

New Communities

Resettlement Programme

About the Fund

Staffordshire has a long and proud history of helping those who have had no choice but to flee war and persecution. Staffordshire citizens have stepped up in their hundreds to help people fleeing war, persecution and violence in their own country. Staffordshire County Council has been part of the UK Governments Resettlement programmes since 2016. The Local Authority has been supporting Ukrainians since the Government launched the Homes for Ukraine scheme in March 2022 and Afghans who have resettled in Staffordshire under the ARAP, ACRS and ARP schemes since October 2021. They are now also supporting BNO – Hong Kong people who have also settled in Staffordshire.

To date, the Council are currently supporting over 757 Ukrainian guests as part of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. These Ukrainian guests are either currently being supported by a Sponsor within the Sponsors accommodation, or they have already moved to live independently in their own accommodation. Currently, the Council is also currently supporting 202 Afghans as part of the ARAP, ACRS and ARP schemes.

We are aware that at least 300 Hong Kong BNO's have settled in Staffordshire but figures are not available for the actual numbers of individuals.

Staffordshire County Council is supporting Ukrainian, Afghan and Hong Kong individuals who have entered the country as part of the Homes for Ukraine, ARAP and ACRS, ARP and Hong Kong BNO schemes to integrate into their new lives in Staffordshire and to become fully independent.

Aims of the fund

The panel are keen to explore some innovative and creative projects which support these communities.

Grant Scheme Projects should look to achieve these outcomes

a) Families and individuals:

- Can easily access varied ESOL opportunities delivered in a number of settings and platforms around the county in all 8 Districts
- Have clear and supported pathways into jobs and long-term careers, which includes education and training, work experience, volunteering and links to employers
- Have the resources to sustain themselves and their family's financial independence
- Realise positive physical health
- Realise positive emotional health and wellbeing, as well as know how, when and where to seek help

- Engagement with local communities and networks of support via activities, events and local services to enable refugees to become resilient within their community
- Resettled families are proud of where they are living and celebrate what makes Staffordshire special

b) Environment – places, communities and services where:

- Staffordshire's citizens have a greater awareness of new communities and are better connected to emerging communities and new arrivals
- Staffordshire's citizens are able to access volunteering opportunities which can support and welcome refugees to the County
- Existing refugee communities in Staffordshire are able to connect to and support newly arriving guests and refugees
- Existing refugee communities in Staffordshire are able to share their experiences and build inter-community relationships with new refugees
- Guests and refugees feeling confident about getting involved in their local community and organise their own VCSE groups
- Families are proud of where they live, feel safe and belong

c) Partnerships – connectivity and working together so that:

- All organisations and groups involved in working with and supporting refugees have a better awareness of each other and the activity taking place across the County
- The support provided to guests and refugees is more joined up and coordinated across sectors, organisations and groups
- Guests and refugees have a clear understanding of the services and support available to them
- Guests and refugees are engaged and involved in the development and delivery of all the Resettlement Schemes
- VCSE groups work together to deliver accessible, successful and value for money projects

Who can apply?

- Registered Charities
- Constituted community or voluntary groups
- Social Enterprises
- Any other voluntary, not for profit organisation
- Parish Councils are eligible to apply to develop and deliver new or additional activities, services and events.

Organisations would ideally be established for at least 12 months; new organisations would only be eligible following a discussion with The Community Foundation

Geographic reach

The activity or service must operate within at least one of the 8 Staffordshire districts:

- Staffordshire Moorlands
- Newcastle Under Lyme
- Stafford
- East Staffordshire
- South Staffordshire
- Cannock Chase
- Lichfield
- Tamworth

Applications will also be welcomed for a service that can be delivered across the County via digital means.

Groups based in Stoke on Trent, but who are supporting Ukrainians, Afghans and BNO Hong Kong individuals residing in Staffordshire (excluding Stoke) can apply as long as groups can show engagement is taking place, or can demonstrate plans for engagement.

Projects we can support

Your project will need aim to:

- Give people the right support, at the right time and in the right place so they can live healthier, happier, more independent lives.
- Build safer and more connected communities

We are seeking to support activities that will work with and around the individual resettlement and integration journeys that each guest will take during their initial years in Staffordshire

Staffordshire County Council is looking for activities, events and local services with an evidenced need which will help guests in the resettlement scheme to settle, become independent and fully integrate into their local communities. Applications should address identified gaps in services and support for guests that should include at least one of the following:

Priority Areas

The panel encourage applications to consider the following areas. Projects awarded funds will not be limited to these areas as innovative projects are also welcomed and will be considered.

Priority 1 - English language learning

- Learner focussed informal Pre – Entry/Beginner and Intermediate level sessions both face to face and digital that enable participants to have basic English knowledge to navigate every day tasks such as booking a GP appointment, shopping, travel, liaise with school and the DWP.
- Higher level English projects that support C1 or C2 CEFR framework / Level 2 levels to be proficient at English in all areas. Support for IELTS / OET professional tests.
- Practical days out to practice English in local shops and cafes, navigate travel options, socialise in the group while speaking English.
- 1:1 peripatetic English Language Learning sessions for individuals who find group learning and using IT challenging. These would be time limited as a step into group learning.
- English Language Learning for specific job roles/pathway to employment including but not limited to Health & Care, Construction, Education & Child Care, Business Admin, Retail, Hospitality, IT, warehousing, and classroom assistant.
- Activities that include informal English Language learning for Children & Young People up to 19 years of age to supplement formal education after school, weekend or non-term times.
- Informal Pre – Entry/Beginner and Intermediate level sessions both face to face and digital for children and young people. 16 to 18 year age group has a particular need to enhance their formal learning.

