

**LANCASHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM**

**Date of meeting 5 July 2022**

**Item No 12**

**Title: Support for Ukrainian Families**

**Appendix A refers**

***Executive Summary***

This report provides an update on the Support for Ukrainian Families available in the county.

***Forum Decision Required***

**The Forum is asked to:**

- a) Note the report;**
- b) Express any views on the Education Strategy 2022-2025 and Team Around the School and Settings**

## **Background**

Information has been requested at a previous Schools Forum meeting about the support available in Lancashire for Ukrainian families arriving in Lancashire.

Updates have been provided to schools around this support in the regular Education Bulletin. An extract from this guidance is provided at **Appendix A**.

On the issue of funding the guidance notes that we are hoping to receive further clarification from the DfE as how the education top-up funding that will be allocated to Lancashire can be used. It is clear already however that this funding will only be available for the children of families arriving in Lancashire as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

In early discussions, it has been stressed that not all the education funding that is allocated to Lancashire will be fully passported to schools as monies will need to be retained to provide Early Years support, SEND support, Early Help, EAL support etc. A decision will be made shortly as to how much is top sliced and how much is allocated to the schools. Communications will be issued via the education bulletin once the amount to be passed to schools is determined, and there will be clarification as to how and when any payments will be made. For future years, DSG funding will capture Ukrainian pupils on roll from the October 2022 census.

For information the DfE allocations for eligible education top-up funding that local authorities will receive for Ukrainian refugee pupils are:

- Early Years - £3,000 per pupil
- Primary - £6,580 per pupil
- Secondary - £8,755 per pupil

## Support for Ukrainian Families

### Funding

We are hoping to receive further clarification from the DfE as how the education top-up funding that will be allocated to Lancashire can be used. It is clear already however that this funding will only be available for the children of families arriving in Lancashire as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

In early discussions, it has been stressed that not all the education funding that is allocated to Lancashire will be fully passported to schools as monies will need to be retained to provide Early Years support, SEND support, Early Help, EAL support etc. A decision will be made shortly as to how much is top sliced and how much is allocated to the schools. Communications will be issued via the education bulletin once the amount to be passed to schools is determined, and there will be clarification as to how and when any payments will be made. For future years, DSG funding will capture Ukrainian pupils on roll from the October 2022 census.

### School Admissions

In Ukraine, children do not attend school until they are 6. Consequently, the English school's system will be unfamiliar to parents from Ukraine. The DfE is hoping to disseminate advice to parents, with assistance from the Authority and schools, to help parents understand that children of compulsory school age must attend school full-time unless the LA is assured the child is receiving suitable home education. A link to the welcome pack; [Welcome Pack for refugees from the Ukraine](#) will be available on the LCC website. It would be helpful if schools could also publish this link on their websites with their general admissions advice to parents.

At the beginning of April 2022, the DfE issued guidance on providing for school places for children arriving from the Ukraine; [The Secretary of State for Education wrote to all local authority Directors of Children's Services and Chief Executive Officers today](#)

Last week the DfE also updated their website on school access rights for foreign national students which will shortly be updated: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/schools-admissions-applications-from-overseas-children>.

Firstly, the DfE makes it clear that all children living in the UK have a right to access a school in England, irrespective of their nationality. It says: *'School admission authorities must not refuse to admit a child on the basis of their nationality or immigration status nor remove them from roll on this basis.'*

Lancashire's published in-year admission arrangements should be applied to the admission to school of Ukrainian children in the same way as they do for all other children. Parents have the right to express a preference for any school(s) and in-year admission applications should be processed in the normal way. Parents can make an in-year application for a community school by visiting the LCC website, [Community and voluntary controlled school in-year applications - Lancashire County Council](#). The website also provides contact details for the area Pupil Access Teams who can provide up to date information about the number of pupils on roll at any school and hence advise on school place availability.

Applications for community and controlled schools are dealt with by Pupil Access. Applications for voluntary aided, foundation, free schools and academies are made directly to the schools who should then notify Pupil Access of the outcome.

Pupils from Ukraine should be admitted, like any other children, in strict order of priority according to each school's published admission arrangements. Parents must be informed of the outcome of an in-year application within a maximum of 15 school days. Where all the schools within a reasonable distance of a child's home are full, fair access arrangements can be used to secure an offer of a school within 20 school days.

The DfE guidance also confirms that although the infant class limit of 30 pupils to a teacher applies, there are exceptions that can be made for vulnerable groups of children. This includes children who move into the area outside the normal admissions round, when there are no other available schools within reasonable distance.

Where possible and needed, schools are encouraged to admit children of guests from Ukraine as exceptions to the infant class size limit in the circumstances permitted by the Code: [School Admissions Code](#).

In-year admission applications should be completed for all pupils. A master spreadsheet will be kept of all the Ukrainian pupils admitted to Lancashire schools, and this will help inform any funding arrangements agreed going forward.

If a community or voluntary school has more than one place in a year group, and no enquiries have been received, there is no need to wait whilst an in-year admission form is processed. Due to the high volume of forms currently being received, it can take up to 10 days for a form to be dealt with, and children should not be kept out of school unnecessarily.

