



Resettlement Country Chapter: United Kingdom

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1. Resettlement Policy and Programme Description

Resettlement Policy and Programme

The UK operates the following resettlement schemes:

United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme (UKRS): This scheme was launched in February 2021, and sees the government continue to resettle vulnerable refugees in need of protection. This is a multi-year commitment, which will provide safe and legal routes to refugees in need of protection and respond to developing crises anywhere in the world.

Community Sponsorship Scheme: This scheme was launched in July 2016 and enables civil society to directly support refugees resettled to the UK as they start their new lives in safety. The scheme was established in response to the desire to harness public and community support for refugees. Eligible individuals are identified through established referral routes in line with our wider resettlement schemes.

Participating sponsors commit to providing integration support for a resettled family for their first year in the UK, and to find accommodation that will be available for at least two years. This integration support includes, but is not limited to, supporting the family's access to education, medical and social services and English language provision, and support towards employment and self-sufficiency.

Community groups wishing to support a refugee family must either be, or be partnered with, a charity or Community Interest Company (CIC).

Mandate Scheme: This scheme was established in 1995 and is the longest running resettlement scheme. It is a global scheme and resettles recognised refugees with a close family member in the UK who is willing to accommodate them.

Beneficiaries of the Mandate scheme must have been recognised as refugees by UNHCR and assessed to be in need of resettlement. The refugee must be a minor child, spouse, or parent or grandparent aged over 65 of someone settled in the UK, or who has limited leave to remain in a category leading to settlement, who is willing to accommodate and support them. The UK relative does not need to hold refugee status. Wider family members (e.g., adult siblings) will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS): The UK formally opened the ACRS on 6 January 2022. The ACRS provides those who have been put at risk by the events in Afghanistan with a route to safety. There is no application process for this scheme instead, eligible people will be prioritised and referred for resettlement to the UK through one of the three referral pathways.



- Pathway 2 of the ACRS, opened in June 2022, and will see the UNHCR refer vulnerable refugees who have fled Afghanistan for resettlement to the UK. The UNHCR's assessment is based on the protection needs and vulnerabilities of refugees. For this pathway only, UNHCR maintains responsibility for all out of country casework activity.
- Under Pathway 1 of the ACRS, which opened in January 2022, vulnerable and at-risk individuals who arrived in the UK under the evacuation programme have been the first to be settled under the ACRS. They include women's rights activists, journalists, and prosecutors, and Afghan family members of British Nationals. Those eligible who were called forward during the evacuation but were not able to board flights will also be resettled through Pathway 1, if they subsequently come to the UK.
- Pathway 3, which opened in June 2022, is designed to offer a route to resettlement for those at risk who supported the UK and international community effort in Afghanistan, as well as those who are particularly vulnerable, such as women and girls at risk and members of minority groups. In the first year of this pathway, up to 1,500 resettlement places are available for eligible individuals from three specific groups, who are in Afghanistan or the region. The three specified groups are: British Council contractors, GaradaWorld contractors, and Chevening alumni. Beyond the first year, the UK will work with international partners and NGOs to welcome wider groups of Afghans at risk.

Ministries and Departments

The UNHCR works to identify vulnerable refugees who would benefit from resettlement to the UK living in formal refugee camps, informal settlements and host communities. The identification and assessment of an individual's refugee status is an independent process owned by the UNHCR, which the UK does not seek to influence. The UK does not accept applications made directly to the Home Office (the government department responsible for immigration, security, and law and order), or to British diplomatic posts abroad or through other international organisations.

Once an individual has been deemed eligible, the UNHCR will refer the case to the UK's Home Office, where caseworkers will commission relevant screening and security checks. Caseworkers will also consider other aspects of the case, including medical and safeguarding needs.

All refugees are resettled to the UK in partnership with local authorities, though some may be supported by local community groups upon arrival (as in Community Sponsorship). The Home Office receives offers of accommodation either directly from the local authority/community sponsor, or on a regional basis through the regional Strategic Migration Partnership (SMP). Local authorities and community sponsors receive funding and support from the Home Office and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). DLUHC holds responsibility for the allocation of social housing but the accommodation for resettled refugees is mostly comprised of private accommodation,



provided for by the local authorities and community sponsors. Refugees will be matched to suitable accommodation based on their assessed needs. The Home Office will make the final assessment on whether a case for resettlement should be accepted.