Priority 2 - Pathway to employment and training

- Pathway to Employment programmes both face to face and digital that includes all areas of support for individuals to find employment, including CV writing, job searching, interview practice, mentorship schemes, volunteering opportunities, links with local employers, careers advice, progress a chosen career path, secure training and access to further education or university courses.
- Support for Business Start Ups.
- Support to develop digital literacy, IT knowledge and skills.
- Specific training courses such as HGV, Security, Forklift Truck, Warehouse training, CSCS, Business Admin, Food Hygiene, H&S in construction, Manual Handling, Asbestos awareness and traffic marshalling.

Priority 3 - Community cohesion, independence and integration for adults and children including awareness raising, social connections and events.

- Community, social and/or cultural integration including providing funds to existing projects to enhance the offer to support resettled families attending.
- Children's or young person's activities to enhance local offers.
- Role of women within households to ensure independence and avoid isolation.
- Engagement in local arts & culture

- Support understanding of “Life in the UK”
- Projects where resettled Individuals and groups are actively involved to run them themselves.
- Sustainable projects that have plans to continue once this grant funding ceases.

Priority 4 -Improve guests’ physical health, emotional, health and wellbeing.

- Improved emotional health & wellbeing in a creative way.
- Improved physical health to include active activities and healthy life choices for adults and children
- Support for positive parenting

All applicants will need to indicate how they will engage and ensure participation of resettled Ukrainian guests, hosts or resettled Afghans within their proposals or BNO Hong Kong families and individuals.

Beneficiaries

- Guests who have settled through the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship scheme
- Individuals and families who have settled through the Afghan schemes (ARAP, ACRS and ARP)
- Individuals and families who have settled through BNO Hong Kong scheme.
- Guests residing in the 8 Staffordshire Districts.
- The fund cannot support guests residing in Stoke on Trent or outside Staffordshire. The fund cannot support Ukrainians who are in the UK under the Ukraine Family Scheme or the Ukraine Extension Scheme.
- Homes for Ukraine sponsors, residing in the 8 Staffordshire Districts in order for them to provide support to their Ukrainian guests.
- Any new Home Office resettlement scheme groups that may come online during the grant delivery period and settle in Staffordshire where Staffordshire County Council is providing support.
- Providers must ensure that attendees meet the eligibility criteria shown above

Throughout the delivery of the programme, applications will be assessed against current data relating to placed Ukrainians, Afghans and Hong Kong people living in Staffordshire. Proportionate funding will be awarded using these figures as a guide. Please see the below information regarding numbers of individuals on the different resettlement schemes. These include all those who are no longer receiving direct support from Staffordshire County Council Resettlement Team but can still access the grant scheme offers.

Eligible costs

- Equipment costs – for the project
- Training costs
- Project Costs
- Event Costs
- Staff costs to deliver the project
- Core costs – relating to the project
- Costs of providing the evaluation of the project

Ineligible costs

Funding will not be granted to offset any previous loss in funding. The focus is to facilitate innovation through funding that enables long term improvements for the refugee communities.

There are some types of activities which SCC cannot support. These include:

- Projects which are purely about research
- Costs of ongoing staff who are not working directly on the project – including salaries of permanent or fixed term staff
- Costs incurred in putting the application together
- Core costs of the organisation – (utility bills; rent; management costs etc.) which are not directly related to the project activity
- Contingency costs e.g. funds to provide a source of income or for fundraising activities
- Political or religious activities
- Projects that take place outside of the 8 Staffordshire Districts.
- VAT that you can recover
- Loans or interest payments.
- Purchase of alcohol or illegal substances
- Projects which have already happened, or are going to happen before the decision date for the grant application
- Grants for equipment which your organisation will keep and use after the project has finished– for example, cameras, computers, furniture and fittings for venues, vehicles – or for, constructing, repairing or maintaining a building
- Fundraising activities, events or prizes – e.g. activities which are put on only to raise general money for your organisation – for example a charity auction or raffle
- Projects that include using SCC funds as bursaries to participants or to issue grants to third parties

Grants available

Priority 1 & 2

Grants of between £1,000 – £20,000 are available.

Priority 3 & 4

Grants of between £1,000 to £10,000 are available.

Grants will need to be fully spent and delivery complete by 16th March 2027.

Monitoring Information

Successful organisations will be expected to closely monitor the delivery and success of the project throughout the grant period to ensure that aims and objectives of the project are being met.

Successful organisations will be required to complete a project monitoring form supplied, both during the grant period and at the end of the project that will include outputs and outcomes achieved.

Staffordshire County Council and Community Foundation may visit any project during the delivery period. Priority 1 and 2 projects with awards above £20,000 will be expected to meet with Staffordshire County Council and Community Foundation periodically to review delivery.

Supporting documents

The following documents must be provided with your application forms. If you fail to provide these documents, your application will not be considered for funding. All documents should be submitted at the time of the application:

- **A copy of your governing document**; aligning with your work, which must have a dissolution clause to protect any grant award in the event of closure.
- **A copy of your most recent accounts**; audited or independently examined- if your organisation is not required to have these, a income and expenditure record or financial forecast will be acceptable.
- **A recent bank statement**; this must be in the name of the group applying, dated within the last 3 months and clearly showing the account number and sort code. Partnership working with another organisation who can act as treasurer can be considered for those groups without a bank account.
- **A copy of your safeguarding policy**
- **A copy of your equality and diversity / equal opportunities policy**