



Humanitarian Response Programme HCOSC update
20 November 2024



Resettlement Data

Afghan Resettlement

16 households resettled in Dacorum:

- 5 supported by the Refugee Council (period from Oct. 2021 to present)
- 10 supported by DBC - Humanitarian Response team (62 people in total) (period from July 2023 to present)
- 14 households moved out of Dacorum. (period from July 2023 to October 2024)

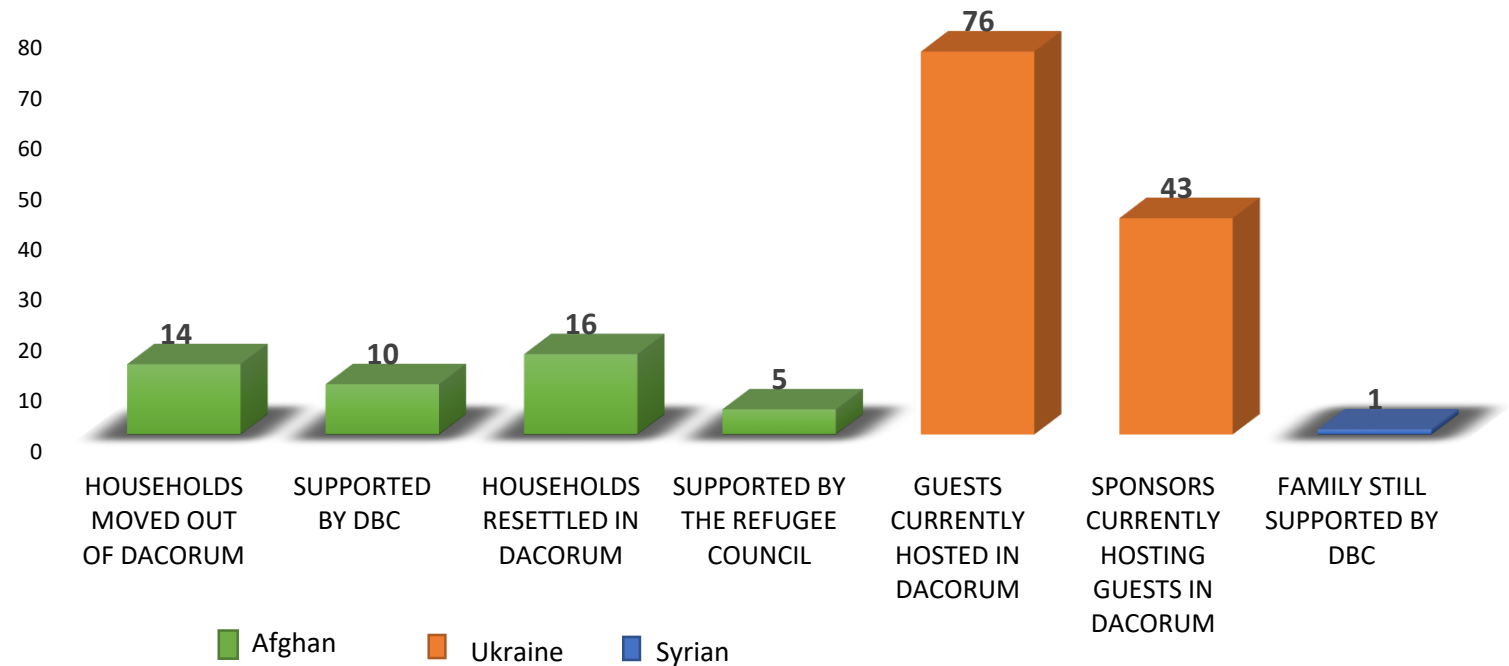
Homes for Ukraine

76 guests currently hosted in Dacorum.

43 sponsors currently hosting guests in Dacorum.

