children and young people, support is also being provided to families by commissioned voluntary sector services. This includes providing bespoke

support to Ukrainian guests referred to the service living in Hillingdon. Working closely with the Council, the voluntary sector is assisting hosts and guests, and supporting guests and their families with their integration and adaptation to life in the UK and delivering ongoing support services where necessary. This includes, but not limited to, school admissions, accessing ESOL, welfare benefit applications and assistance with accessing Job Centre Plus.

Additional support for the whole family is being delivered by the Hillingdon Adult Learning service who provided support for newly arrived Ukrainians during the academic year 2021/22. The team co-hosted a 'meet and greet' event with the voluntary sector at the end of May 2022, inviting 70 newly arrived Ukrainians, with attendance of 55 people. The majority were mothers with children or teenagers, two unaccompanied young learners, a few single adults and two older people. Many had lower levels of English, six had very high levels of English.

The team set up and delivered two classes to support some of this cohort. 12 learners were placed on a seven-week pre-entry course. Six learners were placed on a higher employability course.

Families are also able to access assistance from the Stronger Families team who ensure that children, young people, and their families receive tailored support at the earliest point, from the most appropriate service(s), to enable children and young people to achieve their full potential. The Stronger Families service works together with families to prevent difficulties from escalating and becoming more complex. It is consent based and time limited. Families have the option to self-refer and access the service without any restrictions.

Families are supported with complex and multiple difficulties which are preventing parents from adequately caring for their children e.g., lack of knowledge of positive behaviour management, routines and boundaries, mental health, substance misuse, disengagement with education and risk of homelessness.

Proposed Additional Support

To ensure children and schools are provided with targeted support that delivers improving outcomes and positive experiences for children, the Council is organising 'cluster' workshops with schools to discuss learning and support needs, to inform further support. Provision has been made to offer both local and central professional support. This will include bilingual officers who will provide a bridge between communities, schools, and other Council services and where required, the translation of documentation and signposting materials for the most common languages used by Ukrainian arrivals (Ukrainian, Russian and Farsi). To enable the post-16 students to have full access to education the Council will ensure students have the necessary learning materials and tools and the support they need to learn, working with their education provider.

PERFORMANCE DATA

There are currently 40 Ukrainian children attending Hillingdon Schools. A further two children are attending out-of-Borough schools, four attending online Ukrainian studies and 16 recently arrived children/ young people who are being supported by the relevant teams to find education placements within the London Borough of Hillingdon.

RESIDENT BENEFIT

The offer of a tailored holistic model will enable Ukrainian children and families to make the

transition into education within Hillingdon. This will be achieved by addressing the need to support children and families on an individual basis through a dedicated team of professionals along with targeted support for schools.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In November 2022 Hillingdon received notification of a grant allocation totalling £712,896 for the integration of Ukrainian children into schools and the wider community on arrival into the UK under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. The grant funding is to be distributed throughout 2023/24 on a needs basis to support the outcomes for the children as set out above.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications from this report. This report is for information only.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

LEAP - [Ukraine Support - Leap \(hillington.gov.uk\)](https://hillington.gov.uk/ukraine-support-leap)