Once a refugee has been accepted for resettlement and suitable accommodation has been identified for them, they will be prepared for travel with the assistance of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). This includes undertaking further health assessments, receiving cultural orientation sessions. IOM will also facilitate the travel of refugees to the UK. Families and individuals travelling to the UK will be greeted by their corresponding community or local authority representative on arrival and transported to their new home.

Upon arrival, resettled refugees are provided with a package of integration support, funded by central government, and they have an immediate right to work. Unemployed refugees can receive employment support from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), subject to them meeting the criteria set by the department.

The Department for Education funds English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) through the Adult Education Budget (AEB). Refugees and those granted humanitarian protection are eligible for full funding for ESOL through the AEB if they are unemployed and looking for work.

The Home Office also works with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), Public Health England (PHE) and the devolved administrations (the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Executive) in the establishment of funding for healthcare providers to support the integration of resettled refugees.

Process for Determining the Resettlement Admission Targets

The numbers resettled in a particular period will depend on a range of factors including the flow of referrals in the field and the availability of suitable accommodation and care packages in the UK. We will manage the flows based on need and in support of the wellbeing of the people and communities involved.

Under the ACRS the UK will see up to 20,000 refugees resettled to the UK over the coming years.

2. Eligibility for Refugee Status and other forms of International Protection

National Legislation defining refugee status eligibility

The 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees is the framework which underpins international refugee protection. It, along with the 1967 Protocol, clearly sets out the definition of a refugee, along with the kind of legal protection, other assistance, and social rights a refugee is entitled to receive. It also highlights the obligations of refugees towards their host country.

The UK refers to the definition used by UNHCR when determining whether a person is a refugee. The UK will only resettle those determined by UNHCR to be refugees in



accordance with the definition in the Convention. This does not apply to Pathway 1 and 3 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).

UNHCR will conduct a full Refugee Status Determination (RSD) and resettlement consideration as they are mandated to determine whether an individual meets the 1951 Convention definition of a refugee and are best placed to assess their protection needs.

The UK's resettlement operation caseworkers will usually accept UNHCR's determination of refugee status unless there are concerns regarding the credibility of the claim or new evidence comes to light e.g., security concerns.

3. Resettlement Decision-Making

Resettlement Admissibility and Public Interest Criteria

The UNHCR acts as the UK's primary referral partner for the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Community Sponsorship, Mandate Resettlement scheme, and under Pathway 2 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). The UNHCR undertakes an assessment of eligible refugees in line with its established process and with consideration of the UNHCR's resettlement submission categories. These submission categories are based on people's needs and vulnerabilities. The seven categories are:

- Legal and or Physical Protection Needs
- Survivors of Torture and/or Violence
- Medical Needs
- Women and Girls at Risk
- Family Reunification
- Children and Adolescents at Risk; and
- Lack of Foreseeable Alternative Durable Solutions

The UK does not seek to influence the cases it receives from the UNHCR.

Admissibility

The applicant (and his/her dependents) must co-operate with UK officials and any other body involved in the resettlement scheme for which they are being assessed. The UK examines whether their resettlement scheme can meet the needs of the applicant and their dependents as well as considering if resettlement is conducive to the public good. Consideration is also given as to whether resettlement would be contrary to the best interests of the applicant, or their dependents.

