

People arriving from Ukraine: Risk and need: Public protection guidance

Summary for web publishing:

Guidance for all practitioners involved in safeguarding of children and adults who are arriving in Scotland from Ukraine to identify and respond to risk and need.

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Overview

Purpose

This document provides guidance for all practitioners involved in the safeguarding of vulnerable children and adults who are displaced persons fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. It is provided for all involved in protecting vulnerable children and adults from Ukraine in Scotland.

The guidance sets out the current safeguarding challenges presented by the arrival of vulnerable children and adults from Ukraine into Scotland and outlines the approach to:

- identifying
- supporting and maximising safety, and
- the principles that should be applied and the legal frameworks underpinning practice.

The guidance does not replace national or local safeguarding, child or adult protection guidance or established structures. It highlights those particular vulnerabilities likely to be amplified by the crises in Ukraine, impacting on all services working with vulnerable children and adults at risk of harm.

This guide should be read in conjunction with the [Super Sponsor Scheme and Homes for Ukraine: guidance for local authorities](#). This has more detailed information in relation to entitlements, roles of local authorities, Welcome Hubs and access to services can be found.

Context

This guide refers to promotion of wellbeing and the protection of vulnerable people. Public protection is the framework and practice for:

- maximising the safety of those who may be vulnerable to harm,
- protecting them, and
- allowing for their identification and a skilled response where concerns arise.

In Scotland, the foundations of public protection policies, guidance and legislation are held within the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The principles and the entitlements of these Conventions must underpin our core business.

Planning is ongoing in anticipation of the arrival of increasing numbers of people from Ukraine into Scotland. The precise number of likely arrivals is unclear and the levels of support will vary greatly. The level and type of support will be dependent on individual circumstances, including:

- health and wellbeing on arrival
- who, if anyone, accompanies children
- the migration route through which they arrive, and
- where they will be accommodated during their stay.

Many children on the move in and outside of Ukraine are unaccompanied or have been separated from their parents and family members. Nearly 100,000 children in Ukraine were living in group care – residential care and boarding schools – when the crises escalated. Almost half of these children are disabled. Children without parental care are at heightened risk of violence, abuse and exploitation. When these children are moved across borders, the risks multiply [[Joint statement by UNICEF and UNHCR, March 2022](#)].

[The United Nations Refugee Agency](#) has identified groups of particular concern amongst those fleeing Ukraine, including:

- women and girls at risk of gender-based violence
- exploitation, abuse, and trafficking
- refugees who are LGBTIQ+
- older people or disabled people, and
- third country nationals who had been living in Ukraine who have fled the war alongside Ukrainian nationals.

There have been reports of some people facing discrimination on their journeys to seek safety, including Roma refugees. People of concern include those in need of international protection or at risk of statelessness who have been subject to discriminatory treatment.

The risk of trafficking increases in emergencies [[UNICEF 2022](#)]. Human trafficking remains a risk to children and adults both on and after arrival in Scotland.

Whilst it is the case that we are uncertain how many people will arrive, including accompanied or unaccompanied children. It is essential that local areas are prepared to meet the needs of people arriving directly or indirectly from Ukraine, and that first and foremost they are safe and supported by trauma informed services.

Language

Ukrainian is the most common language spoken in Ukraine (67.5%), followed by Russian (29.6%). Other languages include Crimean Tatar, Moldovan/Romanian and Hungarian.

A person with good conversational fluency in English may not be able to understand, discuss or read important information proficiently in English. They may be reluctant to request or accept professional interpreting and translation services due to fear of costs, inconvenience, or concerns about confidentiality.

- **Professional interpreter**

The offer of a professional interpreter should be offered to all of those who experience language barriers. The use of family members or friends as interpreters should be avoided as there is a high risk of misinterpretation, breach of confidentiality, and safeguarding concerns. Friends and family are not likely to have the skills to accurately interpret health or care related information, are less likely to maintain impartiality, and should be given the opportunity to provide support without the added pressure of needing to interpret. When undertaking Child or Adult Support

and Protection procedures a professional interpreter should be offered to all individuals who experience language barriers, in such cases relying on family members could lead to concealed or minimised information.

It is inappropriate to use children as interpreters. Children are not likely to have the language competency and literacy in English or any other languages to discuss complex concerns, such as health concerns. They may also experience vicarious trauma through listening to and relaying sensitive and distressing information concerning their family member's experiences.

Practitioners should be alert to sensitivities relating to interpreters and seek to take into account the views and wishes of the people from Ukraine when balancing the need to provide an interpretation service.

Wherever possible, interpreter services should be provided in person. Where this is not possible or would lead to significant delay, interpreter services can be provided virtually. As a last resort, interpretation services can be provided over the phone.

Interpreters may experience vicarious trauma through listening to and relaying sensitive and distressing information concerning people's experiences. Efforts should be made to support the mental wellbeing of interpreters and mitigate any impact of their work through challenging circumstances.

Trauma informed response

Whilst there remains huge uncertainty about how many families we will be required to support and what the care arrangements required will be, it can be certain that many will have experienced significant trauma. Children, young people and their families may have no access to their usual informal and formal supports, suffering from significant loss (both due to bereavement and the loss of everything they have known and relied upon). Stress in families is likely to increase with less relational supports, alongside challenges of dealing with trauma, loss, separation, homelessness, new cultures and financial pressures to name a few.

Due to trauma experienced by both children and adults, identifying needs at the earliest opportunity will be vital to reduce risk of harm.

Trauma-informed practice is an approach to care provision that considers the impact of trauma exposure on an individual's biological, psychological and social development. Delivering services in a trauma-informed way means understanding that individuals may have a history of traumatic experiences. These experiences may impact on their ability to feel safe and develop trusting relationships with services and healthcare professionals.

Trauma-informed practice is not intended to treat trauma-related issues. It seeks to reduce the barriers to service access for individuals affected by trauma. While more evidence is needed to gain an in-depth understanding of the effects of trauma-informed practice for migrant populations, there is evidence that services provided to vulnerable migrants without a trauma-informed approach can result in harm.

Key principles of a trauma informed approach are:

- safety
- trustworthiness
- choice
- collaboration
- empowerment

While organisations are responding at pace there is a need to ensure staff and volunteers are suitably supported and trained in relation to Trauma Informed approaches. Organisations may wish to make use of the resources provided by the [National Trauma Training Programme](#). For more information on trauma-informed practice, access the [trauma-informed practice toolkit](#) produced by Public Health Scotland.

Consideration should be given to the impact of culture, spirituality, and religion. Health beliefs and values vary between and within cultures and religions. This can impact on health behaviour and attitudes towards health and other professional services, including social work and social care, and should be taken into consideration when providing person-centred care.

Ukraine's mental health care system was inherited from the Soviet era. Challenges include a large institutionalized psychiatric system associated with human rights violations, alongside public stigma, and low awareness of mental health. Social services for people with mental illness are limited or absent in the community [[WHO Special Initiative Country Report 2020](#)].

The protracted conflict in eastern Ukraine (commencing *circa* March 2014) has affected over five million people across the country and has had profound consequences for population wellbeing and mental health.

Ukraine has a higher estimated suicide rate than the Eastern Europe regional and global averages. The rate of suicide is particularly high among men. Men also have a higher estimated prevalence of alcohol use disorders than women. Although the majority of the refugees who will be arriving to the UK will likely be women, children, and the elderly, it is important to understand the context of a fragile population in terms of mental health indicators and the state of mental health support available in Ukraine.

