



**Humanitarian Response Programme Overview**

**Housing & Community Overview & Scrutiny committee**

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**15 July 2024**

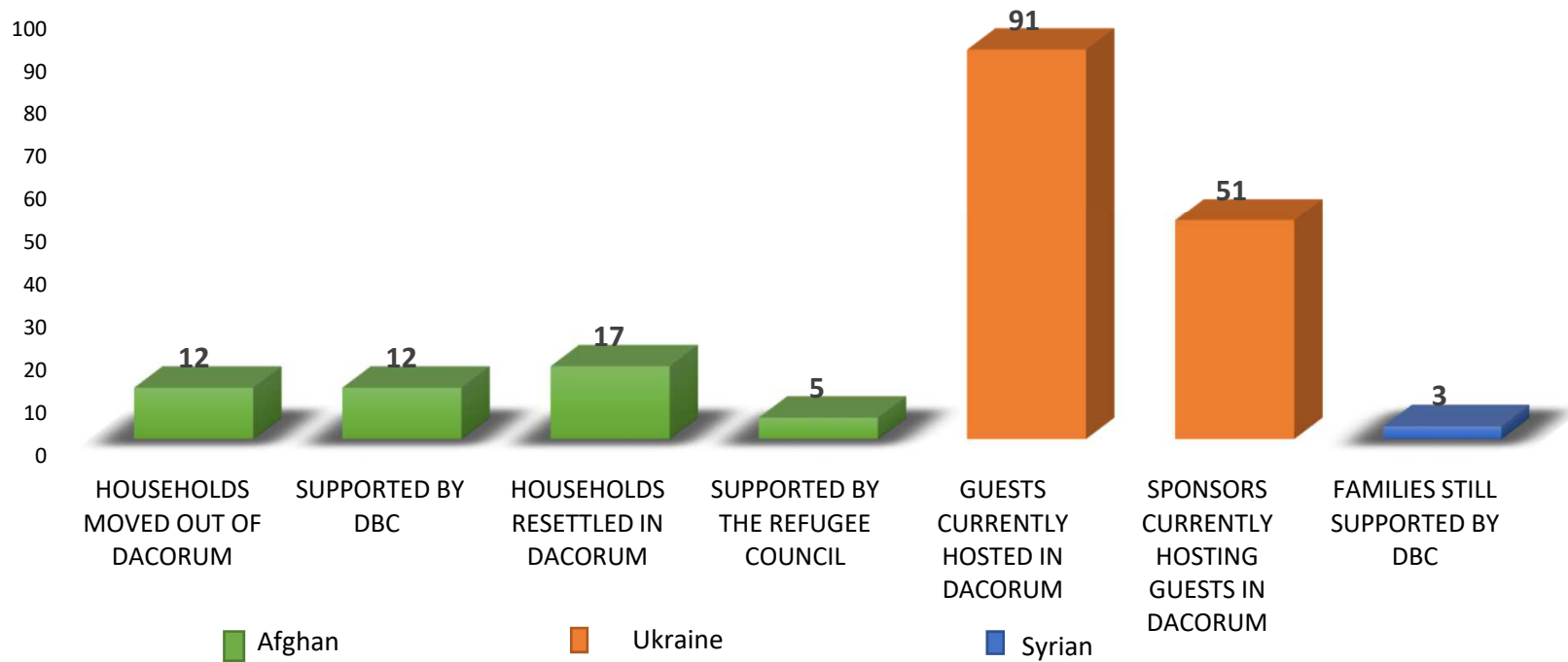


## Overview



- Activity in Dacorum since 2016 – Syrian Resettlement Scheme
  - Demands increased – dedicated team developed 2023
  - Programme activity: Syrian, Afghan, Ukraine resettlement & Asylum schemes
  - Coordinating services for refugees resettled in Dacorum
  - Access to accommodation & home set up (resettlement schemes)
  - Household provisions
  - Tailored support plans
  - Liaison with various entities, including statutory bodies, VCS & healthcare services
  - Priority to ensure a cohesive response to integration
  - Collaboration - effective management of contingency accommodation (asylum hotels)
  - Asylums seekers coordination: support integration & to prevent community tensions
  - Early intervention & prevention activity
  - Ukraine accommodation checks
  - Preventing homelessness & risk of rough sleeping
  - Regional Asylum co-ordination – ensuring place-based approach to dispersal
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# Resettlement Data