Inadmissibility

The UK takes security extremely seriously in cases referred for resettlement. UNHCR screens out cases for resettlement consideration in accordance with the safeguards built into the 1951 Refugee Convention (i.e., if the applicant has committed a crime against peace, a war crime, or a crime against humanity, committed a serious non-political crime outside the country of refuge, or has been guilty of acts contrary to the purposes and



principles of the United Nations). When potential cases are submitted by UNHCR for consideration they are screened and considered for suitability for entry to the UK: the UK retains the right to reject individuals on security or other grounds. The UK will not resettle individuals who have committed war crimes, crimes against humanity or other serious crimes, in line with the Convention. UK caseworkers will pay particular attention to the following:

- Military service
- involvement with government authorities including any arrests or periods of detention
- past involvement in the conflict they are fleeing from
- links to terrorism/ extremism
- certain occupations
- travel history

If the applicant has been refused, UK operational caseworkers will inform UNHCR via email, briefly outlining the reason for refusal.

Requests for Reconsideration

There is no right of appeal against a Home Office decision to refuse an application for resettlement. However, if an applicant's circumstances change or if additional information comes to light that was not previously available; UNHCR may approach the Home Office and request a review providing an updated Resettlement Registration Form (RRF) containing the change in circumstance or additional information.

Dependency (family reunion)

Dependent family members or caregivers who are not determined to need international protection will not be considered for resettlement by the UNHCR and therefore not referred to the UK under its established resettlement schemes.

4. Legal Status on Arrival and Citizenship

Legal Status on Arrival

Refugees resettled to the UK under UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) and Pathway 2 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), and Community Sponsorship, where eligibility has derived from those routes are granted Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) and refugee status on arrival in the UK and will be able to apply for British citizenship after 5 years under the existing rules.

Those resettled under the Mandate scheme will be granted Indefinite Leave to Enter (ILE) and will be able to apply for British citizenship after 5 years in the UK under the existing rules.



Resettled individuals are not subject to the Knowledge of Language and Life requirement when applying for settlement. Those resettled will be issued six months leave outside of the rules visas prior to arrival in the UK and subsequently issued ILE/ILR.

“Everyone resettled in the UK (including children) is issued with a biometric residence permit (BRP). These can be used for identification purposes, to confirm immigration status, to use Home Office online services to prove right to work or right to rent private residential accommodation in England or to access any public funds or benefits the holder may be entitled to. The card will include the holder’s National Insurance number if they are over 16 on the day of arrival. Biometric enrolment (fingerprinting and facial photograph) takes place as part of the visa application process. The BRP is sent to the local authority or community sponsorship group for distribution shortly after arrival.”

Those resettled through the ACRS will receive fee-free indefinite leave to enter or remain in the UK, the right to work and immediate access to benefits if necessary. They will be able to apply for British citizenship after five years in the UK under existing rules and subject to the appropriate fee. However, those resettled under Pathway 1 and 3 of the ACRS will not be granted refugee status.

The resettlement schemes (see above) are distinct from, and managed separately to, the standard procedure for claiming asylum in the UK, but the criteria for determining whether a person qualifies for refugee status are the same. Both asylum seekers and refugees being resettled are assessed against the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol to determine whether they qualify for refugee status. In the case of an asylum seeker in the UK, the assessment is done by Home Office’s caseworkers, whereas a person being considered for resettlement under any of the UK’s resettlement schemes would already have been recognised as a refugee by UNHCR. The Home Office’s resettlement operations team will usually accept UNHCR’s determination of refugee status unless there are concerns regarding the credibility of the claim or new evidence comes to light e.g., security concerns.

Those resettled in the UK will be granted ILR and will be able to apply for citizenship after 5 years in the UK, subject to the existing requirements and fees.

Eligibility for Citizenship

Refugees resettled through the UKRS, Community Sponsorship Scheme, Mandate and ACRS can apply for British citizenship after 5 years in the UK, subject to the existing requirements and fees.

5. Processing Priorities

The UK’s global resettlement schemes are not based on nationality and work in line with the UNHCR’s identified global resettlement needs. These schemes include the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Community Sponsorship and Mandate. UK resettlement schemes are not selective based on an individual’s employability or integration potential.



Apart from the criteria the UK sets for each scheme, the UK government do not seek to influence which cases are referred by the UNHCR. Cases identified by UNHCR as requiring urgent resettlement are prioritised for processing.

Due to UK accommodation constraints, cases comprising 7 or more people require agreement from the Home Office before submission.

