



SUFFOLK UKRAINE BULLETIN

Dear all,

Welcome to the Suffolk Ukraine Bulletin. This bulletin provides an update on the situation in Suffolk along with information about the work of the county council and partners within Suffolk's Ukraine Task Group and answers to frequently asked questions.

We are grateful for your support and our regular updates will include further information on how you and your communities can get involved, as we continue to work together to do all we can to help those fleeing the conflict in Ukraine.

This bulletin is monthly. The next edition will be on Wednesday 8 February 2023. [You can read previous editions of the Suffolk Ukraine Bulletin on our website.](#)

With best wishes, on behalf of Suffolk's Ukraine Task Group.

Cllr Bobby Bennett,
Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities

Stuart Keeble,
Director of Public Health in Suffolk



NATIONAL UPDATES

Increased ‘thank you’ payments for longer-term hosts

The Government issued a [statement on December 14th 2022](#) regarding additional funding for the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Secretary of State, Michael Gove said: “I am immensely proud of this country’s dynamic and heart-warming response to the aggression of Putin’s war. We have stood firm with Ukraine but we owe special thanks to the tens of thousands of families across the UK who opened their homes and their hearts to Ukrainians fleeing war.”

In recognition, the Government announced that host “thank you” payments will now continue for up to 2 years, rising to £500 per month once guests have been in the UK for 12 months. The payments will automatically increase once your guest has been with you for 12 months - you do not need to do anything.

The Government also announced additional funding of £150 million to support people at risk of homelessness and assist moving to private rented accommodation, as well as a £500 million Local Authority Housing Fund to enable councils to obtain housing for those fleeing conflict. This funding will be distributed according to areas of greatest need and District and Borough Councils will be looking at how they can draw down funding offered.

Guidance from GOV.UK:

Guidance from GOV.UK can be seen below:

[Guidance for Councils](#)

[Week one guidance for Ukrainians arriving in the UK](#)

[Guidance for moving to the UK if you're from Ukraine](#)

[Homes for Ukraine Sponsor Guidance](#)

[Bringing your pet to the UK from Ukraine](#)

[Homes for Ukraine campaign page](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)



Winter Thank You payment for those hosting Ukrainian guests over Christmas

The £300 additional one off 'Thank You' payment for households that hosted Ukrainian guests over the Christmas period (and have not opted out) will be paid in January 2023. It will show as a separate credit of £300 on your bank statement. This is in addition to the £350 monthly thank you payment.

Thank you for hosting over this special time of the year and we wish you and your guests a happy and healthy New Year.

Welfare checks at 4 months

Once your guest has been with you for 4 months, hosts will receive an online form to complete. Please look out for this in your emails and respond as soon as possible. If you have any questions after completing the form please email refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk.

On this form you will be asked to provide your guest's email address. This is used by ACT to contact the guest directly to arrange the face to face appointment.

The host is not required to attend the appointment but you may arrange with your guest to be present, to ask any questions you may have. Any phone calls to the host or guest from ACT about the 4-month welfare check may come up as "number withheld" but please be assured the caller will confirm that they are from Anglia Care Trust.

If you do not wish to continue to host at 6 months, please notify Suffolk County Council as soon as possible, you do not need to wait for the 4 month check or the online form. If it is now less than 2 months until your 6 month anniversary, and you no longer wish to host your guests, please email refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk as soon as possible.

Hosting after 6 months

For those that are able to continue to host beyond 6 months, thank you. Your monthly

payments will continue (if you have requested them) and if you can host beyond 12 months the monthly payment will automatically rise to £500 if your guest remains with you.

However, we understand that not everyone can keep offering accommodation for their guest. If you are unable to continue to offer accommodation beyond 6 months please:

- Speak to your guests so they are aware you are unable to continue and
- email in to refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk at least 2 months before the end of your 6 months, to let us know.

The options at 6 months are:

- Guests finding a new host on the Homes for Ukraine scheme or
- Move to the rented sector

Please help your guest look for a new host locally if they wish to stay in your area due to schools or employment. The FAQ “What do I do if I do not wish to host my guests after 6 months?” at [Ukraine: information for sponsors | Suffolk County Council](#) gives more information on how you can help your guests find a new home. If you and your guests are unable to find a new host **a month** before the 6 month anniversary, email refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk and the council will support in re-matching to a new host. Please note we cannot guarantee a match with a host in a specific location as this is dependant on availability of new hosts. We kindly ask for your patience on this.

Are your guests moving on to their own accommodation?

Community Action Suffolk has a small number of housewarming gift sets available, which have been made possible through local fundraising.

These can be requested from CAS by hosts to gift to their guests as they move on.

Full details are in the poster below. Please note that bags will need to be collected from our offices in either Ipswich or Lowestoft.

Please email ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk for more details or to request a bag.



House Warming Gifts

Are your guests moving into their own accommodation?

Community Action Suffolk has put together a number of thoughtful gift sets to give to Ukrainian guests as they move on.

If you would like to request a gift set (one per household) please do contact:
UkraineSupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk

Please note:
Gifts sets are for those moving into their own accommodation.

They will need to be collected from our offices in Ipswich or Lowestoft.



COMMUNITY ACTION SUFFOLK
Strengthening the voluntary and community sector

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Could you help a family in need?