# Asylum Data

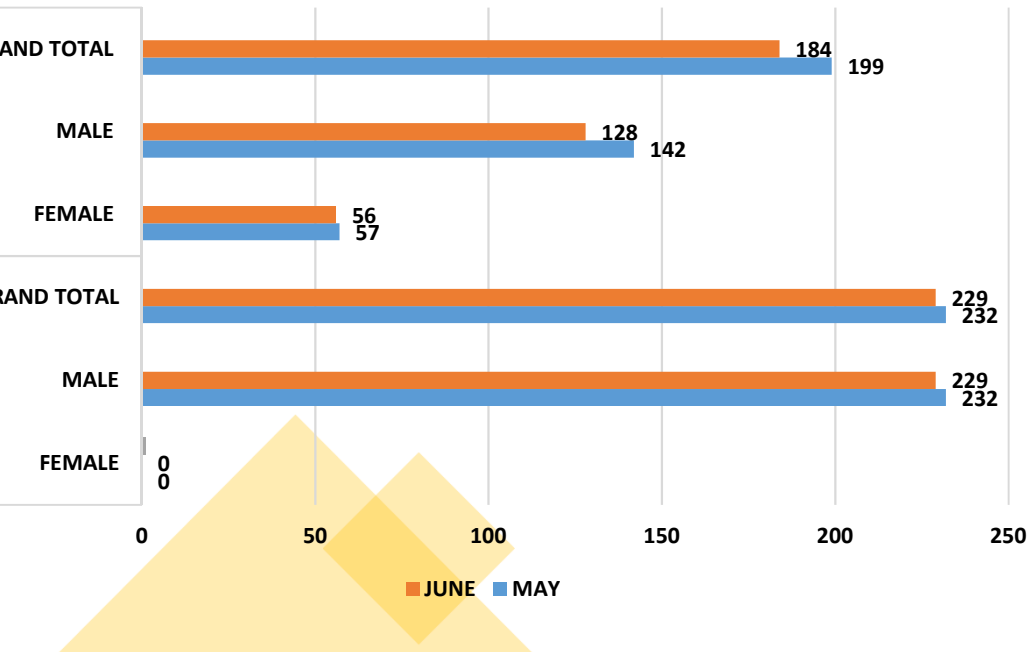
Figures for the number of residents at the two Asylum contingency in Dacorum:

Hempstead House: April 238 residents  
 Holiday Inn: April 267 residents

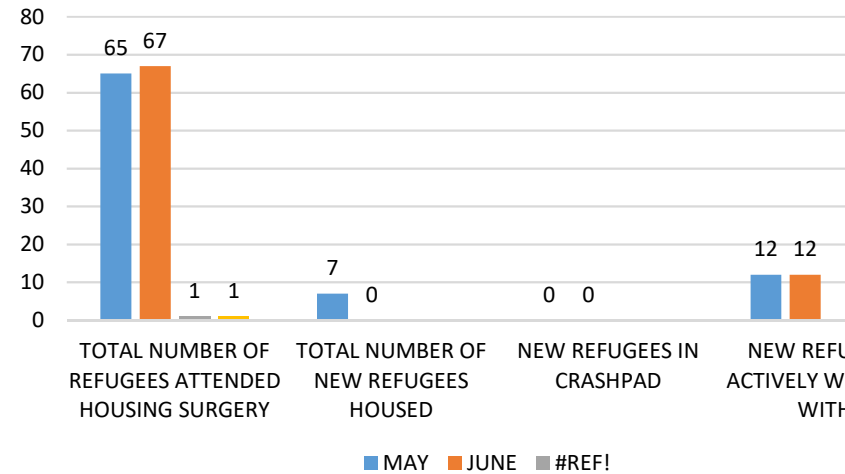
Figures for the number of refugee engagement with DBC:

- New refugees working with team Q1: 48
- Refugees - Housing Surgery Q1: 156
- New Refugees housed Q1: 78
- New Refugees in Crashpad Q1: 11