Arrival pathways for people travelling from Ukraine

The majority of early arrivals have arrived in the UK via the [Ukraine Family Visa Scheme](#). This scheme allows Ukrainian nationals or other nationals resident in Ukraine before 1 January 2022 to come to the UK to reside with immediate or extended family members. There are no safeguarding checks pre-arrival and this arrangement is made purely between the family members. Families arriving on this route do not have access to initial payment of £200, however they do have recourse to public funds and can access services.

The UK Government has developed the [Homes for Ukraine Scheme](#) which allows UK sponsors – either UK citizens or anyone with at least 6 months leave to remain – to register their home online, offering space for Ukrainian nationals and their immediate family members (who may also be nationals of other countries) fleeing the war to reside in the UK. UK citizens can register their home online and find a suitable match, offering space for Ukrainians fleeing the war to reside. A second phase of the scheme will enable organisations, such as charities, to match with individuals and groups displaced from Ukraine and undertake the role of sponsor. Families have access to public funds on arrival and are to be given £200 per person by the local authority to support their cost of living needs whilst waiting for benefits.

The Scottish Government's [Super Sponsor Scheme](#) removes the need for applicants to be matched prior to being given permission to travel to the UK. By acting as 'super sponsor', rather than waiting for the matching process, allows safety and sanctuary to be provided immediately.

The [Super Sponsor Scheme and Homes for Ukraine: guidance for local authorities](#) provides further detail relating to each scheme.

As with other resettlement schemes, local authorities working in partnership with other statutory service providers and the third sector have a critical role to play in its success. They are uniquely placed to provide the support required to ensure those arriving are supported, safe and included in their community.

Adults and children fleeing the conflict in Ukraine may arrive in Scotland independently of these schemes, for instance some early arrivals have come either with no visa or on a holiday visa. The Home Office is dealing with these individuals on a case by case basis and as such those uncertain of their immigration status or right to public funds should be advised to secure legal advice.

The Scottish Government has funded [JustRight Scotland](#) to provide free, independent advice for those fleeing the Ukraine conflict and individuals can refer direct.

Disclosure Scotland

When a local authority receives notification that a host and guest have been/are to be matched, through either the Homes for Ukraine scheme or the Scottish Super Sponsorship scheme. An enhanced disclosure application form should be fully completed for each adult over the age of 16 years in the household and sent to Disclosure Scotland via a counter signatory within the local authority. When Disclosure Scotland has completed its checks, it will issue an enhanced disclosure certificate to both the counter signatory within the local authority and the individual host or adult within the host accommodation. The local authority may have regard to any information disclosed on this certificate when considering the suitability of a host (or adult within the host household) to provide accommodation as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme or Scottish Super Sponsor scheme.

An enhanced disclosure includes:

- unspent convictions
- [relevant spent convictions](#)

- unspent cautions
- a statement about whether the applicant is included in the [children's or adult's lists](#), or is being considered for inclusion in those list(s)
- other relevant information held by the police
- details of prescribed court orders and [sex offender notification requirements](#)

An enhanced disclosure certificate will not provide any interpretation of the information checked, nor will it provide any assessed decision of an individual's suitability to host a refugee in their home. Should the decision be taken that the host and/or property are not suitable. The local authority will inform the host of this decision by letter, reflecting that checks undertaken have been in keeping with the Homes for Ukraine Sponsor Guidance.

Where an arrival on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme comes to the attention of a hub or host authority. In advance of their move into hosted accommodation, and in the absence of a satisfactorily completed property check or Enhanced Disclosure. The hub or host authority does not have the authority to stop arrivals from Ukraine from moving in with their host family, if those arriving wish to proceed.

The arrival(s) from Ukraine should, however, be provided with information relating to any risks identified to help them in their decision. As part of this conversation, the local authority may wish to offer accommodation. This would be the local authority's decision to make.

If child or adult protection risks have been identified, the local authority may prevent or delay a move until such time as child protection and/or adult protection procedures have been followed, including risk assessment. In cases of child/adult protection, where there is no alternative accommodation available to the local authority. Accommodation can be sought via the Welcome Hub arrangements whilst risk assessments are undertaken and longer term accommodation found, though this will be subject to availability.

Further information about the security and disclosure checks made in relation to sponsors (hosts) under the Homes for Ukraine scheme can be found here [Homes for Ukraine: sponsor guidance](#).

Further information about how disclosure checks will be sought and processed by local authorities in relation to sponsors (hosts) is in the [Super Sponsor Scheme and Homes for Ukraine: guidance for local authorities](#).

Home checks

In addition to the enhanced disclosure, a property check will also be undertaken by the local authority. It is expected that all property offered through Homes for Ukraine will need a physical check and these checks will be prioritised based on local knowledge. A [Quality Assurance Housing Checklist](#) containing specification and criteria for properties deemed suitable for accommodating People from Ukraine for the property inspection has been developed to support local areas in their decision making around approving accommodation.

If local authority officers are refused entry to undertake the check of a property put forward under the Scottish Super Sponsor Scheme, the hosting offer will be considered withdrawn. Where checks are carried out in advance of a match they will also provide an opportunity to collect information to support the match, for example, wheelchair access.

Welcome Hubs

In order to meet immediate accommodation needs, Welcome Hubs, have been established in Edinburgh, Paisley (Glasgow Airport), Glasgow and Dumfries and Galloway. Other Welcome Hubs are being planned to open soon. The Welcome Hubs are multi-agency and local authority led. Local authorities are working with COSLA, the Scottish Government and the voluntary sector to ensure immediate support is available on arrival to Scotland. They all have associated accommodation for temporary stays prior to transferring to more settled accommodation allowing for the assessment of needs and matching.

There are also 'Welcome Desks' at other points of entry such as train stations, which will direct people arriving from Ukraine to the established Welcome Hubs where accommodation and support is provided.

It is essential that as part of any welcome arrangement, people arriving from Ukraine are provided with information on:

- what checks have been carried out on their host
- how to keep themselves and their families safe,
- what their rights and entitlements are here in Scotland,
- what to do if their living arrangement breaks down and
- where to go for support and advice.

It is essential that where there has been a recognised risk of harm identified for either children or adults. That person is not transferred beyond the hub authority without proportionate and relevant information detailing the specific concerns being shared with receiving authority.

Early identification of need and risk

The vast majority of children will arrive with family members who are able to safeguard and meet their needs with minimal support and signposting. Adults with additional support needs, including adults at risk of harm, may be travelling with carers (relatives or others) who are able to safeguard and meet their needs with minimal support. Additional consideration should be given during the matching process for people with multiple complex needs who require care and support, in addition to accommodation, with a host family.

Inevitably there will also be children and adults whose needs were previously met within their communities. They may require formal support and safeguarding within Scotland, depending on their circumstances on arrival, including proximity of accommodation to their informal support networks. Identifying needs and concern will require a level of immediate assessment and follow up support, in keeping with

existing statutory responsibilities wherever necessary. Thereafter there is likely to be a need for regular ongoing assessment and support.

It is likely that an initial assessment of need and early identification of immediate support needs will be undertaken within a Welcome Hub. However, the person or family arriving from Ukraine may then go on to reside in another local authority area. In such cases, clear lines of communication between the hub and the receiving authority should be in place to pass on relevant information, with the consent of the person arriving from Ukraine. It is noted that consent is not required in cases where there are child protection concerns, or in cases where it is known or believed that an adult is at risk of harm, as per the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007.