Under pathway 1 and 3 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), the UK is working with international partners, NGOs, and governments in the region to support the relocation of eligible individuals to the UK.

6. Special Considerations

Separated Children

The vast majority of children resettled through the UKRS will arrive with their parents or other carers. Unaccompanied children are eligible under the scheme if UNHCR determine that resettlement is in their best interests.

Separated children are also eligible under the Community Sponsorship Scheme through UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) Pathway 2 resettlement routes if UNHCR determine that resettlement is in their best interests. This is an assessment that will be made with expert partners. Where a child is unaccompanied it may be in the child's best interest to remain in the region, where they are more likely to be reunited with their family.

As the Mandate scheme enables for recognised refugees to reunite with close family members in the UK, it is unlikely that unaccompanied children will be resettled under this scheme as they will be placed with family members who will act as legal guardians and must be able to accommodate them.

Unaccompanied children who are resettled to the UK will be placed with a local authority via the National Transfer Scheme. Further guidance on the procedure is available.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-interim-national-transfer-scheme>

National definition for separate children

Under the UK's resettlement schemes an unaccompanied and separate child is defined as an individual under 18 who has been resettled to the UK without their parent or guardian.

Legal rights of resettled children

Children who are resettled in the UK are entitled access to free healthcare via the NHS, housing and education.

Local authorities are responsible for meeting the safeguarding and education needs of refugee children under their remit.



Local agencies, including the police and health services, have a duty under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to ensure that they consider the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children when carrying out their functions

Best Interests Determinations (BID) and Best Interests Assessments (BIA)

BIA's are required for cases where parents are no longer together, and resettlement will effectively split the family unit and the custody of the child/children is not clear cut, i.e. one parent is missing and UNHCR are unable to obtain official parental consent to resettle the child/children. UNHCR officials will identify any custody issues within the Resettlement Registration Form (RRF), this will usually be where an accompanying parent does not hold sole custody of a dependent child/children. Where UNHCR have identified concerns, a BIA must be provided either within the RRF or as a standalone document. This will set out why the child should be resettled with the parent who does not hold sole custody. If a BIA cannot be located UNHCR should be asked to provide one in order to proceed. A BID is required where the child/children are no longer with their biological parents i.e., orphaned/ separated and would follow the same process as a BIA.

Minor Marriage

The UK will not accept referrals where either both or one of the married individuals is under 18 years. However, if there was a submission including a child spouse in exceptional circumstances, the Home Office will expect to receive a BIA or BID to support the application. Where a spouse was married in their original country or host country under the age of 18, UNHCR must provide confirmation that they have extensively interviewed the spouse and that officials are satisfied that the spouse is content to resettlement with their partner.

Refugees with psychosocial, intellectual, sensory, or physical disabilities or a serious medical condition

There are some limitations concerning sourcing suitable accommodation for mobility limited individuals and availability at relevant National Health Service (NHS) branches for specific medical needs.

The number of cases with complex needs that can be referred is agreed between the Home Office and UNHCR. This number will be subject to factors such as the availability of suitable accommodation in the UK. Complex for these purposes means refugee families with at least one person who has mobility issues, a serious medical condition, psychological or special educational needs.

Eligibility for the UKRS and Pathway 2 of the ACRS is assessed against the UNHCR vulnerability criteria including survivors of torture or violence, serious medical needs and legal and or physical protection needs.

Migration Health Assessments (MHAs) and mobility assessments are conducted by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and provided to local authorities and



community sponsorship groups in order that appropriate care and follow up appointments can be arranged for the refugees concerned on arrival. IOM officials may also inform where an individual is resettled, for example if they have mobility issues or have a health condition which requires specialist treatment.

Assessments of individuals who are survivors of violence or torture are conducted as part of the normal process. It is important that RRF are as explicit as possible in respect of the refugees' mental health issues as a result of violence and/or torture, so that preparations for potential treatment can be made.

Refugees who have tuberculosis (TB) will not be resettled in the UK until their condition is assessed as being latent. Accommodation for families with serious mobility conditions (including cases needing wheelchair properties) is limited in the UK. Special Education Needs (SEN) and mental health provision can also limit the locations where families can be resettled.

