



SUFFOLK

UKRAINE BULLETIN

Dear all,

Welcome to the Suffolk Ukraine Bulletin. This monthly 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.

In this edition you will read about an update on 'Thank you' payments, following the Government's Autumn Statement, employment and volunteering opportunities and an inspiring case study from a local school who has helped Ukrainian Refugees to settle in Suffolk.

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 will be the last bulletin of 2023, the next edition will be on Wednesday 17 January 2024. [You can read previous editions of the Suffolk Ukraine Bulletin on our website.](#)

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you, your family and your guests a peaceful Christmas period, from our Christmas Day on 25th December to the Ukrainian Holy Evening (Sviata Vecheria), on 6th January.

I know that many Ukrainians in Suffolk face the anxiety of being separated from their families and loved ones this Christmas. Our thoughts are with you all.

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



Autumn Statement Update

Suffolk County Council Homes for Ukraine, welcomed the news in the Autumn Statement update from the Chancellor of the Exchequer that 'Thank you' payments will be extended from **March 2024 to March 2025**, completing a third year of support for hosts.

Payment timetables and award will remain as they are currently paid.

Further details on 'Thank you' payments out can be found here: **How do I receive the monthly sponsor payment? [Ukraine: information for hosts - Suffolk County Council](#)**

Employment Opportunities

Suffolk Jobs Direct regularly advertise vacancies across the county.

Details of a variety of jobs and how to apply for them can be found at [Suffolk Jobs Direct](#).

A word from St Elizabeth Hospice

Volunteer Connect Project

St Elizabeth Hospice Volunteer Connect Project is committed to providing supportive Volunteering opportunities to refugees and asylum seekers in Ipswich and East Suffolk through partnership working with local grassroots organisations and community hubs.

Volunteering can be a great way to meet people in the local community and can support wellbeing. Through volunteering, refugees and asylum seekers bring unique and valuable skills and experiences to the hospice.

If you are not able to work, volunteering can give you useful experience and help build your confidence. St Elizabeth Hospice can also provide Voluntary Work Placements for Level 3 ESOL students at Suffolk New College.

If needed, the hospice can provide funded ESOL lessons through Ipswich Community Media. Some volunteering roles come with the opportunity to gain a qualification such as Food Hygiene Levels 1 and 2. Current volunteering opportunities can be found here - <https://www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk/support-us/support-us/volunteer-for-us/>

St Elizabeth Hospice's Compassionate Conversations Training

As part of the Volunteer Connect project, the hospice has been working alongside the people and organisations in our community to develop and translate Compassionate Conversations training sessions.

Compassionate conversations is aimed at helping people (aged 18+) build the skills and confidence to enable open, honest and sensitive conversations around end of life, loss

and bereavement, whilst identifying ways to help and support each other in the Community. Being able to talk with and comfort people who are experiencing end of life, loss or bereavement can be a daunting prospect - but it needn't be that way.

The hospice has recently worked with the Polish Community Hub, who very kindly translated the Compassionate Conversations Power point presentation into Polish and also helped to develop the content so that it fitted in with Polish beliefs and values. The Hospice delivered the session in English alongside a Polish Translator and presented with our translated power point - any videos included Polish Subtitles. The aim is to make these sessions available in as many different languages as possible, whilst also learning about all the different traditions, ritual and beliefs that are held by the communities around us.

St Elizabeth Hospice improves life for people living with progressive and life-limiting illnesses. Our work is centred around individual needs. We provide specialist support wherever it is needed, in people's homes, in the community or at our hospice and costs £12.9 million per year to run, 30% is funded by NHS, the remaining 70% is raised through donations or fundraising. Volunteers are vital to the successful running of the hospice, we currently have over 1500 volunteers!

18 Month Checks

Suffolk County Council Homes for Ukraine Casework team have been visiting guests as part of our 18-month welfare and safety checks since the beginning of November, so far 144 guests have been visited. During these meetings we have been working with hosts and guests to promote applications to our independent living payment offer where this is suitable and have had some great feedback about resolving issues which needed to be overcome by both hosts and guests. This feedback will assist us in planning the support we are offering guests and hosts over the coming months.

In early January 2024 the Homes for Ukraine Team will begin contacting hosts who have been sponsoring a Ukrainian guest(s) for 18 months. A questionnaire will be sent

via email with a request that this is completed and returned to us, so we can ensure we offer support where it is needed.

If you would like to speak to a Homes for Ukraine team member in the meantime, please email refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk.