With this guide is **A Welcome Checklist for People arriving from Ukraine** designed to guide those welcoming a person or family from Ukraine in immediate health, welfare and protection considerations can be adapted for local use. It is likely that those arriving will be unable or unwilling to share a complete overview of their needs. As such what can be captured in the early stages should be passed, with consent, to local areas who can complete the capturing of the information and undertake any follow up support and assessment required.

Any child or adult at risk of harm regardless of their journey point should be referred immediately to the local social work department and / or Police Scotland.

Assessing wellbeing on arrival

Regardless of age, arrivals from Ukraine may require aids, adaptations or equipment due to mobility or accessibility needs. As part of the initial wellbeing assessment, consideration should be given to whether the individual – of any age - has any mobility or accessibility needs that may require further assessment. This should form a part of the welcome assessment and will contribute to accommodation considerations in both the immediate and longer term (e.g. if accommodation without stairs is required, if additional aids or adaptations are required).

Consideration should be given to whether assessment or intervention is required because the individual:

- is deaf or hearing impaired
- is blind or visually impaired
- has dual sensory impairment
- has additional communication support needs
- has additional needs due to disability, mental or physical infirmity, mental disorder, or cognitive impairment
- is pregnant
- requires immediate mental health intervention
- requires consideration for admission to hospital or residential social care environment

Some additional support needs may be difficult to identify on arrival, particularly if there is a language barrier. If it is suspected that the individual may be at greater risk of harm (including self-harm, neglect, or self-neglect) due to:

- learning disability
- autism
- mental illness
- dementia
- or other cognitive impairment

Information should be passed to the local authority where the person is at the time the support needs are identified. Attention should be given to anyone who may require immediate attention due to a physical or mental health concern.

People with physical or mental illness, learning disability, or other healthcare needs

Evidence shows us that people with a learning disability and other types of disabilities have overall poorer health outcomes and a shorter lifespan than others. Some of the challenges of working with people arriving from Ukraine is to identify if they have any additional support needs, including due to learning disabilities other special educational needs and disabilities, and other 'hidden' disabilities. Some examples of this include:

- diagnosis and support for individuals with disabilities varies between countries, and health professionals in the UK may be the first to identify people who have specialist health and care needs. Health needs can be misattributed as being part of the person's learning disabilities, and hence not addressed.
- immigration status issues, short-term or unstable accommodation, language barriers and cultural differences may further complicate people's access to mainstream disability services.
- vulnerable people who have disabilities face further social exclusion and discrimination. Stigma (cultural or otherwise) around certain illnesses and disabilities may also make it difficult for individuals and their families to disclose or discuss this topic. Reluctance to discuss health conditions with professionals may impact on social isolation and social exclusion.

People arriving from Ukraine will be entitled to the same access to health and social care provision as Scottish citizens. Health, social work and social care professionals should therefore:

- identify specific support needs of those individuals.
- following an assessment of need, make referrals for those children or adults to the appropriate departments who can offer support. This may include paediatric services for disabled children and those with developmental needs.
- recognise that there will be a requirement for rapid access to Community Mental Health and Psychology teams for a small number of individuals with pre-existing conditions or acute onset of symptoms, particularly if the journey and/or absence from previous treatments (including medicines) may have exacerbated (or be likely to exacerbate) the conditions.

- consider the particular needs of children and young people with pre-existing mental health needs who may require access to therapeutic support and/or mental health services.
- consider the needs of perinatal women, who may require timely access to mental health services.

Mental health support

It is essential that anyone arriving from Ukraine has equal access to mental health assessment and support. This will enable people to have access to the right services at the right level and at the right time. Consideration will be given to advocacy services, where required.

Escaping war will contribute to psychological stress and mental health issues (e.g. post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) which may not manifest until weeks after displacement.

It is important that those working with people who have arrived from Ukraine are mindful of any indications of this occurrence (conservative estimates indicate at least 30% of all refugees will develop PTSD at some point, other estimates go as high as >70%). It is crucial to:

- consider individuals' mental health and wellbeing as those affected by war and conflict are at higher risk of mental disorders and, where appropriate, refer to mental health services.
- use [trauma-informed approaches](#) to care provision.

The above steps are recommended to be offered to every refugee fleeing violence. The legislative framework for mental health in Scotland is primarily contained in the [Mental Health \(Care and Treatment\) \(Scotland\) Act 2003](#) for which there is a [code of practice](#) issued by Scottish Ministers. However, it should be noted that there are many strands to mental health legislative practice in Scotland and these can be complex to navigate in the way that they interact. Anyone requiring care and treatment under legislative processes will be treated with dignity, respect and humility, with rights afforded in line with the principles of the legislation.

Should anyone require inpatient admission, hospital staff will provide support and advice to the individual and adopt a sensitive approach to their cultural needs and beliefs.

It is important any carers of someone in hospital and/or community team care are supported to understand the mental health care and treatment process and options in Scotland. Importantly, they should be supported to understand that as carers in Scotland they have access to a carers rights framework and a carers assessment.

Psychological Wellbeing Packs are currently in development for arrivals from Ukraine. These will be made available as soon as possible.

Follow on support

It is likely that arrivals from Ukraine, including children and adults, have had lengthy journeys and may have suffered trauma and loss. Early arrivals have been described as exhausted, suspicious of authority and uncertain about their destinations. In turn, this has meant that early identification of need, discussions around what support they may require, and any signs there may be risk have been limited, relying on the assessment skill of the Welcome Hub staff.

With this in mind, with consent, it is recommended that a visit is undertaken after the matching process to revisit the questions on the **Welcome Checklist**. Local authorities should consider who is best placed to undertake this visit, however it is recommended that it is someone with relevant experience in resettlement, family support or social care.

It is essential that these visits have a clear referral route to child and adult protection services, and local procedures around risk and protection are followed.

It may also be the case that further assessment of need is required for a child or for an adult. The [Getting it right for every child](#) (GIRFEC) national practice model should be applied when assessing the needs of children. Again, such referrals should be made to the local social work department without delay. Assessments of need are local authority duties under Section 23-24 of the [Children \(Scotland\) Act 1995](#), and Section 12 of the [Social Work \(Scotland\) Act 1968](#) respectively. The Rights of People with disabilities are protected by the [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (UNCPRD). Additionally, "Disability" is a "Protected Characteristic" under the [Equalities Act 2010](#).

In line with current statutory duties, the local authority has a duty to carry out an assessment of the child, or of any other person in his or her family, in order to ascertain the child's needs in so far as they are attributable to his or her disability or that of the other person, if asked to do so by the child's parent or guardian - Section 23 (3) of Children Scotland Act 1995. This duty extends to all children arriving from Ukraine who require such an assessment.

These visits are an opportunity to enquire with people who have arrived from Ukraine that they feel safe and supported. They should also serve as an opportunity for any support needs of the host to be considered, identifying any particular challenges that could contribute to future breakdown of the hosting arrangement.

Role and support for sponsors

The [Super Sponsor Scheme and Homes for Ukraine: guidance for local authorities](#) outlines that sponsors are required to;

- all sponsors, and adults (aged of 16 years) in the household, must agree to an enhanced Disclosure Scotland check, this includes an ID check.
- all sponsors must agree to a home visit undertaken by a local authority officer/contractor in order to assess the suitability of the accommodation offered.

