

Homes for Ukraine: SDC's role



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Housing Renewal Manager

Local data on sponsors and guests



- To date 297 visa applications have been made by guests
- This equates to **114** property check referrals received
- **102** properties have been visited.
- Of these 7 are still awaiting for the host to take some action before the property can be signed off.
- Holiday season is slowing down the rate of response

The process...

Receive list of host and guest details from Foundry platform



Arrange visit to host property



Inspect property for hazards using the Housing Health & Safety Rating System




Advise host how to rectify hazards



Provide feedback to GCC and government



£350 released to host after checks are marked as complete



102 out of
114 checks
completed

Who is involved in Stroud's accommodation checks

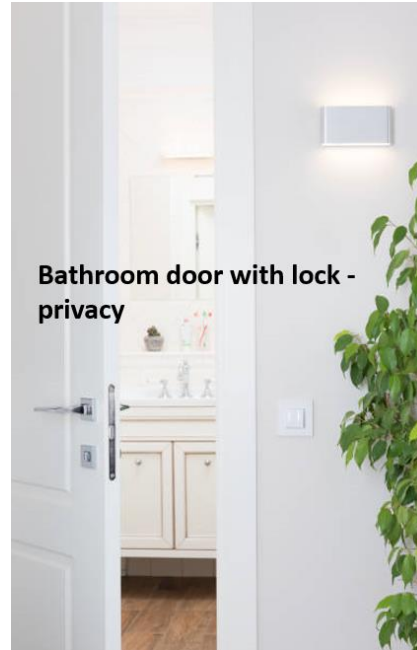
- Housing Renewal Team – Maria Hickman, Simon Harris, Rachael Locke, Calum Allan (they can help with questions about property checks)
- Supported by Hollie Gittins, her business support team and Tom Brown
- Payments issued by Simon Killen's Revenue and Benefits team
- One Council approach with meeting chaired by Pippa

Homes for Ukraine: Accommodation checks

- Does the accommodation exist?
- Is it safe, secure and appropriate?
- Are there any housing health and safety hazards that could harm health or welfare e.g. overcrowding, gas and electrical safety, fire, falls?

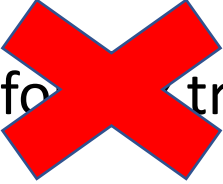


Examples of hazards checked



Homes for Ukraine: Accommodation checks

- Are there any safeguarding red flags? space standards, room numbers and ages of occupants

- 'Tinder for  traffickers?'



Accommodation checks - findings



5 properties being followed up



3 properties being followed up

Plus one property needs to convert dining room to bedroom



Challenges



- Most properties are of high quality and suitable for Ukrainian guests
- Some hazards to assess that we don't usually encounter such as swimming pools.
- Safeguarding risks include:
 - Unaccompanied minors
 - Children over the age of 10 sharing a room with someone of the opposite sex (gov website mistakenly indicates this is acceptable up to age of 18)
 - Single men requesting to be matched with lone females

Challenges

- Slowness of scheme – pressure from hosts to inspect their accommodation
- Resource capacity – this work is in addition to usual service demands
- Need to get host payments processed and paid, although the LAs won't receive funds until the end of June
- Longer term problem of matches breaking down; we are already seeing the first of these and pressure is increasing on the Housing Advice Team.
- What happens after the six month initial period with hosts? How do we house refugees in the longer term?



Challenges

- We've seen the first homeless case for a Ukrainian household; an inter-generational family of 7 asked to leave by their hosts
- Some hosts are asking what happens after the initial six-month period
- Ukrainian refugees have full housing and homelessness rights
- No vacant housing stock in the affordable sector and our private rented market locally is very expensive



Thank You and Questions