Stand With Ukraine

Suffolk County Council Homes for Ukraine visited the 'Stand with Ukraine' gathering, on Angel Hill in Bury St Edmunds on Saturday, the 25th of November. A lovely group of local guests, hosts and supporters meet once a month to highlight the ongoing plight of the Ukrainians and the war in their home country.

The Homes for Ukraine team are happy to attend events where possible, which show the ongoing support provided by the Suffolk Community and encourage new hosts to step forward. We can come and talk to your group about the work that has been happening behind the scenes and the people we have supported and how this continued support is still needed.

Please let us know if there is an event you would like a member of the 'Homes for Ukraine team' to attend or about any events you would like to promote to other hosts or guests at refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk



Guests leaving host properties

It remains the host's responsibility to inform the Homes for Ukraine Team of the date their guests left their property. This should be the last night that the guest spent in the property.

Case studies

Suffolk County Council Homes for Ukraine Team have been gathering case studies from both hosts and guests. We are keen to hear about positive experiences, as well as any challenges and how they may have been overcome, so please get in touch if you would like to take part. Please email refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk , with 'case study' in the subject line.

This month we would like to highlight a case study from Ormiston Academy, Sudbury which highlights the support put in place for the Ukrainian students, as well as the support the Ukrainian students received from their peers and wider community to help them settle into Suffolk.

Ormiston Academy, Sudbury

In the autumn term of 2022, 7 Ukrainian students joined the pupils at Ormiston Sudbury Academy.

They were from different parts of Ukraine, none had any English Language skills, and all had experienced various degrees of trauma and disadvantage due to the war in Ukraine.

Ormiston Sudbury Academy had to learn quickly to support not only their academic opportunities, but also support their Pastoral and Mental Health needs to ensure that the students settled in quickly but also that they had any extra support they needed to

reach and succeed in their academic goals.

As an academy, led by one of our Pastoral Managers, we established a weekly Ukrainian breakfast - an opportunity for all of the students to meet up, discuss their positives and concerns and collectively support each other in their native language - whilst giving them English breakfast delicacies!

We established a number of support structures to support our students, including:

- o All PowerPoints to include Ukrainian subtitles
- o All worksheets and instructions translated into Ukrainian
- o Flash Academy English lessons in native language
- o EAL group sessions
- o 1:1 academic tutoring through MyTutor

A positive example is of one refugee from Ukraine, who joined the school and as many do, had an excellent work ethic and strong academic aspirations, he was able to benefit so well from the extra support and measures put in place that he passed all of his GCSE's, was accepted into a place in 6th form and was welcomed into the school community so well that he was voted Prom King!

Could you help a family in need?



In February 2022, the UK was asked to help support Ukrainians displaced by the war.

Since then, the people of Suffolk have welcomed more than 1,400 Ukrainian Refugees into their homes.

Unfortunately, the war continues and we still need hosts to offer a safe place to stay for individuals and families in Suffolk.

Can you help?

Homes for Ukraine Suffolk still need safe and secure places in the larger villages and towns, with good access to public transport and amenities.

If you can offer a safe place for a Ukrainian guest, please email refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk or visit our website www.suffolk.gov.uk/Ukraine and to express your interest by completing [the online form](#).

Accommodation must be available for at least 6 months and be fit for purpose.

If you sign up to the scheme and all checks are completed, you will be eligible for a monthly £350 'Thank you' payment, rising to £500 per month once your guests have been in the UK for more than 12 months or you have hosted for over 6 months.

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.](#)

Our [Information pack for sponsors](#) is also regularly updated.



NATIONAL UPDATES

Guidance from GOV.UK:

The government has recently updated its guidance for councils – the updated guidance can be found here: [Homes for Ukraine: council guides - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-council-guides)

Guidance for sponsors and guests

[Homes for Ukraine: sponsor guides](#)

[Homes for Ukraine: Guidance for guests](#)

Further guidance from GOV.UK can be seen below:

[Guidance for Councils](#)

[Arriving in the UK: Homes for Ukraine](#)

[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](#)



WELCOMING UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Visa and arrival data as at 28 November

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 28 November 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	282	235	204
East Suffolk	591	511	443
Ipswich	279	210	154
Mid Suffolk	358	303	267
West Suffolk	582	452	383

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 28 November 2023:

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

Upper Tier Local Authority	Number of Visa applications	Number of Visas issued	Number of arrivals in the UK by sponsor location
Suffolk	2,092	1,711	1,451
Cambridgeshire	3,027	2,640	2,286
Essex	3,394	2,847	2,396
Norfolk	2,359	1,930	1,637

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.](#)