- check their mortgage lenders website for further guidance or seek the agreement of their landlord if they are a tenant.
- notify their insurer that they will be hosting guests prior to their arrival.
- all sponsors are required to provide suitable accommodation for a minimum of 6 months.
- sponsors should support and help guests to adapt to life in the UK, initially checking if they have enough food and supplies such as toiletries, along with checking if they have access to a mobile phone and internet to stay with family members.
- sponsors should help direct their guests to public services, for example, registering with a GP or NHS dentist.

It is essential that sponsors understand and are clear to people travelling from Ukraine about their role and that they are also provided with offers of support. This will be an essential part of ensuring positive relationships and preventing breakdown.

It is possible that cultural differences, including parenting styles and lifestyles become apparent, perhaps placing strain on living arrangements. It is therefore important that both people arriving from Ukraine and their host families are informed of support and advise to manage any difficulties, with the aim of avoiding breakdown. In circumstances where the arrangement is no longer sustainable, support should be sought directly from the local authority.

It is recognised that breakdown in living arrangements may also occur within the family visa scheme. In such cases, the local authority should be contacted to support pursuit of alternative accommodation.

Information sharing

The local protocols for sharing information and raising child and/or adult protection concerns have not changed. Where any person becomes aware of the risk of harm to a child or an adult, then Police Scotland (if the danger is imminent) or Health and Social Care Partnership/Social Work should be alerted immediately. These responsibilities should be particularly highlighted to redeployed, retired or volunteer staff.

As people arriving from Ukraine are moving between local authority areas it is especially important that relevant safeguarding information be shared efficiently between authorities where it is necessary, lawful and proportionate to do so, to ensure effective, efficient transitions to minimise and mitigate risks.

Public Protection

Trafficking

Human trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, harbouring, exchanging or transferring control over another person or facilitation of any of these actions for the purposes of exploitation or in the knowledge that the person is likely to be exploited. Travel is not required for human trafficking to take place.

People can be trafficked and exploited for sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, domestic servitude, criminal exploitation and organ removal.

Anyone can be vulnerable to trafficking or exploitation, though women and girls make up the majority of trafficking victims. Individuals traveling without identity documentation, can be particularly vulnerable to trafficking. Potential victims may display a range of [indicators](#) and vulnerability to trafficking/exploitation once in Scotland must be recognised.

Local authorities are designated First Responder Organisations under the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), which is the UK-wide framework for identifying and providing support to victims of trafficking and exploitation. Local practitioners should refer to the [NRM Toolkit](#) for more information on how to approach a potential case of human trafficking and exploitation. Individuals with concerns about the safety of an individual(s), should report these to the Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline on 08000 121 700. Concerns can also be reported online or to Police Scotland on 101 or 999 if an individual is felt to be in immediate danger.

Potential adult victims of human trafficking and exploitation are entitled to support and assistance under the NRM in Scotland. This support is delivered by the Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance (adult women trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation) and Migrant Help (all other adult trafficking cases). Adults who have consented to enter the NRM are entitled to up to 90 days of support, or longer in some circumstances. Support can include accommodation, assistance with day to day living, medical advice and treatment including psychological help, language translation and interpretation, counselling, legal advice, help accessing other services and, if the victim wishes, repatriation.

Individuals can also contact [the Scottish Guardianship Service](#) whose guardians can provide practical help and support as well as help child refugees and victims of trafficking to navigate the immigration and welfare processes.

Police Scotland's National Human Trafficking Unit continues to engage closely with Border Force and British Transport Police to maintain high visibility of human trafficking and exploitation risks at points of entry around Scotland.

Witnesses and victims of war crimes in Ukraine

Children and adults who arrive in the UK may report that they have been the victim or have witnessed War Crimes prior to leaving Ukraine.

Police Scotland are part of the national policing response to gather evidence for the International Criminal Court (ICC) enquiry into potential war crimes in the affected region and can be contacted through normal reporting channels to make an initial report.

The Metropolitan Police host the reporting service for all UK Police Forces. In the first instance a person reporting a war crime to Police Scotland will be encouraged to make an initial report utilising the link below and upload any evidence they are in possession of such as mobile phone footage.

[Met Police: Report a War Crime](#)

The above link can also be used independently of Police Scotland by any person who wishes to report war crimes they have evidence of or have witnessed.

Officers from Police Scotland will ensure that all necessary safeguarding or victim care measures are put in place.

There is the potential that Rape or other Serious Sexual Crime could be reported as a War Crime. Protocols for officers from Police Scotland responding to a crime of this nature will follow existing practices with prioritisation given to the welfare of victims, provision of specialist support and where appropriate the capture of forensic evidence.

Child welfare and protection

Basic Principles and Legal Frameworks

The rights of children are no different for refugees from Ukraine, nor are professional responsibilities in relation to child welfare and protection. The [GIRFEC](#) approach and associated local processes are already well embedded and should be applied to support children arriving from Ukraine. Assessing welfare and risk is not static and the interaction of factors can shift and become more or less severe. This is likely to be amplified by the significant trauma the children and their care givers have endured. The process of identifying and managing risk must therefore also be dynamic and responsive.

Regardless of the route and circumstances of the arrival of children from Ukraine in Scotland our approach and emphasis is on supporting their family links. The Scottish Government is committed to supporting the links that children from Ukraine have, with the people they identify as their important relationships – including their immediate and extended families – and their birth country of Ukraine.

We have provided assurances to Ukrainian officials that minimal legal intervention in the lives of children will be upheld where it is safe to do so. Assurances have been provided that accommodation given to children and their families is done so based on safety, need and are temporary arrangements.

The [Children \(Scotland\) Act 1995](#) (“the 1995 Act”), Section 22 places a legal duty on local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area in need by providing a range and level of services appropriate to the children’s needs.

It is highly likely that usual background checks will not be possible for this group of children, and assessments will be primarily reliant on the professional judgement across the multi-agency team. It is therefore essential that experience and skill is applied when assessing children from Ukraine’s welfare need and possible risk of harm.

Unaccompanied children

Urgent work has been undertaken with operational partners across Scotland, including Border Force, regarding the identification of children arriving from Ukraine.

It is vital that robust processes continue to ensure vulnerable children are identified and where necessary suitable accommodation and welfare provision is provided.

It is therefore essential that unaccompanied children are identified as being amongst the most vulnerable refugees. The specific assessment experience and support frameworks for supporting these children lies with the local social work department. It is essential that these children are deemed at immediate risk of harm and established processes to ensure they are safe and cared for are actioned.

It is possible that a child travelling alone has either an adult coming to collect them or plans to wait for an adult to meet them in Scotland. In such cases, the support remains with the local social work office, who will ensure the child is cared for whilst they await the arrival of their parent or carer and undertake an assessment of the caring arrangement before allowing the child to travel with the adult. In cases that the adult carer does not hold legal guardianship, a follow up visit is recommended to assess the caring relationship and identify support needs in the local area they plan to reside.

The **Unaccompanied child screening form** within this guide will assist in ensuring all relevant details are captured for the purpose of assessing an adult travelling separately to a child and intending to provide care has been compiled to support practitioners with this initial assessment.

Unaccompanied children should not be transported via normal hub arrangements or be offered hub accommodation within hotels. Movement of the child or young person beyond their arrival point should be fully supported and with the oversight of the local social work office.

