


Refugees Welcome Cheshire East

Risk Assessment – Organisation/volunteers

Responsible Person: Nicky Campbell, Chair of Trustees. Competent Person: Estelle Worthington, Supervisor (CVSCE)

Directorate:	Refugees Welcome	Version of form	V4	Name of Assessor Estelle Worthington CVSCE/ Anne Towers Trustee	Signature 	Date Oct 24
Assessment of risk for:		Volunteering for Refugees Welcome				
No.	Potential Hazard	Groups of People at Risk	Existing Control Measures	Risk Priority	Additional Controls Required to Minimise Risk	
1	<u>Lone volunteering</u>	<p>RW volunteers who live alone. The volunteer co-ordinator has identified such volunteers as they come on to the team for all projects</p> <p><i>The issue is that if anything happened to the volunteer nobody would be alerted as they live alone.</i></p>	<p>The volunteer knows the family and has been 'working' with them for a period of time and feels confident in their relationship with the family. The volunteer has a personal mobile phone, the volunteer co-ordinator has their number and a list is on Teams which the Volunteer Programme Manager has access to also.</p>	L	<p>Volunteers need to be aware of the Lone Working Policy and to be responsible about making lone visits with regard to their safety</p> <p>All volunteers to try to ensure someone is aware of when they are visiting the family and time of return i.e. family or 'Buddy Volunteer'. Newer projects can replicate this Buddy system at the start of the project as required until volunteers are confident to visit alone. None of the visits are to remote places. No lone working with children.</p>	

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2	<u>Personal contacts / Communication/ Data Breach</u>	<p>Volunteers</p> <p>Those who have agreed to share personal contact details and may be at risk of intrusive contact at inappropriate times.</p> <p>Use of 'WhatsApp' for communication with the families</p>	<p>Volunteers will be allowed to share their contact details with the families if they wish to and feel comfortable to do so. It is not expected that they do.</p> <p>All sharing of personal details has to be at the own risk of the volunteers</p> <p>For UkraineScheme contact is via Ukraine Café email group and Telegram group</p> <p>'WhatsApp' groups for any project should be for the purpose of offering support by volunteers or for communication between volunteers. They need to be for a specific purpose and not used for general socialising by volunteers.</p> <p>As set out in the Policy and Guidelines for RW</p>	<p>L</p> <p>L/M</p> <p>L</p>	<p>The families will be asked when they arrive what is the preferred method of communication. Many of these Afghan families use WhatsApp. Most Ukrainians have email.</p> <p>Risk of contact at inappropriate times. Volunteers to make clear when it is appropriate for family members to call and suggest maintaining email contact as standard so volunteers and Trustees are able to decide when to respond. In an emergency the families should contact any volunteer, Trustee or CVSCE supervisor as soon as possible.</p> <p>Use of 'WhatsApp' by volunteers only if requested by the family, where approved by Trustee lead. For teaching and homeschooling or for general communication. Volunteers to sign up to Guidelines agreeing that any 'WhatsApp' chat between volunteers and family will be exported to a different platform on request so that the interaction can be scrutinized. Any 'WhatsApp' video with children for home schooling to be overseen by a parent at all times.</p>

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		<p>Sharing of personal data, phone email WhatsApp groups. Volunteers need to be aware that their contact details can be misused for malicious or derogatory communication.</p> <p>Telegram for Ukraine Guests</p> <p>Volunteers sending email messages re families</p>	<p>Volunteers need to put in safeguards for group chats. See policies and Guidelines.</p> <p>For the giving of relevant information and organising social events for inclusion and integration</p> <p>Volunteers and Families to be reminded to maintain confidentiality, not to share unnecessary details. Sharing only with Family consent.</p>	L/M	<p>Volunteers to make clear to families and others the purpose and boundaries of the contact</p> <p>Put in clear boundaries for the use of contact details in each case. Groups are closed and are not available to general use by people outside the RW and families as required, and in line with the policies and guidelines of RW.</p> <p>Only those giving permission to be added to the group. Closed group. Guidelines as above apply</p> <p>Emails not to contain family names in the subject bar, all information needed to be saved in a document on a password protected device and only retained for as long as necessary. Emails to be deleted + deleted box.</p>

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3	<u>Travel / driving/</u>	<p>Volunteers with VPRS Syrian families, CSS families and Afghan Families and Ukrainian families.</p> <p>Task volunteers aiding Ukrainian guests to access social activities.</p>	<p>The volunteers have been instructed to take their family in their cars only if it is necessary e.g. where public transport is not possible, e.g.hospital visits.</p> <p>Only where this is agreed in advance by the volunteers.</p>	L	<p>Volunteers do not transport younger children who need car/booster seats and older children without a parent present. There may be occasional very exceptional circumstances when the correct car/booster seat is sourced and parents remain responsible. This is happening more informally with the Ukraine guests but the rules re car seats and parental presence always apply.</p> <p>Volunteers are not to be treated as a taxi service available at short notice.</p>
4	<u>End of CEC contracted projects</u>	Volunteers after the Syrian, Afghan and Ukrainian contracts have now ended.	Volunteers may continue to support Syrian, Afghan and Ukrainian families as part of the wider work of Refugees Welcome as before.	L	Work with Syrian and Afghan Refugees and Ukrainian evacuees is at the discretion and choice of individual volunteers but will be fully supported by Refugees Welcome Polices .