Syrian Resettlement

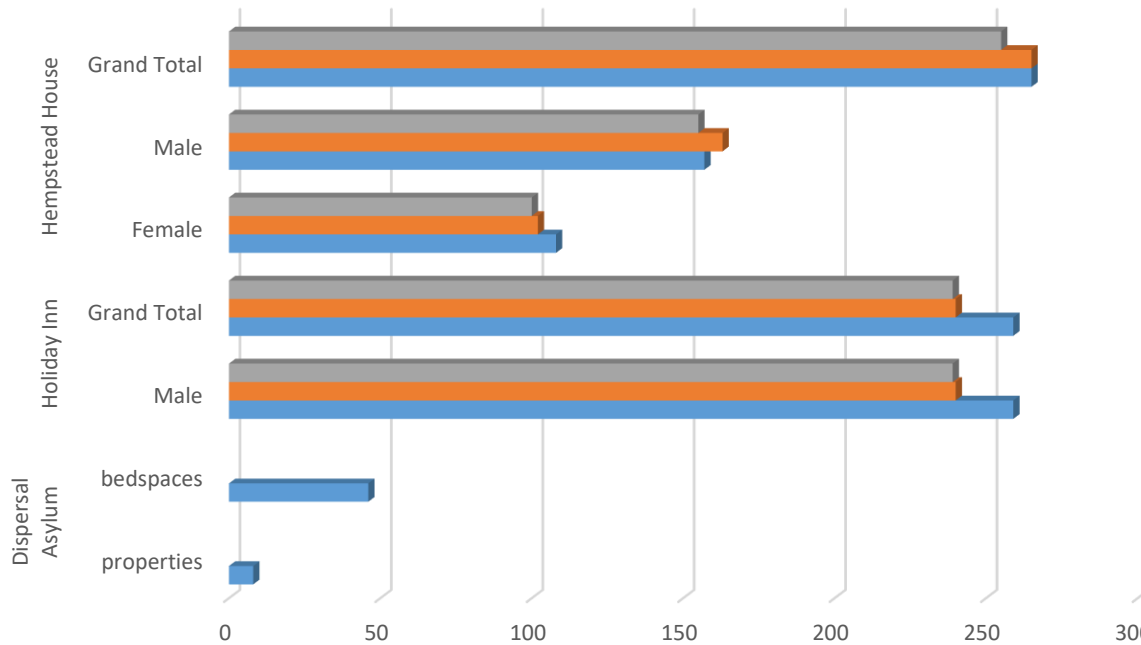
1 family still supported by DBC – 5 people in total (period February 2020 – present)





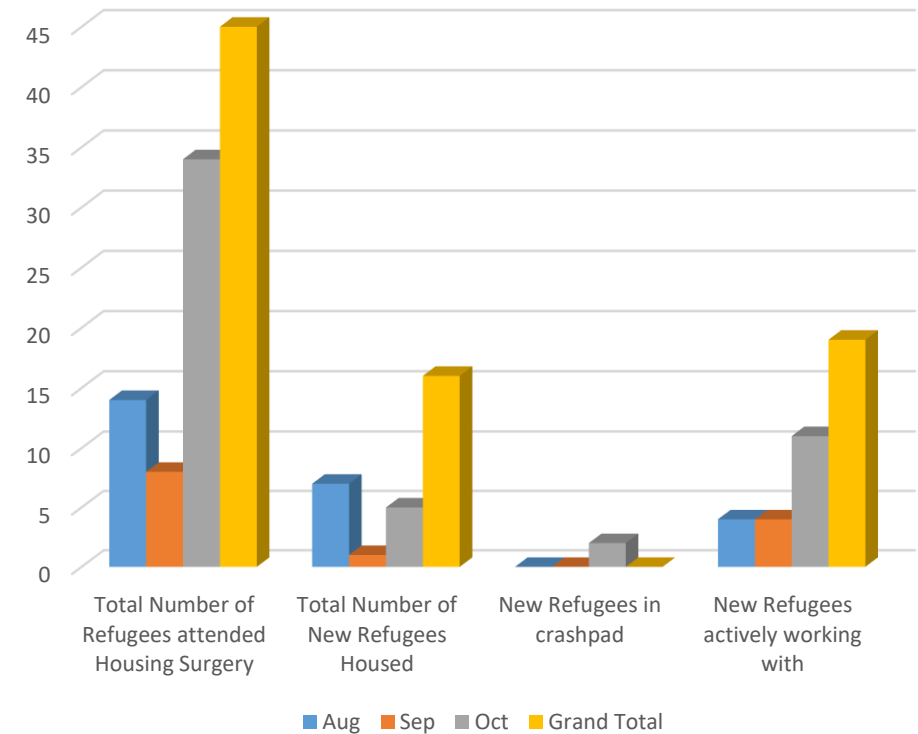
Asylum Data: Aug to Oct 2024

Figures for the number of residents at the two Asylum sites (IA) and Dispersal Asylum (DA) in Dacorum for August to October 2024:



	Dispersal Asylum		Holiday Inn		Hempstead House		
	properties	bedspaces	Male	Grand Total	Female	Male	Grand Total
■ Aug			239	239	100	155	255
■ Sep			240	240	102	163	265
■ Oct	8	46	259	259	108	157	265

Figures for the number of refugee engagement with DBC August to October 2024:





Challenges

Discontinuation

- The Home Office's short notice to vacate (28 days) make resettlement difficult

Activity to Increase Housing Demand

- Added Pressure to find secure accommodation

Dispersal

- Dacorum has 8 active dispersal sites with a total of 46 bedspaces

Housing Demand

- Increase in demand for Temporary Accommodation for Families / vulnerable adults given Leave to Remain
- Risk of rough sleeping / crashpad demand
- Homelessness / Housing Register demand