The legal framework underpinning the provision of care, protection and accommodation in Scotland for Unaccompanied Children is outlined in the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 (“the 1995 Act”) which applies in relation to looked after children and care leavers in Scotland. Therefore, Unaccompanied children from Ukraine will become **looked after children**, subject to section 25 of “the 1995 Act”. Local authorities will therefore have responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of these children, as further specified in section 17 of “the 1995 Act”.

When we refer to unaccompanied children, in this context, the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 refers to a “Child”, as any person under age 18 and “Accommodation” meaning accommodation provided for more than 24 hours.

If the child has an accepted proof of age (i.e. a passport, Ukrainian identity card or UK Government issued visa) then an age assessment will not be required. However, in certain circumstances age assessment may need to be conducted (i.e. the child has arrived via an irregular immigration route). In such instances the [Scottish Government’s Age Assessment: Practical Guidance](#) must be followed.

Urgent work is underway with the Home Office regarding the immigration status of Ukrainian children arriving in the UK out with the formal schemes announced by the UK Government in March.

Children travelling with adults without legal guardianship

A particular vulnerable group are children arriving with adults who are not their parent or legal guardian. Dynamics will vary child by child; the adults may be family friends already known to the child, or well-meaning adults with no prior relationships who have agreed to help the child reach the UK. Scotland is committed to ensuring that all children travelling with ‘kinship’ caring arrangements continue with this caring relationship, where it is safe to do so. It is essential that children travelling with adults who are not their parents or legal guardians are identified early and information shared with the local area they reside for follow up assessment.

- **Private kinship arrangement**

It is likely that some parents may have made arrangements for their child to be cared for by another adult prior to the child arriving in Scotland. Where arrangements are made with a close family member, including a grandparent, sibling, aunt or uncle, this would be considered as a private kinship arrangement. In these circumstances it is unlikely that adults will be legal guardians or have secured parental rights and responsibilities for the child. Section 5 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 does, however, provide for day to day care arrangements in relation to the child and includes the responsibility to safeguard the child’s health, development and welfare.

- **Private fostering arrangement**

If the arrangement is not made with a close family member and is for longer than 28 days, then a private fostering arrangement may be applicable. [Scottish Government practice guidance](#) sets out the local authority’s duties to assess, monitor and plan for the child’s needs in circumstances of private fostering. Duties differ from those where a child is looked after, because the arrangement has been made with the consent of parent(s) and public authorities have had no prior involvement.

- **Assistance and support for host families**

Whilst in the majority of cases, these arrangements will be made with the best of intentions, there are very real risks around the arrangement breaking down if not supported. Children and the families they are residing with may require assistance and guidance in practical matters as well as emotional support to provide the care that the child needs. Central to this is the child's views and particular attention should be paid to helping adults hear the child's voice. In both situations of private arrangements, it may be unlikely that adults have any verifiable evidence of the parent's intent and/or consent. Professional assessment of the presenting relationships and available background information will be vital in decision making of risk.

- **Assessment of relationships**

In circumstances where a child has been cared for en-route to Scotland and no prior agreement with the child's parent or pre-existing relationship with the child or family exists or is established, it is suggested that professionals undertake an assessment of the relationship and prospect of supporting care arrangement, if safe to do so. Such assessment should consider the impact of separation, and the wishes of the child and adult carer regarding possible continuation of the care arrangement. Such assessments will require continued review and ongoing support.

In circumstances where '**tenuous links**' between the child and their accompanying adult exist, such as where the adult has no familial relationship or previous caring role to the child, assessment will be essential to, as far as possible, ensure the child is safe and to assess the longer term suitability of the care arrangement. This may include **formalising the kinship care** arrangement where it is assessed as safe. Such assessment, without background checks, will require the skills and professional judgement of experienced children and families social workers.

In cases where 'tenuous link' exists, it is essential that the child is given opportunity to speak privately with the assessing social worker in order to allow for opportunity to explore the child's understanding, feelings and any safety concerns regarding the proposed care arrangement.

Whilst likely a minority of cases, there is the very real risk that the person offering this care is not well intended and the child is at very real risk of significant harm. In these circumstances, and where no alternative family member can be found, the local authority will therefore likely have a duty under the section 25 of 'the 1995 Act' to provide accommodation and care for these children.

Where a child from Ukraine has been accommodated by the local authority, notification should be sent to Scottish Government using Part A of the Unaccompanied Child Screening Form (Appendix B). This detail will be collated across Scotland and shared with Ukrainian officials in order to promote reunification with a displaced parent or alternative Ukrainian care giver known to the child. In light of the sensitive information being shared, the address to forward this information will be issued directly to local authority areas.

Adult welfare and protection

Protection of adults

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 (“the 2007 Act”) is designed to protect people who are at risk of harm because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity. The Act provides ways of protecting adults at risk of harm. In general terms, behaviours that constitute ‘harm’ to a person can be physical, sexual, psychological, financial, or a combination of these. Harm also includes self-harm, neglect and self-neglect. The harm can be accidental or intentional, or as a result of self-neglect or neglect by a carer.

Harm can happen anywhere including within a private home, in hospital or a care home, at work, or in a public place.

The 2007 Act places a duty on local authorities to make inquiries about a person's well-being, property or financial affairs if it knows or believes that the person is an adult at risk, and that it might need to intervene in order to protect the person's well-being, property or financial affairs.

An adult (aged 16 years or over) is defined as being at risk of harm where they are:

- unable to safeguard their own well-being, property, rights or other interests
- are at risk of harm
- because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity, are more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected.

In this context, an adult is at risk of harm if another person's conduct is causing (or is likely to cause) the adult to be harmed, or the adult is engaging (or is likely to engage) in conduct which causes (or is likely to cause) self-harm. Harm includes neglect and self-neglect.

Having a particular condition, such as a learning disability or a mental illness, does not automatically mean an adult is at risk. Someone can have a disability and be perfectly able to look after themselves. For an adult to be considered at risk, all three parts of the definition must be met.

The adult at risk may not be able to identify or report safeguarding concerns themselves. It is crucial that those who identify adults or children at risk **report these concerns** to the local authority/Health and Social Care Partnership social work services as soon as possible.

People from the Ukraine who are deemed to be at risk of harm will be treated the same as any other adult at risk of harm in Scotland. Statutory responsibility for undertaking Adult support and protection inquiries rests with the local authority where the adult who may be at risk of harm is for the time being situated in. Local partnerships and Adult Protection Committees are already taking action to ensure that adults at risk of harm are protected. This should involve all of the key agencies, and include consideration of any necessary enhancements to local processes, and the communication of these changes to the workforce and wider community.

Adults at risk of harm: possible increased risks

Adult Support and Protection is part of a continuum of collaborative responsibilities upon agencies working with adults at risk of harm. It requires sound professional judgement, based on robust assessment and available evidence, informed by the perspectives of the multi-agency team, taking account of the views and wishes of the adult and their carers or those with significant relationships with the adult.

It is possible that the vulnerability of some adults arriving from Ukraine will increase because of the additional pressures placed on families and communities by their separation from support networks, in addition to the impact of trauma; a trauma informed approach should be taken when working with all those arriving from Ukraine. For further information refer to the section of this guide relating to trauma informed approaches.

