

## **UKRAINIAN FOCUS GROUP RESEARCH REPORT**

### **Background**

TEO is currently delivering a programme of work in response to the Humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. The Homes for Ukraine scheme is a completely new way of facilitating the arrival of refugees here. 1,819 Ukrainian refugees have been welcomed and supported to date. This is a combination of people arriving in Northern Ireland under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and the Family Scheme.

A number of initial support processes have already been established including Ukraine Assistance Centres which have been operational since 11 April 2022, online cash support payment of £200 for guests to help cover essential living expenses until payment from work or benefits are received and £350 thank you payments for hosts.

Work is ongoing to put in place a support infrastructure for Ukrainian refugees and hosts and expand this to incorporate support for all refugees and asylum seekers to facilitate longer term integration plans aligned to the draft Refugee Integration Strategy.

### **What is the Ukrainian Focus Group Research Report?**

In May 2022, TEO commissioned Business Consultancy Services in the Department of Finance to carry out research into the initial arrangements TEO has place under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme to ensure we are delivering the appropriate level of support to facilitate the transition to life here and to identify any gaps in our current processes and any learning points. Four focus groups were held virtually – two with Ukrainian guests and two with hosts from the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and a number of suggestions for improvement were made.

The Ukrainian Focus Group Action Plan was developed from the feedback received in the report and outlines the current position against the recommendations. Some of these suggestions have already been implemented and work is ongoing to take the others forward. The plan will be updated as the suggestions are progressed.