## NUMBER OF RESIDENTS AT THE TWO ASYLUM SITES (IA)



## NEW REFUGEES ENGAGEMENT



# Dispersal

Dispersal - Home Office moves asylum seekers into LA area  
Dispersed to initial (contingency) accommodation  
Areas subject to mandatory dispersal  
Dispersal consultation April 2022  
No legal obligation to destitute asylum seekers  
Local Allocation Plan (RAP) for all LA regions  
Dispersal pending asylum claim  
Replacement of PRS to exit contingency (hotel/short term)  
Dispersal claim determined → new refugee status  
Aim to achieve fair & equitable approach to dispersal  
Home Office 2024 plan, step towards place-based approach  
Dispersal determined by indexing factors  
Home Office region plan to - 12,437 bedspaces (national 100,919)  
Home Office 2024 dispersal allocation 390 bedspaces  
Household vacates dispersal, creates capacity for new arrival.



**6 x dispersal properties in borough (in addition to contingency sites):**

- (4) Adeyfield
- (2) Leverstock Green

**38 service users across properties**

## Funding

Integration tariff: £20,510 pp over three years period claimed / Flexible Housing Fund: £7,100 pp

Homelessness one off: £9,150 per household –accepted full or relief duty & placed household in TA

Wraparound (TA support for up to 6 months): £28 pp per day – paid at end of 3 mths & 6 mths

**UKRS resettlement** Integration tariff: £20,520 over five years period claimed

### **funding**

Funding: £750 per person as of last financial year, no update yet on funding for this current year

Funding: £3,500 per bedspace to be paid quarterly in arrears as of last financial year, no update yet on funding for this current year

Funding resource funded until March 27 using grant, current balances - Refugee: **£180,199**; Asylum: **£167,955** & Ukraine: **£96,010**

Funding remaining: **£444,163**

Efficient & creative use of funding, alleviates impact on other council statutory services & General Fund

Direct funding paid to HCC, who fund DBC to complete accommodation checks



## Risks

The Home Office's short notice periods make resettlement difficult

Essential information on residents is lacking or delayed

Delayed support until leave to remain granted, limits early intervention

Increased demand for Resettlement Support

Competing demands for PRS accommodation

Increased demands for support, access to housing register, homeless & temporary accommodation support

Uptake for the Afghan women's support group has been quite low initially

Risk of increase of rough sleeping due to large single person cohort

Pressures on local infrastructure including projected housing demand VCS, health & education

Cost of living

Housing pressures, not enough affordable housing available in local area, working closely with PRS landlords locally and out of area

Need to mitigate an increase in homeless cases

Community frustrations & tensions

Increasing risks of exploitation, safeguarding, ASB & crime incidences.

## Our approach

Proactive engagement at local & regional level to ensure collaboration  
Lobbying Home Office & accommodation provider to access timely information  
Managing expectations, signposting early & encourage self help  
Support to landlords, negotiation & support to access to out of area PRS accommodation  
Comparison with Herts LA's & RP's, flexible approach  
Maximising use of grant funding  
Training, education & awareness empowerment  
Women taking ownership of activity & development of women's group  
Risk of increase of rough sleeping due to large single person cohort  
V/P agreement to achieve flexibility on room rate  
Collaboration with VCS  
Event & counter terrorism awareness training to all staff & partners  
Activity to ensure meaningful use of time  
Funded initiative - Employability for overseas nationals (EON)  
QL provision



## Strategic Migration information

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From April 2024 Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) holders – advice to create account to access eVisa  
eVisas will replace BRP cards  
BRP holders should visit [www.gov.uk/evisa](http://www.gov.uk/evisa) for the latest information

### Changes to the Ukraine scheme

Home Office change to the Immigration Rules late 2024

Individuals who hold or have been granted permission to enter the UK - apply for further permission  
Apply from three months before the expiry of current visa  
Provides 18 months permission

Ukrainians in the UK can - move into independent living, secure rental agreements & employment  
Supports Ukrainian government's preference - future repatriation of citizens to help rebuild Ukraine  
Sponsor eligibility requirements change – Sponsors must themselves be settled in the UK.

### Considerations

General election may see further ministerial change  
Additional expectations may arise from new or existing conflicts



Thank you for listening  
Any questions?

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