

Brighton & Hove's Support for Refugees and Migrants - Priorities and Activity

Priority	Current position	Lead Service/Organisation	Planned activity for 2023/24
Further develop support for all Ukrainian refugees in partnership with the Third sector and business community	Homes For Ukraine Grants Scheme 23-25 successfully launched in March 2023. £814,000 awarded in grants to 17 local voluntary sector organisations for delivery of services to Ukrainian and other refugees for 15 months from July 2023. Projects are being delivered in 7 key priorities identified through a survey with Ukrainian refugees and engagement with programme delivery partners. Partners delivering projects under the employment and business start-up advice linked with DWP, local employers and businesses. There is an agreed monitoring system in place to ensure the scheme delivers its stated outcomes. Ongoing community support and integration meetings taking place monthly to co-ordinate services from the Third Sector.	Communities, Equality and Third Sector Service, BHCC	Continue to engage with the business community through delivery partners to improve employability and financial independence for Ukrainian refugees. Commission additional accredited ESOL and further services to develop young Ukrainian refugees' resilience. A monitoring and evaluation system is embedded in programme delivery of funded projects to allow effectiveness of funded projects to be measured.
Develop proactive and positive communications about Brighton & Hove as a welcoming city in partnership with Third sector	Communications strategy developed to create wider messaging around Brighton & Hove as an inclusive City for Newcomers and a City of Sanctuary.	Communications Service, BHCC	Continue publicising positive stories, events and other opportunities with all our partners to promote Brighton & Hove as a welcoming city. Redevelop and update the 'Migrants, asylum seekers and refugees' section of the website as part of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion section
Review the support package for refugees arriving on the current resettlement programmes	Ongoing as part of procurement of support services post 2024. Beneficiaries and key stakeholders being consulted.	Communities, Equality and Third Sector Service, BHCC	Consultation with service users of resettlement programmes to date as well as other stakeholders. Learning from other local authority models of refugee resettlement
Improve housing pathways for all non UK nationals including reviewing the current package offered to landlords	Ukrainian Refugee Housing Needs team now have expanded remit to work with Afghan refugees leaving bridging hotels and at risk of homelessness. Direct Lets team have the lead on the acquisition of settled accommodation in the Private Rented Sector for resettled refugees. A Private Rented Sector Access Scheme (an offer of financial incentives and other services offered to landlords interested in housing resettled refugees, whether Ukrainian or on another funded programme) is being agreed.	Housing, BHCC	Comprehensive procedure for resettled refugees as well as those coming through the asylum route and other non UK nationals at risk of homelessness is in development. Training options for staff assessing non UK nationals, including Priority Need assessments are being explored.
Continue the partnership work to improve mental health services for refugees and asylum seekers	Ongoing monthly meetings of Refugee, Asylum Seeker and Migrant Mental Health working group	Clinical Director of Mental Health, Integrated Care Board	Roll out of NHS Sussex webpage for Refugee, Asylum Seeker and Migrant community Continue to feedback to the wider Community MH Transformation Programme
Increase access to free immigration legal advice (also taking into account uncertainty about government plans following end of Homes for Ukraine 3 year visas)	Local providers have met with national expert and are seeking ways of identifying demand and meeting the challenge of growing local immigration advice sector in a context where there is a national shortage of trained advisors to recruit.	Specialist local CVS and immigration legal advice sector	Partnership funding bid for scoping of problem and development of long term solution being submitted September 2023
Continue to support Third sector to create culture of welcome	Over £50K of community grant funding awarded during 2022-23 to small groups whose activities specifically focus on welcoming newcomers, with a further approx £30K from this year's grants budget so far. Resilience training funded through Public Health monies being delivered to local CVSector throughout autumn 2023 by national organisation Art Refuge. Specific Hong Kong Welcome funding channelled to local diaspora group and Trust for Developing Communities to build capacity and connectivity for this newcomer community. One off funding for asylum seekers being used to support Sanctuary sessions and ESOL delivery at All Saints Church, as well as practical support (eg storage) for those supporting asylum seekers in contingency hotels.	Communities Equality and Third Sector Team	Develop programme to channel £50K of ringfenced Home Office funding for asylum seekers to the CV Sector working on the ground with this population. Continue to support development and activities of Hong Kong community. Continue to host Brighton & Hove Refugee & Migrant Forum as a networking and information sharing opportunity
Review the infrastructure which supports English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) to strengthen connectivity between ESOL and pathways to employment.	A common assessment framework has been agreed between ESOL providers, ensuring that ESOL learners do not have to undertake multiple assessments. Work to review and enhance the infrastructure is ongoing and providers continue to work proactively to this end. Funding has been provided by the Homes for Ukraine budget to train new ESOL teachers in the city, following the identification of a skills gap in this area. Circa £400K has been invested to support Ukrainians into employment and business start up advice.	FCL is currently leading the review, FCL and CETS will continue to work collaboratively as the project evolves.	A central ESOL Hub/Advice service is being explored. Movement towards this model requires agreement and collaboration of providers and sustainable funding.
Continue to work with local NHS to develop interventions for 'globally displaced communities' to navigate and access complex health and care systems	NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board has identified one of their CORE20PLUS5 – PLUS groups as vulnerable asylum seekers and migrants, with 2023/2024 NHS Sussex ICB Health Inequality funding. Brighton & Hove NHS have commissioned a focused Newcomers Social Prescribing support service for migrants refugees and other globally displaced communities. Through integration with existing services in social care and across health in primary, community and acute settings, this service connects people, helping Newcomers to navigate services and connect with what is available in their community, whilst helping address access barriers. In Q1 of 2023/24 the service has provided over 109 sessions with 61 cases (individual newcomers supported), 28 people identified as having a long-term condition and 17 individuals with multiple compound needs.	Head of Health, Wellbeing, Partnerships & Integration – Brighton and Hove, NHS Sussex	Learning from this health inequality investment will enable system partners to embed behaviour change, integrating current practice into existing Social Prescribing services and pathways which offer tailored support and can inform and longer-term strategic planning across Health and Social care.
Continue work with Sanctuary on Sea (Brighton & Hove group affiliated with national City of Sanctuary movement) to agree the actions needed for re-accreditation as a City of Sanctuary	Sanctuary on Sea has been funded (from Homes for Ukraine funding) to lead on consultation with the migrant sector and those with lived experience of seeking sanctuary as an action plan for City of Sanctuary re-accreditation is developed.	International Migration Manager, CETS team	Programme of consultation to be developed by Sanctuary on Sea. Meanwhile internal review of City of Sanctuary work to identify possible gaps in local authority work in this area, whilst gathering evidence of existing progress