Explain any limitations on resettlement consideration of large refugee families and/or single adults.

UNHCR will contact the Home Office on any cases involving family groups larger than six people before formal submission or will confirm that the family is content to be split if ages permit. This limit has been imposed due to restrictions on available accommodation.

Larger families can still be considered if the family composition is such that the family can be split over two or more properties (e.g., adult dependants living separately). UNHCR must counsel the family about splitting and confirm this in Section 7 of the RRF.

If a family increases to over six persons due to a new birth once a case has been formally accepted, the Home Office will still accept the case but will request that the UNHCR obtain confirmation on whether the family would be okay to be split.

Both UKRS and ACRS Pathway 2 accept single adults for resettlement – either individually or as a linked case to another case(s).

A signed single status marital declaration (SSMD) must be submitted for all single people aged 18 and over by UNHCR officials, this should be listed in section 9 of the RRF. Additionally, officials should counsel individual adults about the housing situation in the UK and their confirmation to share property, this should be included in Section 7 of the RRF.

Single people who are submitted individually may be required to share a property with other individuals they have not met (e.g., in a house of multiple occupation, otherwise referred to as HMOs). This will be arranged by the Home Office with sensitivity and consideration for cultural and religious differences.

Single people submitted as part of a linked case may be asked by the Home Office to share a property with their wider family or to live separately depending on the housing situation



in the UK. Individual housing for single people under 35 is very limited in the UK due to high rental costs.

Polygamous Marriage

The UK does not accept referrals of polygamous marriage. Where this information comes to light from anyone other than UNHCR, then confirmation should be obtained from UNHCR. If polygamy is confirmed by UNHCR, the Home Office will request that the case be withdrawn.

7. Dossier Selection Processing

UNHCR will conduct a full Refugee Status Determination (RSD) and resettlement consideration. Having determined that the individual is a refugee, UNHCR will then consider whether resettlement is the right long-term solution for them, and then to which country or resettlement scheme they should be referred. If UNHCR considers that an individual should be referred to the UK for resettlement, they will send the Home Office a Resettlement Registration Form (RRF) which confirms, in Section 4, that the individual has been determined by UNHCR to be a refugee according to the terms of the 1951 Convention. The RRF is a summary of both the RSD and the resettlement consideration. This is processed by the resettlement case workers in the Home Office, who determine whether the case should be accepted for resettlement to the UK. All UK resettlement cases are dealt with on a dossier basis.

Home Office caseworkers assess the eligibility of referrals through a case working process and commissioning relevant screening and security checks. Caseworkers will also consider other aspects of the case, including medical and safeguarding needs.

UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Community Sponsorship, Mandate and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) Pathway 2 are eligible to be received on a dossier basis. Referrals can be sent to unhcrsubmissions@homeoffice.gov.uk

8. Interview Selection Processing

The UK does not conduct an interview as part of the selection process.

9. Processing Timeframes

Policies for receiving emergency and/or urgent submissions

The UK does not have an emergency resettlement quota, but in certain circumstances is able to prioritise urgent cases.

Once the UK has accepted a case, they will inform the UNHCR via an email. This is subject to suitable accommodation being identified and further security checks. Once accommodation has been agreed, Home Office caseworkers will request the issuing of a visa from the relevant British Diplomatic post. The Home Office will also request that the



International Organisation for Migration (IOM) make travel arrangements, including pre departure medical checks and arrange cultural orientation, if it has not already been provided.

The time required for the Home Office to process a resettlement application is dependent upon a number of factors, e.g. urgency, complexity, accommodation requirements, requests for additional information and health assessments results.

10. Pre-departure Arrangements

Pre-departure Medical Screening

All cases, under all UK resettlement programmes, are health screened before the UK decides and International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is contracted to conduct this screening. IOM conduct the screening in accordance with a health protocol agreed by Home Office and UK's public health authorities. IOM prepare a Migration Health Assessment (MHA) which informs the consideration decision. IOM also carry out pre-departure health checks shortly before the flight and IOM will provide a medical escort to accompany refugees from the country of departure to the UK as necessary.

