



FAQs – Community

How long will families be here?

Refugees have the right to remain in the UK for a minimum of 3 years. Our experience tells us many refugees choose to move on from their initial accommodation before that, once they find their feet in the UK.

The families being accommodated in Cornwall are through the ACRS/ARAP schemes which offers indefinite leave to remain and British citizenship after 5 years in the UK to those who have assisted the UK efforts in Afghanistan and are at risk of persecution. The local authority is funded by the Home Office to work with the families for up to 3 years to support and facilitate resettlement.

Why weren't we consulted?

The Housing has been funded via the Home Office and, it is an additional fund and none of the properties have come from Local Authority Housing stock, simply without these families arriving they would not have been purchased. Cornwall is mandated and funded by Central Government to provide accommodation and support for families across Cornwall.

The Council are legally obliged under the Housing Act to have an allocations policy that is available and transparent to all. These properties do not fall under the Allocations Policy and are being delivered through the Local Authority Housing Fund which has been made available through central government for this sole purpose and are not taken from general needs housing. After the needs of the original cohort (ACRS/ARAP) have been met they will revert to general needs houses, which will increase the stock of affordable homes for Cornish residents.

The new residents are entitled to privacy and anonymity the same as anyone else – there isn't a consultation for anyone else that moves into an area.

Why here?

We are meeting Government requirements for every Local Authority to provide resettlement opportunities.

Areas across Cornwall have been selected based on housing stock availability, local market conditions. Your area had the right type of property available at the right price at the right time. We appreciate that all areas across Cornwall have high housing demand levels and that many people are forced out of area due to lack of affordable housing, the funding does not take away from funding that would otherwise be put into other local housing stock.

Why so many?

The Resettlement Service has bought properties across Cornwall for use by Afghan refugees under the Government Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme. Cornwall Council has been mandated by Central Government as have all Local Authorities to provide homes and resettlement for all families.

Who are the families? How many are we resettling in Cornwall?

We expect to resettle over 30 families through the Afghan schemes over the coming years. They are all people who have either been employed by the British Government in Afghanistan, or who helped support the British Government's work in Afghanistan, or for whom it is not safe for them to be in Afghanistan. They have all been through an intensive vetting process and the Government has confirmed that they present no risks to personal safety and security.

What can we do to help?



Welcome them, they will be more frightened arriving than you are of them arriving.

We have been welcoming families in other areas of Cornwall since December, families that have skilled mechanics, seamstresses, trainee doctors, midwives, translators, security staff, embassy staff and legal professionals. Whilst improving their English many have begun volunteering and continue to do so in their community after finding work. They have joined cricket clubs, football clubs and made friends in their communities, schools and colleges. They have come with an ambition to thrive and support their families in a home where they begin to settle and escape the trauma, torture and loss of their heart-breaking journeys.

Be a neighbour, be kind, be helpful.

Let the families know of opportunities, be the person you would be if a new family were arriving next door under any other circumstances.

What about security? How are we to feel safe?

Any Afghan citizens resettled in the UK undergo thorough and comprehensive security screening by Home Office and National Crime Agency. The new arrivals in Cornwall have all successfully completed this intensive vetting process and the Government has confirmed that they present no risks to personal safety and security.

As new families arrive they may not feel safe at first in our communities as the journey for them has not been an easy one.

How much are you spending on all this?

All UK Government schemes to resettle refugees are fully funded by central government. The Government use 'Local Government Tariff' formulas to calculate how much they allocate per refugee, and the funding received depends on how many refugees are resettled from where in what time period. These can be found here:

[Funding boost for councils as new Afghan resettlement plans set out - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-boost-for-councils-as-new-afghan-resettlement-plans-set-out)

[Homes for Ukraine \(2022-23\) local authority tariff payment grant determination No. 31/6205 \(England\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/homes-for-ukraine-2022-23-local-authority-tariff-payment-grant-determination-no-316205)

[Funding for councils: Homes for Ukraine - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-for-councils-homes-for-ukraine)

It is important to understand the Resettlement Service does not cost Cornwall Council or other local services anything extra, as all funding is provided direct from central government.

If you wish to learn more please visit:

[Refugee Resettlement - Cornwall Council](#)

Where is the Resettlement Service based? Where do we find you?

It is based Countywide and can be contacted via the Resettlement inbox -9-5 – Mon – Fri

resettlementservice@cornwall.gov.uk

Thank you