Community Safety

- Crime incidences & Safeguarding concerns – Contingency sites



Mitigations

Discontinuation

- Working closely with Homeless Prevention & DENS to reduce risk of rough sleeping

Activity to Increase in Housing Demand

- Attendance @ Landlord Forum; Engagement & recruitment of landlords to support PRS access
- Meeting with Clearsprings Ready Homes (CRH) / Herts LAs to explore options for procurement & address barriers

Dispersal

- Proactive work with CRH (HO accommodation provider) ensure locations is suitable for asylum placement
- Engagement with CSP partners ensuring properties meet safety standards, address crime / community cohesion
- Regional collaboration & engagement to ensure placed based approach to dispersal

Housing Provision (Temporary Accommodation & HRA)

- Early alert process Housing Options/Temporary Accommodation Teams – early planning for homeless approaches
- Forecasting future demand, Business cases for TA / LAHF delivery of temporary accommodation & HRA units

Community Safety

- Statutory partner liaison & intervention, legal advice
- Engagement / Influence CRH & HO



Initiatives

Women's Integration:

- Aim to increase participation/opportunities to gain access to ESOL, education, and employment programs
- Opportunity to meet & engage in activity such as Sewing, Fitness Classes and a safe place to share experiences
- Aid community integration through friendship & connection

Partnership work with VCS partners

- Funding initiatives to support new Refugees to offer advice, assistance and befrienders
- Strategic Migration Partnership shadowing of service – best practice insights & understanding LA impact

EON project:

- Dacorum part funds the Employment of Overseas Nationals (EON) project to transfer existing qualifications to those recognised in the UK, provide work related ESOL and to assist in finding employment.
- Working with Asylum Seekers to understand what their plans are from a housing and employment perspective.
- Helps to prevent unexpected homelessness presentations.
- Housing course for Refugees/Asylum Seekers due to start in December 2024



Initiatives con't

Community Safety

- We have set up a Humanitarian Response sub-group that reports into the Joint Action Group (JAG) – ensuring alignment with the CSP governance structure
- Consider lessons learnt from the recent civil unrest
- This enables a targeted approach / interventions where needed
- Proactive monitoring of contingency accommodation sites and dispersal across the borough
- Members include statutory CSP responders in addition to VCS partners and key DBC teams
- Engagement with Home Office in relation to community cohesion / contingency site impact

New Housing Support Resource:

- Housing Advice surgery held every Tuesday at the South Hill Centre
- Open to both Asylum Seekers and Refugees
- Opportunity to manage expectations around housing as well as give housing advice and options

Humanitarian Response (HR) integration Plan

- The HR Integration plan will be underpinned by an action plan outlining our approach on a local level
- Linked to our corporate Priorities and key strategic priorities surrounding housing/homelessness.



Updates from SMP/Ministerial

Family Reunion Announcement for ACRS Families

- Afghans who evacuated in August 22 will be able to apply to bring over an eligible family member.

eVisas

- Migrant Help have been given a grant to provide free support to assist vulnerable people in their transition from BRP card to eVisa.

Changes to the Ukraine scheme

- The Home Office have introduced a change to the Immigration Rules so that individuals who hold, or have been granted permission to enter the UK will be able to apply for further permission to remain for an extension for a further 18 months.
- This decision has been made in support of the Ukraine Government who want their nationals to return to rebuild the country when it's safe to do so.

Extension to Notice Periods in Home Officer Accommodation

- A private members bill has been introduced in parliament which would extend the move on period for Asylum Seekers with positive decisions to 56 days instead of the current 28 days. For more information [private members' bill](#)



Key Successes

- Discontinued support 2 Syrian households / Supported to obtain Leave to Remain
- MDT case progress meetings established
- Partnership influence to improve activities to residents in contingency accommodation
- Prevent training in partnership with HCC to VCS, partners & staff
- Support to prevent rough sleeping
- Accommodated 82 individuals into PRS
- 2 PRS placements in pipeline
- Delivery of LAHF Round 2, successful submission Round 3
- Relocated one Afghan female to London & support transferred – enabling independence / realising employment prospects
- The Humanitarian Response team was honoured at the Annual staff recognition awards - **Team of the Year** and the **Personal Achievement** Award.



Future Plans

- To broaden the reach of the Woman's Group, promote it further with partners
- Identify / fund new initiatives to support integration and community cohesion
- Increase referrals to the EON project both from the Asylum and Refugee communities
- Local Authority Housing Fund Round 3 (LAHF3) – to procure 4 properties (1 Temporary Accommodation Unit & 3 General Needs /HRA homes)
- Work with Housing Options team and the Temporary Accommodation Team to future plan for service provision taking account of the volume of positive decisions being made by the Home Office.
- Collaborate with Herts County Council to prioritise safeguarding the needs of this cohort
- Deliver the Humanitarian Response Integration plan