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5.	<u>Financial risk</u>	<p>Volunteers and RW Syrian families.</p> <p>Volunteers with CSS and Afghan Scheme families, Ukrainian guests</p> <p>All RW projects</p>	<p>Volunteers do not manage any financial situations on behalf of the families nor do they handle cash or have access to their bank accounts.</p> <p>Volunteers can help to set up bank accounts and service contracts for these projects but should have no ongoing responsibility beyond advice and support for the family finances.</p> <p>Family finances kept separate no responsibility to pay for things for the family</p>	L	<p>RW volunteers may refer or signpost to trusted third parties (Cheshire East Council, Jobcentre, CAB, Debt advice services or appropriate third sector services) where families require help with welfare advice or managing their finances, but may accompany them to appointments and assist them in acting on advice received from qualified advisers.</p> <p>This is different for the CSS and Afghan Scheme where there is no council involvement after the family is settled, Involvement at the Volunteers discretion.</p> <p>On a practical basis the volunteers are asked that the family pay for their taxis/ refreshments even if the volunteers accompany them. There is no expectation for the volunteers to pay for anything for the families. Any volunteers who chose to do this do so at their own risk. In specific circumstances (e.g. buying school uniform), volunteers may obtain prior permission from RW Trustees to purchase items for the family and claim the cost back via a volunteer expense claim.</p>
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6.	<u>Tasks – gardening, moving house</u>	Task Volunteers and all RW Projects Those helping with moving furniture and resources for Ukrainian and other families	All task volunteers are covered by RW insurance and are only asked to do practical tasks that they feel able to do e.g. gardening. This to be done mainly through the CAUSN volunteers. Manual handling information to be given to those involved at Induction.	M	There is a small team of task volunteers who have helped with gardening in the last 12 months but going forward it will be the responsibility of each family to maintain their garden to comply with the tenancy agreement. If volunteers do help with gardening they take their own equipment. Task volunteers may also be asked to help with any house moves in the future. At own risk, people only to offer support in this role where they feel able and competent to do so. All volunteers to be mindful of the Health & Safety Policy, manual handling information for HSE and take account of their own limitations. Manual handling information will be supplied by the CVSCE Supervisor. RW does not offer Manual Handling Training
7.	<u>Covid 19 Situation</u>	All RW Volunteers	The Covid restrictions are now ended , but volunteers are asked to be aware that they may still have this or other viruses normal for the time of year	L	All volunteers to take responsibility for their health and the health of the groups they work with and take sensible precautions/decisions about work with groups/individuals if they are unwell.

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8.	<u>Ukraine Cafe</u>	<p>Volunteers and Guests at the Café Health and Safety</p> <p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Security and confidentiality</p>	<p>When hosting the Café ensure that the Attendance register /Fire risk register is completed. New contact form completed and signed when people first visit.</p> <p>Serving of refreshments</p> <p>Display policies and RA</p> <p>Children and young people going outside the building.</p> <p>Visitors</p>	L/M	<p>Attendance register to be completed for all guests hosts and visitors. Make sure that all volunteers from RW and St Michael's are recorded so we have an accurate record of when/ who attended. This information to be given to the lead volunteer at the end of the session to be securely recorded and stored with any new contact forms and sent to CVSCE.</p> <p>Coffee to be served at a table near the kitchen to avoid trays being used and potential for spillages and injury.</p> <p>Adult and Children & YP Polices to be displayed, plus risk assessment. A separate RA for the Café is in place and displayed at the venue.</p> <p>All guests need to take responsibility for the whereabouts of children at all times, RW volunteers are not responsible for their safety if they leave the room.</p> <p>All volunteers to be identified by wearing a badge. No visitor to be issued with a badge if they are not a RW or St Michael's volunteer so the Ukrainian guests know who is a valid volunteer.</p>
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					Ensure all visitors are recorded on the form, and we have checked why they are there. If anyone is unhappy about the visitor, request a volunteer to shadow them and encourage them to leave. Ensure they do not have access to any information about the people present i.e contact details
9.	<u>Ukraine Evacuees and hosts.</u>	GDPR/ Storage of data	All Hosts and evacuees we are made aware of should be asked to consent to their contact details being shared. All data collected will be stored by CVSCE in-line with all other data storage for RW.	L	Contact details to be shared on a need to know basis, for any required support. Volunteers will not be given information that is not necessary to their role.

Risk Priority:	High: Accident likely with possibility of serious injury or loss Medium: Possibility of accident occurring causing minor injury or loss Low: Accident unlikely with control measures in place
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RISK ASSESSMENT CONTINUED – FOLLOW UP ACTIONS

				1.2.21	Follow up Actions	Reviewed January 2021.
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1	Potential Hazard	AM to produce separate risk assessment for this activity			
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Assessment Review Date:	As Necessary
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