The European Union has put in place a temporary protection Directive to allow Ukrainian citizens and others fleeing Ukraine access to a wide range of supports including supports for adults and children with disabilities. The HSE has put in place a number of oversight and coordination groups to support Ukrainians who are arriving into Ireland. One of these Workstreams is the interagency Disability Workstream (made up of representation from the Umbrella bodies for Provider Organisations, Inclusion Ireland, Red Cross, TUSLA as well as HSE colleagues) which reports into the HSE National Health and Social Needs Planning and Coordination Group – Ukraine Response.

The HSE Disabilities (Community Operations) Service is signposting people covered by this Directive who are fleeing Ukraine and who arrive in Ireland, where they have family members with disabilities. A disability may mean that a family member has any of the following issues (this list is not exhaustive):

* An intellectual disability
* Is on the autism spectrum
* Has difficulty with sight (blind or visually impaired)
* Has difficulty hearing
* Has difficulty walking
* Has difficulty feeding or dressing

During the past number of weeks, the Disability Workstream have coordinated the development of a number of supports for people arriving to Ireland with disabilities:

* Visual Cues to be displayed at Reception Centres, Rest Centres and Congregated accommodation centres
* An information pack which will be available under “disabilities” on [www.hse.ie/ukraine](http://www.hse.ie/ukraine)
* A suite of translated documents regarding COVID vaccinations, testing, consent under “disabilities” on [www.hse.ie/ukraine](http://www.hse.ie/ukraine) issues as well as ways to support children with disabilities which will also be available

The Workstream has also supported the development of an electronic Individualised Health Questionnaire which will be completed by adults arriving in Ireland from Ukraine (with support where required) at the Reception Centre in City West and which will then be signed off by the HSE staff and any emergency referrals made as required (for example, medicines, aids and appliances).

For non-urgent referrals in disability services, a person completing the questionnaire who answers “yes” to any of the questions in the Questionnaire will then be flagged on the system – the CHO will then filter the referrals by “disability” and notify the Head of Disability where it has been determined that a child or adult will need specialist disability services, for example, referral to a CDNT, Day Service, Home Supports, Respite etc. The person will be assessed as per the normal referral pathways.

Referral Pathway for Provider Organisations receiving queries from individuals arriving from Ukraine –

1. Any general queries can be answered by the Provider Organisations themselves.
2. Requests regarding specialist disability services should be directed to the Head of Disability in the CHO in which the person is living – see list attached.