Required Pre-departure Treatment

IOM, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and the Home Office have produced a [health protocol document](#) as guidance on the aim, objectives and scope of pre-entry health assessment for refugees who are resettled in the UK

Pre-departure Orientation

Refugees aged 14 and above resettled via the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Community Sponsorship and Pathway 2 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) are invited to attend a 3-day pre-departure cultural orientation session delivered by IOM which gives them the opportunity to acquire information they will need when they arrive in the UK. Children and young people aged 5-18 are invited to attend at least 2 hours of age-appropriate pre-departure child cultural orientation. This is complemented by further briefing on arrival in the UK.

IOM tailor their sessions to suit individual needs, including developing new sessions for requested nationalities or in specific sectors.

Under the Mandate Resettlement scheme, there is no cultural orientation as the scheme relies on the refugees' relative(s) to confirm that they will facilitate integration.

Travel Arrangements and Documents

IOM are commissioned to provide refugees with the assistance they need in order that they can depart for the UK on the agreed resettlement date. This includes applying for a UK visa; accompanying refugees to UK visa application centres in order that biometrics

can be enrolled; booking flights; arranging exit permits from the host country in liaison with UNHCR; and confirming that refugees are fit to travel.

Caseworkers in the Home Office will arrange for UNHCR referred individuals to travel to the UK six to ten weeks after they have been allocated accommodation (depending on the host country exit permit process). This can be on a scheduled or chartered flight. IOM will send an escort to accompany families to the UK and they will be greeted by representatives from the local authority or community sponsorship group on arrival.

Under the Mandate scheme, the Home Office can cover the cost of flights to the UK where the individual cannot afford to do so and IOM will provide an escort for particularly vulnerable individuals or families. They will be greeted by their relatives at the airport on arrival.

11. Reception and Integration

Overview

Individuals resettled under the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Community Sponsorship and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) will be provided with support from a range of providers, including community sponsorship groups, NGOs, and the local authorities in which they are resettled.

Support providers will appoint named individuals who will help the family to register with local schools and English language training, attend Job Centre Plus appointments for benefit assessments, register with a local healthcare provider, provide advice around and referral to appropriate mental health services and to specialist services for victims of torture, and assist with access to employment.

Placement

The UKRS and Pathway 2 of the ACRS are delivered in close partnership with local authorities from whom we receive offers of accommodation. Refugees are matched to a local authority that can provide suitable accommodation and the appropriate support for those being resettled. Through Community Sponsorship, refugees are allocated to a suitable community group who has been formally approved as a sponsor. Local authorities must consent to each Community Sponsorship application and agree to the group accepting the proposed refugee family. Refugees resettled through the Mandate Resettlement Scheme are accommodated and supported by a family member living in the UK. Unaccompanied children who are resettled to the UK will be placed with a local authority via the National Transfer Scheme.

Reception

The UK's central government provides funding to local authorities and community sponsors to cover resettlement and integration costs for those who arrive through the UKRS and the ACRS. In the first year, funding is also provided so children can attend



school and adults can access English language training. Additional funding is provided for childcare so resettled adults can attend language training.

Orientation

Prior to arrival, refugees are provided a three-day pre-departure cultural orientation session delivered by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) which gives them the opportunity to acquire information they will need when they arrive in the UK.

Adult arrivals are given a “Welcome to the UK Guide” which includes useful information about life in the UK; children and young people are given age-appropriate booklets.

Further briefing and orientation is conducted at a local level on arrival in the UK, led by local authorities, NGOs, and community groups.

Support Services

Individuals who are resettled through the UKRS and Pathway 2 of the ACRS are provided with initial reception arrangements, casework and orientation support including English language provision by the receiving local authority. Accommodation is also provided, but refugees are required to pay rent through a tenancy agreement. Upon arrival, the local authority will assign a caseworker to every resettled family or individual. The caseworker will maintain close contact with the family for the first 12 months to support their well-being and integration. The caseworker will help the family to register with local schools or ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes, attend Job Centre Plus appointments for benefit assessments, register with a local GP, provide advice and referral to appropriate mental health services and to specialist services for victims of torture, and assist with access to employment. This support is funded by central government.