Some adults could be at risk of harm, neglect, self-harm or self-neglect where that would not otherwise have been the case. With people staying in unfamiliar settings, with possible language barriers, we might expect increased incidence across the spectrum of harm types. Increased isolation may contribute to increased risk for some individuals. In addition, disabled people or people with health conditions, including dementia, due to stigma, may not have been previously identified or recognised as having additional support needs. Individuals arriving may have been unseen by health or social work professionals, or not assessed or diagnosed when arriving from Ukraine into Scotland.

Risks of **financial harm** may be exacerbated for people arriving from Ukraine. This could be associated with the initiation of financial processes to access Universal Credit or other benefits; to open bank accounts; or to undertake other financial transactions. Arrivals from Ukraine could be targets for criminal activity such as doorstep crime and scams.

To reduce the risk of people becoming the victim of scams, any follow-up visits should reinforce the message that people arriving in the UK via Ukraine visas are entitled to the same [free NHS and social work services](#) as people ordinarily resident in Scotland.

Under no circumstances should people from Ukraine be asked to contribute money or services to their “hosts” (either living with them or separate) under the arrival schemes. There is a risk to children and adults of exploitation in the form unpaid or underpaid work. People arriving from Ukraine should not be undertaking household tasks on behalf of their hosts.

Exposure to **online harm**, including grooming, fraud and scams, is also a risk. As with the above financial harm risks, language barriers may increase the risk of individuals being the target of online harm. Arrivals from Ukraine are encouraged to access the [Action Fraud website](#) to identify ways to protect themselves.

Services and staff should be alert to signs that individuals or groups are using the current crisis as an opportunity to harm people including, but not limited to, unlawfully and adversely affecting the adult's property, rights or interests and sexual, physical and psychological harm. **Cuckooing** is a practice where people take over a person's home and use the property to facilitate exploitation. The person is usually intimidated and too scared to report it to anyone. The risk of cuckooing may be exacerbated in situations where the arrivals from Ukraine are in accommodation without a host present.

Staff and volunteers involved in adult protection activity

All providers of adult social care or health care have a key role in keeping adults in their care safe. All providers who deliver health and social care services should ensure that people are not placed at risk of harm by delays in care, support or protection planning. All those providing support, and particularly those named in the 2007 Act, should ensure that staff, including volunteers, are adult protection aware in order that they can recognise harm, abuse or neglect, and respond appropriately.

Streamlined measures when engaging volunteers or those new to social care front line provision may be useful e.g. deployment of the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) Adult Support and Protection mobile application noted below. Consideration should be given by Adult Protection Committees and Health and Social Care Partnerships to the provision of Basic or Intermediate levels of Adult Support and Protection training for those involved in resettlement activity. This should promote awareness raising of adults at risk and referral pathways.

[Adult Support and Protection revised Code of Practice](#)

[Act Against Harm Information and contact details to make referrals](#)

Adults with incapacity

The [Adults with Incapacity \(Scotland\) Act 2000](#) provides a framework for safeguarding the welfare and managing the finances of adults (people aged 16 or over) who lack capacity due to mental illness, learning disability, dementia or a related condition, or an inability to communicate (this is not related to a language barrier).

If it is suspected that an adult lacks the ability to understand decisions regarding their welfare or finances – including where they are going to live on arrival from Ukraine – referral should be made to the local authority social work department.

Self-care, support and supervision of staff and volunteers

The support and supervision of practitioners involved in safeguarding, regardless of role, is always important, but it is particularly so in these challenging times. Methods and models of supervision should also include consideration of how new, redeployed or retired staff will be made aware of adult support and protection, through adequate supervision and support. The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) mobile applications may provide some support in this regard ([Apple](#) version; [Android](#) version).

Staff support systems should be promoted to support the mental wellbeing of the workforce and mitigate any impact of working through challenging circumstances, some of which may be new to some staff, and should include recognition of the risk to staff of experiencing vicarious trauma. Some staff may experience isolation from their usual support networks if they have been redeployed to support with resettlement activity. Each area will have arrangements in place that can be adapted to support their workforce.

It is recognised that management support and direction may need to include new and innovative approaches, but partnerships should ensure that:

- agencies continue to take measures to ensure accountability for staff practice.
- practice in individual casework, continues to be monitored and reflected on.
- the wellbeing of staff is a constant feature of local management processes. There is a link in the references to the Scottish Wellbeing Hub, which staff and volunteers may find helpful.
- staff are supported to access relevant training, including online learning, particularly when they are newly introduced to working with adults who may be at risk of harm. As noted in the references, the SSSC mobile application may offer an additional resource to support this.

All practitioners involved in child and adult protection should ensure that whatever the urgency of each situation, they follow guidance on protecting their own health and wellbeing.

Conclusion

These are exceptional times. However, with robust, professional assessment and good practice we can confidently support the children and adults who are arriving from Ukraine with any assessed health and social care needs they may require. This will include supporting and protecting children and adults at risk of harm in Scotland.

This supplementary guidance will remain under review; updated guidance will be provided if necessary as the current situation develops.

Associated guidance and resources

Guidance and toolkits

[Act Against Harm website: support and protection and contact details to make a referral](#)

[Adult Support and Protection revised Code of Practice](#)

[Adults with incapacity: guide to assessing capacity](#)

[Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\) national practice model should be applied when assessing the needs of children](#)

[Human Trafficking indicators](#)

[Migration Scotland: eligibility for publically funded services](#)

[National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021](#)

[National Referral Mechanism Toolkit for First Responders Scotland](#)

[Public Health Scotland National Trauma Training Programme](#) and [trauma-informed practice toolkit](#)

[Private fostering in Scotland: practice guidance for local authority children's services](#)

[Scottish Government's Age Assessment: Practical Guidance](#)

[Scottish Refugee Council Tools to support individual refugees](#)

[Scottish Guardianship Service](#)

[Scottish National Wellbeing Hub for those working in Health and Social Care](#)

Scottish Social Services Council - Adult Support and Protection mobile application ([Apple](#) version; [Android](#) version).

[Scottish Social Services Council – Guidance for employers on core training for redeployed workers, temporary workers and volunteers](#)

[UNICEF Guidance for protecting displaced and refugee children in and outside of Ukraine](#)

Visa schemes

[Homes for Ukraine scheme](#) and [Quality Assurance Housing Checklist](#)

[Super Sponsor Scheme](#)

[Super Sponsor Scheme and Homes for Ukraine: guidance for local authorities](#)

[Ukraine Family Visa Scheme](#)

Disclosure checks

[How disclosure checks under is in the Super Sponsor Scheme and Homes for Ukraine: guidance for local authorities.](#)

[Security and disclosure checks made in relation to sponsors \(hosts\) under the Homes for Ukraine scheme](#)

Information, advice and support services

[Action Fraud: Individual protection from cybercrime and fraud](#)

[CELCIS Supporting child refugees and their families](#)

[JustRight Scotland](#)

[Met Police: Report a War Crime](#)

Scotland's Baby Box Managing Agent to request a Baby Box by contacting scotlandsbabybox@theapsgroup.com or phone [0800 030 8003](tel:08000308003)

International data and support services

[Joint statement by UNICEF and UNHCR, March 2022](#)

[The United Nations Refugee Agency](#)

[UNICEF 2022](#)

[WHO Special Initiative Country Report 2020](#)

Legislation

The [Adult Support and Protection \(Scotland\) Act 2007](#) is the legislation that underpins the identification and protection of adults assessed as “at risk of harm” in Scotland. The Act is designed to protect people who are at risk of harm because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity.