We need new hosts to offer Ukrainian guests a safe haven while the war in Ukraine continues.

We are in need of a wide range of homes for single people, mothers with children and complete families. We are in particular need for new hosts in **Ipswich, Felixstowe, Lowestoft, Haverhill and Bury St Edmunds** and for homes able to accommodate two or more bedrooms for guest families.

New hosts coming forward to help accommodate guests that are already in Suffolk will not have to register on the government website. Instead they can simply sign up via the Suffolk County Council website, by [completing our online form](#) or emailing refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk.

Accommodation must be available to guests for a minimum of 6 months. Hosts will be eligible to receive the monthly thank you payment of £350 per month, rising to £500 per month, once your guests have been in the UK for more than 12 months.

If you know anyone that might be interested, please encourage them to visit [Ukraine: Could you help a family in need? | Suffolk County Council](#)

Experience of caring?

We are in particular need at the moment for hosts with some experience in adult social care or mental health for families that need a little more support and understanding - if you know anyone that might be able to help please email refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk.

Calling all animal lovers!

Do you like dogs or cats? We are in need of hosts that are willing to support guests with pets.

Please email refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk if you are interested or know someone that might be able to help.

Frequently Asked Questions

We know you will have questions about what we are doing in Suffolk to support Ukrainian Refugees and how you can help. [You can find answers to common questions on our website.](#)

Update on guest absences

Hosts have a responsibility to notify Suffolk County Council of guest absences of over **4 weeks**.

Please let Suffolk County Council know by emailing refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk if your guest intends to be away more than 4 weeks or when the absence reaches 4 weeks. Government guidance states that “thank you” payments to the host must be paused until your guest returns.

Extending your guest's stay in the UK

The entry stamp your guest received on entry into the UK provides evidence of their right to stay in the UK but is valid for the first 6 months only. To extend their stay for up to the 3 years allowed under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, your guest will need to apply for a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP). This will require them to provide biometric information, including a photograph of their face and a sample of their fingerprints.

[Your guest can apply for a BRP as soon as they arrive in the UK.](#)

Once your guest has provided this information, they will be issued with a Biometric Residence Permit. This permit is an important document which must be kept safe as it

is evidence of your guest's legal status in the UK and shows how long they may stay in the UK. It is also a useful means to confirm identity for purposes such as opening a UK bank account. If your guest travels outside the UK, they will need to take their Biometric Residence Permit with them to allow smooth entry back into the UK following their travel.

Travel outside the UK

If a guest wishes to travel outside of the UK for a visit and intends to return to the UK they must have their British Resident Permit (BRP). If they have this, they can come and go with their Homes for Ukraine visa for 3 years.

All guests are advised to apply for their BRP as soon as they arrive in the UK. More information about this can be found in the [Welcome Guide for Ukrainian guests](#) on pages 16 and 17.

Moving to rented housing - a short guide

A new guide to services available to Ukrainian guests looking for assistance with private rented housing is now available on Suffolk County Council's website under the 'Housing' section of [Ukraine: information for guests | Suffolk County Council](#). Services to help secure rented housing by District Council (for example assistance with deposits and landlord incentives to remove the need for a guarantor) are shown in a table.

This information is also available in Ukrainian and Russian.



Visa and arrival data as at 3 January

The data below is issued by The Home Office and available at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

The below table shows the number of Visas issued by the Home Office via the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship scheme and the number of arrivals, by District/Borough (Lower Tier Local Authority) as at 3 January 2023:

Source: Operational data, Home Office (HO), and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

Lower Tier Local Authority	Number of Visa applications	Number of Visas issued	Number of arrivals in the UK by sponsor location
Babergh	255	214	179
East Suffolk	497	440	374
Ipswich	179	150	108
Mid Suffolk	309	269	234
West Suffolk	472	384	320

The below table shows the number of Visas issued by the Home Office via the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship scheme and the number of arrivals, by County (Upper Tier Local Authority) as at 3 January 2023:

Source: Operational data, Home Office (HO), and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

Upper Tier Local Authority	Number of Visas applications	Number of Visas issued	Number of arrivals in the UK
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			by sponsor location
Suffolk	1,712	1,457	1,215
Cambridgeshire	2,529	2,219	1,850
Essex	2,677	2,322	1,900
Norfolk	1,867	1,605	1,309

Further information, and Frequently Asked Questions about what we are doing in Suffolk to support Ukrainian Refugees and how you can help, can be found on our website via the following links:

- [Support for Ukraine](#)
- [Information for Sponsors](#)
- [Information for Guests](#)
- [Further information](#)

An information pack for Sponsors in Suffolk, is available on the [Suffolk County Council website](#). This pack is updated regularly and contains information about the Homes for Ukraine programme, access to support and health care services, applying for a school place and more.

Please check these webpages first. If you cannot find answers to your questions here, please email refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk and we will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

Suffolk County Council is committed to protecting your privacy and will treat an individual's personal data in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Legislation. Your information will not be used for other purposes or supplied to third parties except in accordance with the law.

Under the Data Protection Legislation, you have a number of rights regarding any personal data held by us in relation to this project. [See our Homes for Ukraine Scheme privacy notices for full details.](#)