Community sponsors support refugees by identifying housing for them that will be available for a minimum of 24 months. The sponsorship group is also responsible for providing integration support for 12 months akin to the support provided to individuals resettled to local authorities. This includes meeting the family at the airport, providing them with a warm welcome and orientation to the local area, supporting access to medical and social services, English language tuition, supporting attendance and appointments at the local Job Centre plus, assistance with navigating social welfare provision and support towards employment and self-sufficiency. Where a Community Sponsorship breakdown occurs and the group or family are no longer able or willing to continue to offer and accept support, the lead sponsor will make efforts to identify a new support network. Where this is not possible, the local authority will become responsible for supporting the refugee family.

Housing

The UKRS and Pathway 2 of the ACRS are delivered in close partnership with local authorities and community sponsors, who are able to provide offers of accommodation. Refugees are matched to a local authority that can provide suitable accommodation and the appropriate support for those being resettled. Through Community Sponsorship,



refugees are allocated to a suitable community group who has been formally approved as a sponsor. Refugees resettled through the Mandate Resettlement Scheme are accommodated and supported by a family member living in the UK. Unaccompanied children who are resettled to the UK will be placed with a local authority via the National Transfer Scheme.

Health

Local authorities and community sponsors are provided with funding to cover healthcare for families arriving through the UKRS and ACRS. Refugees access healthcare via the National Health Service (NHS) free of charge and are registered with local healthcare provision and other healthcare providers in line with identified medical needs. Advice around and referral to appropriate mental health services and to specialist services for victims of torture is provided as appropriate.

Language

Guidance and information on the English language courses available is offered to individuals resettled under UKRS and Pathway 2 of the ACRS, as part of their long-term resettlement. The Home Office works very closely with other government departments to ensure mainstream English language provision meets the needs of refugees.

The Department for Education (DfE) supports ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) as part of its wider strategy to improve adult literacy in England. Adults who are resettled in the UK are eligible for the same skills funding as any other UK resident and are not subject to the normal three-year qualifying period in England.

In addition, the UK government provides additional funding to local authorities to enable adults resettled through the UKRS and ACRS to access language tuition and integrate into British society. The additional funding for English language training will mean all adults arriving through the schemes anywhere in the UK will receive a minimum of eight hours' tuition a week in their first year.

Education

Education for those between the ages of 5 and 16 years is compulsory across the UK. Additionally, in England, children aged 16-18 must be in full-time education or work with an educational component. Resettled refugee children are given the same access to education as anyone living in the UK. Information is also given on facilities and services for pre-school and under five years.

Resettled individuals have access to higher education in the UK but access to student finance differs depending on immigration status.

Employment

Resettled refugees have immediate access to the labour market and welfare benefits. If in receipt of Universal Credit, they can receive employment support from the Department



for Work and Pensions.

The Home Office works with Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Jobcentre Plus Network and local employers to understand the needs of refugees and facilitate their journey into employment.

Financial Assistance

Resettled refugees have an immediate right to work and access to mainstream welfare benefits, dependent on their circumstances and whether they meet the relevant DWP criteria for the specific benefit for which they are applying.

Supporting Specific Needs

All refugees in the UK have immediate access to mainstream services that support their integration, including benefits and healthcare. Refugees are able to access healthcare via the National Health Service (NHS) free of charge.

Local authorities have a duty to protect individuals in their care. The Care Act 2014 put adult safeguarding on a legal footing and established that each local authority must set up Adult Safeguarding Boards with multi-agency membership including local partners and the Police.

In addition, upon arrival, the local authority assigns a caseworker to every resettled family/individual, who maintains close contact with the family for the first 12 months to support their wellbeing and integration.