The [Adults with Incapacity \(Scotland\) Act 2000](#) provides a framework for safeguarding the welfare and managing the finances of adults (people aged 16 or over) who lack capacity due to mental illness, learning disability, dementia or a related condition, or an inability to communicate (this is not related to a language barrier).

Assessments of need are local authority duties under [Section 23-24 of the Children \(Scotland\) Act 1995](#); and [Section 12 of the Social Work \(Scotland\) Act 1968](#) respectively.

Local authorities safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area in need by providing a range and level of services appropriate to the children’s needs are local authority duties under [Section 22 of The Children \(Scotland\) Act 1995](#).

The provision of care, protection and accommodation in Scotland for Unaccompanied Children is outlined in the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 which applies in relation to looked after children and care leavers in Scotland. Unaccompanied children from Ukraine will become looked after children, subject to [Section 25 of the 1995 Act](#). Local authorities will therefore have responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of these children, as further specified in [Section 17 of the 1995 Act](#).

Framework for Mental Health in Scotland is primarily contained in the [Mental Health \(Care and Treatment\) \(Scotland\) Act 2003 and Mental Health \(Care and Treatment\) \(Scotland\) Act 2003 Code of Practice](#)

The Rights of People with disabilities are protected by the [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (UNCRPD). Additionally, “Disability” is a “Protected Characteristic” under the [Equalities Act 2010](#).

Welcome checklist for people arriving from Ukraine

This checklist is for use by those at Welcome Hubs or within other settings where initial intake information is being gathered. This list is not exhaustive and care should be taken to identify additional assessment or support requirements as soon as possible.

Each person's journey to Scotland is different and can be unsettling or traumatic. Take time to understand a person's journey through speaking to them, their parents or caregivers, and their family members. Consider the emotional, behavioural and physical health impacts of their experiences.

Trauma-informed practice is an approach to care provision that considers the impact of trauma exposure on an individual's biological, psychological and social development. Delivering services in a trauma-informed way means understanding that individuals are likely to have a history of traumatic experiences. These experiences may impact on their ability to feel safe and develop trusting relationships with services and healthcare professionals.

Trauma-informed practice is not intended to treat trauma-related issues. It seeks to reduce the barriers to service access for individuals affected by trauma. While more evidence is needed to gain an in-depth understanding of the effects of trauma-informed practice for migrant populations, there is evidence that services provided to vulnerable migrants without a trauma-informed approach can result in harm.

Key principles of a trauma informed approach are:

- Safety
- Trustworthiness
- Choice
- Collaboration
- Empowerment

For more information on trauma-informed practice, access the [trauma-informed practice toolkit](#) produced by Public Health Scotland.

Initial considerations

- Check if they need an interpreter and, if so, arrange interpreting services
- Check if all are feeling okay, including any children
- Do they need immediate health attention, including any medication?
- Do they need any food or drink?
- Explain initial arrangement and welcome, including accommodation, access to food and finance. Note that follow-up visit may be undertaken once they are in their longer-term accommodation.
- Confirm access to a phone (and record contact details)
- Do they require assistance to get to their next destination?

Child-specific questions (only require to ask when the person arriving is under 18 years old)

- Is the arrival an unaccompanied person under 18?
If yes, follow unaccompanied child protocol.
- Is the young person traveling with an adult who has guardianship/parental responsibility for them?
 - If no, referral to the social work department is essential. Assessment will be essential to, as far as possible, ensure the child is safe and to assess the longer term suitability of the care arrangement.
- Is the arrival 6-months or younger?
 - Does the baby (and any carer) require any support with feeding, including access to formula and/or breastfeeding advice?
 - All refugees, including those arriving from Ukraine, are eligible to apply for a Baby Box if they have a baby 6 months or under (a box may be available at the Welcome Hub, if required)
 - Infants may benefit from referral, depending on neonatal services previously received
- Does the child or young person have any pre-existing mental health needs that may require access to therapeutic support and/or health services?

*If a family has a baby 6 months old or under their supporting professional can contact Scotland's Baby Box Managing Agent to request a Baby Box, a small number of these are held within each Welcome Hub or they can be accessed by contacting scotlandsbabybox@theapsgroup.com or phone [0800 030 8003](tel:08000308003). A Baby Box will then be dispatched the following day to the place where the family will be staying.

Risk indicators

This Checklist originates from the People arriving from Ukraine: Risk and need: Public protection guidance produced by the Scottish Government where additional information relating to Public Protection and arrivals from Ukraine can be found.

Potential victims of trafficking may display a range of [indicators](#) and vulnerability to trafficking or exploitation once in Scotland must be recognised and steps taken in line with your organisation's responsibility.

Are there any indicators that the person is a victim of human trafficking?

Indicators of trafficking include:

- Passport or documents held by someone else.
- Others speaking for people you are talking to.
- Expression of fear or anxiety.
- Excessive working hours.
- Highly distrustful of law enforcement or authorities.
- Person has false documents.
- Found in/connected to a location likely to be used for exploitation.
- Not knowing address of where they work or live.
- Poor or sub-standard living accommodation.
- Injuries apparently as a result of an assault.
- Injuries apparently from restraint measures.
- Lack of access to earnings.
- Any evidence of control over movement either as an individual or a group.
- The person acts as if instructed by another.
- Afraid of saying what their immigration status is

If the individual is under 18, have any risks of significant harm been identified?

- If yes, follow local child protection guidance

If the individual is 16 years old or over, do they appear:

- unable to safeguard their own well-being, property, rights or other interests
- at risk of harm (including physical, sexual, financial, or emotional harm, self-harm, neglect or self-neglect) and
- because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity, are more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected.
- If you know or believe that the above criteria are met, referral under Adult Support and Protection procedures should be followed as normal

Remember that **the individuals at risk may not be able to report safeguarding concerns themselves**; it is crucial that those who identify adults or children at risk **report these concerns** to the local authority/Health and Social Care Partnership social work services as soon as possible.

Does an adult (16+) appear to have the ability to understand decisions regarding their welfare or finances – including where they are going to live on arrival from Ukraine?

- If no, information should be shared with the local authority social work department

Welfare indicators

- Do they have suitable accommodation arranged?
- Do they have access to funds?
 - If no, and insufficient funds for food or other necessities in coming week, refer to Local Authority Guidance on provision of £200 arrival stipend. Access to additional funds may also be available.

Mental and physical health indicators

- Is the adult, child or infant currently suffering from symptoms of any illness?
- Does the person require medication?
 - If Yes, ensure they are introduced to hub NHS contact
- Does the person have access to glasses, if required?
- Does the person have access to their hearing aids, if required?

Consideration should be given to whether assessment or intervention is required because the individual:

- Is deaf or hearing impaired
- Is blind or visually impaired
- Has dual sensory impairment
- Has additional communication support needs
- Has additional needs due to disability, mental or physical infirmity, mental disorder, or cognitive impairment
- Has immediate dental health needs
- Has concerns about their child or children's health
- Is pregnant
 - If yes, perinatal services, including mental health services, may be required. In addition to pre-natal care, the midwife or healthcare professional will apply for a Baby Box on the woman's behalf
- Are there any neurodevelopmental concerns that have not yet been addressed?
- Do they need specialist equipment, mobility aids, communication aids or special adjustments around the house and/or to access transport?
 - If Yes, do they have required aids or equipment with them?
 - If Yes, has this been considered as part of their accommodation arrangement? Are any special adjustments required to ensure suitability of the accommodation?
 - If the person does not have the supports needed to meet their mobility and accessibility needs, referral required social work
- Do they have a learning disability, additional support needs, physical or mobility challenges, or any other 'hidden' disabilities that affect their daily activities and participation?