Where there is significant pressure for places however, it is important that in-year admissions are co-ordinated to ensure that they are dealt with equitably. Where school places are scarce, they need to be offered in priority order against published admission criteria, and the Pupil Access team need to be aware of any places offered, as this informs the numbers on roll data.

It is known that a number of children have already been admitted to schools. Where a place has been offered, it would be helpful if an in-year admission form be completed retrospectively to inform the overview spreadsheet of pupils. The in-year admissions mailboxes in the three areas are as follows:

[IYANorth@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:IYANorth@lancashire.gov.uk)

[IYASouth@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:IYASouth@lancashire.gov.uk)

[IYAEast@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:IYAEast@lancashire.gov.uk)

For non-routine enquiries regarding school admissions, a dedicated mailbox has been set up: [UkrainianSchoolAdmissions@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:UkrainianSchoolAdmissions@lancashire.gov.uk). Lisa Goodall from the Pupil Access Team will manage this mailbox and respond to any queries that are raised.

## **Supporting and Integrating Ukrainian Children and Young People in School**

Schools admitting new Ukrainian pupils can receive support and advice from the Ethnic Minority Gypsy Roma Traveller Achievement Service. We provide support to schools for ethnic minority pupils, including international new arrivals, English as an Additional Language learners, and asylum seeker and refugee pupils. All schools with international new arrivals, including Ukrainian pupils, can receive an advice visit (which is funded, so free of charge to schools in Lancashire). At these visits, advice on integrating and teaching new arrivals and resources are shared with staff and we also provide information on our wider offer (which includes staff training, an induction toolkit for new arrivals and EAL tutor support).

## How to arrange for EAL support

To refer, please complete the e-form on the Schools' Portal, which you can find under 'E' for EAL. A member of our team will then contact you to arrange a visit to give advice (free of charge to Lancashire schools for new arrivals) and to discuss any further support.

For any other queries, please contact us on: [ema.support@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:ema.support@lancashire.gov.uk)

We have also produced and collated some resources that may be useful to schools with new Ukrainian pupils:

- [English-Ukrainian resources at Twinkl](#)
- Online [English - Ukrainian dictionary | Glosbe](#)
- Induction Pack for International New Arrivals - [Resources \(lancsngfl.ac.uk\)](#)
- Learning resources for pupils who are new to English: [Resources : EAL Resources for Home Learning \(lancsngfl.ac.uk\)](#)
- Leaflets for parents on UK Education system - [Parental Involvement - The Bell Foundation \(bell-foundation.org.uk\)](#) and other leaflets for parents [Resources : EAL Resources for Schools : Bilingual Parent Resources \(lancsngfl.ac.uk\)](#)

## Access to early years funded places for Ukrainian Families

The DfE have confirmed that families arriving under the Ukraine Family Scheme, or the Local Sponsorship Scheme for Ukraine will be able to access the early years entitlements for 2-, 3-, & 4-year-olds in the 'normal' way and they are not proposing to make any changes to the existing eligibility criteria. This means that Ukrainian families will be able to access early years funded places as follows:

### Universal Offer for 3- & 4-Year-Olds

- Children will be able to access the 15 hours universal entitlements as soon as families arrive, providing it is the term after the child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.
- Families do not have to wait to be issued with a NI number and do not need to in receipt of benefits.

For more information about the 15 hours universal offer, please see our [webpage](#).

### Extended Offer for 3- & 4-Year-Olds

- Children will be able to access the 30 hours extended entitlements from the term after the child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday providing their family meets the prescribed the eligibility criteria.
- This means that both parents who have arrived (or one parent in a single parent family) must have a NI number and be in paid employment (earning between the minimum and maximum thresholds) or be in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits.

For more information about eligibility for the extended offer and how to apply, please see our [webpage](#).

## **2-Year-Old Offer**

- Children will be able to access a 2-year-old funded place, from the term after their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday providing their family meets the prescribed eligibility criteria.
- This means that families will need a NI number and be in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits or earning less than the minimum income thresholds before they can apply for a place.
- Families should then be directed/supported to complete an application through our [online eligibility checker](#)
- Families who do not have access to the internet can complete the application process by contacting our Family Information Service by email [fis@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:fis@lancashire.gov.uk) or by telephone 0300 123 6712.
- We will then carry out the required checks and, if eligible, issue their 'golden ticket' letter and voucher code.

For more information about eligibility for 2 year old funded places, please see our [webpage](#).

Schools and settings should claim for any Ukrainian children accessing an early years place in the normal way i.e. through the school census/headcount, or via a supplementary claim where the children take up a place after the census/headcount week.

## **Free School Meals**

The Inland Revenue ECS checker is used to check entitlement to receive free school meals. For a check to be undertaken, one of the parents needs to be in receipt of the qualifying benefits. Benefit claims will not be processed by the DWP until a National Insurance number has been issued. It is understood that the allocation of N.I. numbers is being fast tracked, but in the meantime, there is no discretion to provide free meals until a benefit application has been approved.