



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 upcoming Welfare Checks for Hosts and Guests who are reaching 18 months of sponsorship, upcoming public engagement events, and advice about being vigilant of scams.

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.

The next edition will be on Wednesday 1 November 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



18 Month Welfare Checks

As we approach 18 months since many of our Homes for Ukraine guests arrived in Suffolk, we will be undertaking some additional checks with guests and hosts.

Suffolk County Council's dedicated Homes for Ukraine team undertake visits and checks with hosts and guests every six months, to ensure support is offered when needed.

The Homes for Ukraine Team will be calling all Ukrainian guests who have been here for 18 months over the next few weeks in order to arrange a face to face visit. If hosts could please make their guests aware of this and encourage them to answer our call we would be very grateful. The team will also be checking in with hosts to discuss any issues and offer support.

Local Matters Events

The Homes for Ukraine Case work team will be attending Suffolk County Council's upcoming Local Matters events.

These events are an opportunity for local people to tell the council what matters to them and their community, as well as hearing more about what Suffolk County Council is doing in their area.

Councillors, including Leader of the Council Matthew Hicks will be in attendance to engage with residents, listen to their concerns and hear what is important to them.

These events are a great way for us to gather feedback, promote the services the council provides and resolve local issues. The Homes for Ukraine Case Work team will be happy to help with any questions you or your guests have about hosting, and offer guidance and support for anyone thinking about becoming a host.

The dates for the upcoming events are listed below:

Sudbury	5 October	10am - 12noon
Stowmarket	12 October	10am – 12noon
Bury St Edmunds	12 October	2pm – 4pm
Haverhill	20 October	10am – 12noon
Newmarket	24 October	10am – 12noon

More information about the events can be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk

How should we keep you updated?

As part of the work we have been doing this year to improve the service we provide the hosts and guests we have been collating feedback from various sources.

We want to make sure we are communicating important information to hosts in the way that works best for you, so we have created a questionnaire to find out how you would like important updates and information to be shared with you. Please do take a couple of minutes to fill it in.

<https://forms.office.com/e/wbXtu5qk3r>

Your response is greatly appreciated and will help us to improve the way we share important information with you in the future.

Bungay Community Support Group

The Bungay Community Support Group supports local Ukrainians and hosts to chat, meet socially, seek new hosts, answer questions and signpost to other community support.

Scan the QR code below or visit tinyurl.com/BungayUkraineGroup to join.

Bungay Community Support Ukraine Group

Join the
"Bungay Community Support Ukraine Group"
on WhatsApp

<https://tinyurl.com/BungayUkraineGroup>



Supporting local Ukrainians and hosts to ...

1. Chat
2. Meet socially at B.C.S. or elsewhere
3. Seek new hosts to sponsor more Ukrainians
4. Answer questions if we know the answers
5. Promote the other services offered by Bungay Community Support.

Scam Awareness advice



Information has been added to the Suffolk County Council website about being vigilant about scams. Information is available in English and Ukrainian in the links below:

[Scams - English](#)

[Scams - Ukrainian](#)

If you have any concerns about a communication you have received please inform us at refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk

Stay up to date with the latest scams and rogues by signing up to receive a weekly email from Suffolk Trading Standards here: www.suffolk.gov.uk/JoinTheFight

Are you concerned about the welfare of a Ukrainian guest?

Are you concerned about the welfare of a Ukrainian guest? Tell us as soon as possible.

The sooner we know, the sooner we can provide help and support for guests.

Welfare and safeguarding concerns need to be reported directly to us at refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk



Could you help a family in need?



We need new hosts to support Ukrainian guests who have been in the UK for 6 months or more, but are not ready to move to independent private rented accommodation.

Following feedback from Ukrainian guests, Suffolk County Council is seeking hosts in the larger towns across Suffolk, such as Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds or Lowestoft, or in other towns which have good transport links to enable those guests who have found employment to be able to travel to work.

Please signpost any friends, family or colleagues that might be interested in hosting to

the County Council's website [Support for Ukraine - Suffolk County Council](#) for more information and to express their interest by completing [the online form](#).

If you have any specific questions about hosting, you can email refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk and a member of the team will be happy to arrange a telephone call to discuss.

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.



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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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](#)



Visa and arrival data as at 26 September

The data below is issued by The Home Office and available at [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 26 September 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	274	229	204
East Suffolk	563	497	433
Ipswich	258	184	139
Mid Suffolk	356	300	263
West Suffolk	557	437	368

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 26 September 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 by sponsor location
Suffolk	2,008	1,647	1,407
Cambridgeshire	2,933	2,559	2,209
Essex	3,252	2,728	2,312
Norfolk	2,267	1,879	1,592

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.](#)