Do they consider themselves to have a disability that has not been diagnosed? (This may be the case due to lack of access to disability support in their country of origin.)

If the person requires additional support in the community, does their accommodation and hosting arrangement appear suitable?

- Does the person have access to a known carer or support network in their accommodation?

Do you suspect that the person requires rapid access to Community Mental Health input? This could be due to a pre-existing condition or acute onset of symptoms.

Does the individual have any additional special requirements that haven't been captured above?

Considerations following move into accommodation

Do they have any specific occupational adjustment needs (for example, at school, in the workplace)?

Does the individual know how to access primary health care?

- Are they able to do so?

Resources

[Scottish Refugee Council Toolkit to support individual refugees](#)

Screening form Scotland's response to unaccompanied children

Scotland has a long history of protecting and providing services to unaccompanied Children. These services will now extend to children arriving from Ukraine.

Where a Child arrives unaccompanied, they require immediate care and protection and should be referred to the local social work office in the first instance.

Where the child declares that they are to be collected by a family member/friend, or another person with whom they have been in contact, social work enquires as to the suitability of this arrangement and if there are any safeguarding concerns the child may not be permitted to be join that person until further enquiries have been undertaken. If there continues to be doubt of this relationship the child will remain in local authority care and if required a care order may be secured to ensure their welfare.

A social work assessment is undertaken as to whether the child meets the eligibility for the provision of services under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

The local social work office, with the support of the Scottish Government, will make efforts to contact the parents or guardians of the child to inform them of the presence of the child in Scotland and to inform them of the plan for the child and gain verbal consent to allow us to care for the young person. If contact cannot be made with a parent or guardian there is provision in Scottish legislation to care for the child as homeless and provide accommodation. The accommodation that will be provided be dependent on assessment and likely be either an approved foster family or residential care placement.

The plan for the young person will include consideration of their health, educational and social needs including language support. They should be assigned an advocate to represent their views and a social worker to undertake full and ongoing assessment of their needs and to link with parents/guardians/other family members and inform them of the progress of the young person. Placements for children can be located anywhere in Scotland.

Where a child is in local authority care and a relative or friend arrives in Scotland retrospectively and wished to take on the care of the child, the local authority social work office will undertake a full assessment and reunite the child where safe to do so. This may also require ongoing support and resettlement in Scotland as a temporary arrangement.

Unaccompanied child screening form

This form should be completed at point of arrival and updated by the local social work office.

Where a child from Ukraine has been accommodated by the local authority, notification should be sent to Scottish Government using Part 1. This detail will be collated across Scotland and shared with Ukrainian officials in order to promote reunification with a displaced parent or alternative Ukrainian care giver known to the child. In light of the sensitive information being shared, the address to forward this information will be issued directly to local authority areas.

Part 1

Child's Details

- Name of the child concerned:
- Gender of the child:
- Date of birth of the child:
- Address of the child in Ukraine:
- Nationality:
- Spoken Language:
- Ability to communicate in English: Y/N
- Any known specific needs (including Medications): Y/N.
- If Y provide detail
- Has the child any other sibling who has previously entered Scotland (if so, provide details and location)
- Contact details for the child / Is the child travelling with a mobile phone?
- Is the child in contact with a parent, carer or family friend? (add details)

Child's details (siblings) - repeat if there are more than 2 siblings travelling together

- Name of the child concerned:
- Gender of the child:
- Date of birth of the child:
- Address of the child in Ukraine:
- Nationality:
- Spoken Language:
- Ability to communicate in English: Y/N
- Any known specific needs (including Medications): Y/N.
- If Y provide detail

Details of Adult carer(s) or Guardian

- Name of the adult/guardian:
- Gender of the child:
- Date of birth of the adult:
- Address of the adult in Ukraine:
- Address of the adult in Scotland:
- Nationality:
- Spoken Language:
- Ability to communicate in English:
- Contact details:

Is the child being collected by a parent or carer? if yes, please complete Part 2

Part 2

1. Relationship between child and carer

2. Brief outline of how this childcare arrangement arose:

3. How did you organise your journey to Scotland?

4. Has the parent consented to this arrangement? If so, what evidence was there to support this?

5. What social work department will the child be referred to?

Parents' details

(a) Name of Mother

- Date of birth
- Address in Ukraine
- Current whereabouts
- Nationality
- Spoken Language
- Ability to communicate in English

(b) Name of Father

- Date of birth
- Address in Ukraine
- Current whereabouts
- Nationality
- Spoken Language
- Ability to communicate in English

(c) Any contact details for parent(s) or guardian: mobile phone number/Whatsapp/email/other

Plan for reunification

- Date of last contact between child and parent(s)
- Is there a plan for the child to be reunited with Parent or Guardian
- If yes can you provide brief outline of the plan: _____

- Will you need assistance in effecting this plan: _____

- What assistance will you need: _____

- 6. Any specific child protection or welfare issues or concerns, over and above unaccompanied child status, noted during your screening process? If yes, provide detail

- 7. Any other information to note e.g. number of people traveling together, photos of ID taken, liaison on site with any other official(s)

Name of worker:
Title:
Work Location:
Phone number:
Email address:
Date:

Public protection governance: Responsibilities of Chief Officer Groups, Adult and Child Protection Committees

Chief Officer Groups (COGs) oversee local public protection arrangements and the assessment and response to risk, vulnerability and protection across the 32 local partnership areas. Chief Officers, in the context of child and adult protection, are the Chief Executives of Local Authorities, the Chief Executives of Health Boards and Police Scotland Divisional Commanders. Chief Officers, both individually and collectively, are responsible for the leadership, direction and scrutiny of child and adult protection services and public protection more broadly. COGs provide multi-agency public protection management oversight, assurance and governance across all age groups. Chief Social Work Officers (CSWO) also have a prominent role in public protection arrangements. CSWOs work closely with COGs, as well as with other agencies crucial to public protection.

Chief Officers can support practitioners to adapt to different and flexible ways of working to enable the continued identification and support of children, young people and adults at risk in a range of ways. COGs are crucial to enable practitioners to implement a range of innovative practices to promote efficient, holistic risk assessment and risk management. The multi-agency oversight of COGs should ensure collaboration with key partners to local safeguarding, including Community Planning Partnerships, Community Safety Partnership Hubs, Housing, education, health, social work and the third sector.

Child Protection and Adult Support and Protection Committees are the multi-agency partnerships responsible for monitoring and advising on procedures and practice, ensuring appropriate cooperation between agencies and improving the skills and knowledge of those with a responsibility for the protection of children and young people and adults at risk. The Committees' multi-agency structures may assist in the current response to the identification and safeguarding of displaced people.

At a time of unprecedented pressures, clear ownership and accountability by Chief Officers, with the support of CSWOs, continues to be required to ensure that protecting children and adults at risk of harm remains a priority within and across agencies.

Chief Officers' collective leadership and collaborative decision-making are fundamental to prompt, safe and functional continued adaptation. Assessment and planning processes and the way services work together must be agreed and understood by all partners. Effective and inclusive communications and partnership working will assist in understanding the potential complex referrals and demands on health and social care services.