Refugee Family Reunion

The Government provides a safe and legal route to bring families together through its family reunion policy. This allows a partner or spouse and children under 18 of those granted protection in the UK to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country. This policy also provides for adult children to join their parent with protection status in exceptional circumstances.

There are separate provisions which also allow extended family to sponsor children to come to the UK where there are serious and compelling circumstances.

Further information on how to apply for refugee family reunion can be found [here](#).

12. References & Resources on resettlement

Further information on the UK's Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) referral pathways can be found here:

[Afghan citizens resettlement scheme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)



Further information on the UK's Community Sponsorship scheme can be found here:
[Apply for community sponsorship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-community-sponsorship)

[Indefinite leave to remain \(refugee, humanitarian protection or Discretionary Leave\):
Family reunion - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/indefinite-leave-to-remain-refugee-humanitarian-protection-or-discretionary-leave)

Addendum on complementary pathways

Refugee Labour Mobility

Home Office pilot

The UK Home Office's Displaced Talent Mobility pilot was announced in July 2021. The pilot, delivered in partnership with Talent Beyond Boundaries, helps talented and skilled people, who have had to flee their homes, to safely and legally come to the UK. The pilot is in addition to our resettlement schemes, which have brought tens of thousands of at-risk individuals into the UK.

Up to 200 people from Jordan, Lebanon and Afghanistan will be supported to get sponsored by a UK employer and apply for a skilled worker visa under the UK's points-based immigration system. Candidates will need to pay the fees and meet all the requirements for a visa, such as speaking English language, and the Home Office provides free priority visa processing for displaced talent applicants.

The pilot is largely focused on those working in industries where there are shortages, such as engineers and IT professionals, and the findings will be used to inform what further support can be provided to skilled displaced people going forward.

Department for Health and Social Care pilots

The Department of Health and Social Care and NHS have worked to develop programmes to match employers with displaced nurses in Lebanon and Jordan through Talent Beyond Boundaries. The North West Refugee Nurse Programme has supported nurses through a fast-tracked four-week residential pilot course and into roles across England. The scheme won the Gold Award for Community Partnership Working at the Global Good Awards in recognition of its work to support refugee nurses with the process of becoming registered nurses in the UK and gaining employment commensurate with their skills and experiences. Work is now ongoing to embed this recruitment route and its learning.

Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy

In addition to the three referral pathways of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) the UK introduced the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme, on 29 December 2020. It has already settled thousands of Afghans who have worked with the UK government, in line with the New Plan for Immigration. The Scheme offers relocation or other assistance to former Locally Employed Staff (LES) in Afghanistan to reflect the changing situation in the country.



Afghan citizens who are eligible for relocation to the UK under the ARAP may relocate with a partner, dependent children and additional family members who are also deemed eligible for relocation under the ARAP by the Ministry of Defence and suitable for relocation by the Home Office.

The ARAP was launched on 1 April 2021 and remains open. It follows the former intimidation policy (in place from 2010 to 2013), and ex-gratia scheme (in place between 2013 and 30 November 2022).

Those who believe they are eligible under the ARAP should apply by using the [online ARAP application form](#). This application can be made from any country.

The ARAP does not recognise an obligation, or imply a commitment, to assist those who worked for or with the UK Government in other countries or theatres of operation, past, present or future.

The ARAP Immigration Rules can be found here: [Immigration Rules: Appendix ARAP](#).

The Ukraine Schemes

In March 2022, the UK put forward three Ukraine schemes to support Ukrainians forced to flee their country;

Ukraine Family Scheme: The Ukraine Family Scheme allows immediate and extended family members of British nationals, people settled in the UK, and certain others resident, to come to, or remain in the UK for up to three years.

Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) Homes for Ukraine is a visa rather than a refugee scheme. Homes for Ukraine is an uncapped humanitarian sponsorship pathway, a route to the UK for Ukrainians who may not have family ties here but are matched with individuals who can provide accommodation for at least six months.

Ukraine Extension Scheme: The Ukraine Extension Scheme allows those already in the UK to extend their visa and remain for up to three years.

Information on visa application can be found here: [Apply for a visa under the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme \(Homes for Ukraine\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)