

#### **ECYE45. Support for Children Seeking Asylum or Fleeing War in Ukraine**

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on children who were seeking asylum through the National Transfer Scheme and children the Council was supporting who were seeking refuge from the war in Ukraine.

Children accommodated under the National Transfer Scheme had "looked after status" and the local authority had the same statutory responsibilities to these children as for any other looked after child. The local authority was required to identify a worker to take the Lead Professional role for each child and, to date, this has been registered Social Workers. The key responsibilities were:-

- To identify a suitable placement that met the needs of the young person
- Meet the child within 72 hours of arrival, preferably within 24 hours to ensure their immediate needs were being met
- Support the young person to settle into their new life and ensure that their cultural and religious needs were met
- Arrange an initial health assessment
- Refer to the Scottish Guardianship Service and provide ongoing support through the asylum-seeking process
- Arrange enrolment in education
- Arrange for interpretation/translation services
- Visit the child on a regular basis
- Arrange and attend multi- agency Looked After Reviews, providing an assessment in advance
- Lead on the Child's Plan.

Ukrainian children enrolled in Falkirk schools required additional educational support where English was not their first language. It took time to determine the needs of individual children and to develop a bespoke educational support plan. This was done in the absence of additional resources to support educational establishments to fulfil their responsibilities.

The Home Office had agreed to provide additional funding to local authorities to provide education services for children from families arriving from Ukraine. Based on the 66 pupils in Falkirk schools there was due to be received, subject to audit checks, c.£325,000. As schools were currently assessing individual pupils additional needs it was too early to estimate what the overall additional costs would be. To provide the appropriate levels of support for children from the National Transfer Scheme and Ukrainian Resettlement Scheme, the Service proposed to utilise the additional funding to increase resources on a temporary basis within the following areas:-

- Teachers
- Support for Learning Assistants
- Social Work Assistants

- Community Education Workers
- Central Support Co-ordinator.

### **Decision**

#### **The Education, Children and Young People Executive:-**

- (1) agreed that under the circumstances that the Director of Children's Services can under delegated authority be allowed to both flexibly use existing resources and recruit additional resources within the areas outlined in sections 7.5 and 7.7 of the report in support of our statutory responsibilities to these children and young people, and**
- (2) requested that a report providing further details on how Falkirk is supporting these children and young people be presented later in 2023.**