

A horizontal banner with a blue top half and a yellow bottom half, featuring a faint sunburst graphic on the right side. The text 'SUFFOLK' is written in white on the blue background, and 'UKRAINE BULLETIN' is written in blue on the yellow background.

**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.

Following this bulletin, the frequency of future updates will become monthly, on the first Wednesday of each month. The next edition will be on Wednesday 2 November.

[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**

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**HOW YOU**

**CAN HELP**

## Latest update for those who have had guests for nearly 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).

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](mailto:refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk) at least 2 months before the end of your 6 months, to let us know.

Please read 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](#) for more information on how you can help your guests find a new home.

They may not be ready to move to private rented accommodation and you can help by asking your relations, friends and work colleagues if anyone is able to host them. If you find anyone interested, they can now register their interest direct with Suffolk County Council [Ukraine: Could you help a family in need? | Suffolk County Council](#) by completing an [online form](#).

If, a month before the 6 month anniversary you and your guests have been unable to find a new host, email [refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk) and we will look for someone but cannot guarantee to find one in the location or timescale requested as it will depend on the availability of hosts so we kindly ask for your patience on this.

It is important that your guests are equally proactive in looking for new accommodation.

Hosts and guests receive a letter from the government about the options at 6 months. This was sent to those with guests that arrived between 1 – 30 June last week. [The letter sent to sponsors is available here](#) and [the letter to guests in Ukrainian and Russian, here](#) in case you missed it.

We are still awaiting government clarification on the options at 12 months and will post information about this as soon as it becomes available.

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## **Welfare checks at 4 months**

Anglia Care Trust (ACT) are working through the welfare checks as fast as they can but in the meantime Hosts that have not yet had their visit will receive a form to complete to indicate their intentions at 6 months. Please complete this as soon as you receive it as this will help us to help you if you need assistance.

Anglia Care Trust will then visit your guests to ask them more questions. You are not required to attend this appointment but you may choose to be around so you can ask ACT any questions you have. If your 4 month anniversary has passed or is coming up, you will get a phone call soon from Anglia Care trust. The number may come up as “withheld” but please be assured the caller will confirm 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 less than 2 months to your 6 month anniversary now, **email** [refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk) immediately.

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## **Could you help a family in need?**

We have now reached the point where some Ukrainian guests have been with their hosts for 6 months. Not all hosts are able to continue to offer accommodation to guests beyond 6 months and some of those guests are not yet ready to move on to private rented accommodation. We are now in need of 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 **Felixstowe, Lowestoft, Haverhill and Bury St Edmunds** and for homes able to take large families of 5 or more people.

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](mailto:refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk).

Accommodation must be available to guests for a minimum of 6 months. Hosts will be eligible to receive the £350 thank you payment for up to 6 months or more, depending on the date your guests arrived in the UK (12 months starting from the date your guests first arrived in the UK).

If you know anyone that might be interested, please encourage them to visit [Ukraine: Could you help a family in need? | Suffolk County Council](#) and if they want further information to attend one of our 4 drop in events being organised by Community Action Suffolk in Lowestoft, Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich and Felixstowe.

More information about these drop in events will be available on [our website](#) shortly

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## **School Attendance in the UK**

In the UK, parents are required to ensure their children of compulsory school age receive efficient full-time education suitable to their age, ability, aptitude, and to any special educational needs they may have.

Most parents or guardians do this by registering their children at a school.

Children reach compulsory school age on the prescribed day following their 5th birthday. The prescribed days are: 1st September, 1st January and 1st April.

They must remain in full-time education until the last Friday in June of the school year (year 11) in which they reach age 16.

Parents/carers whose children of compulsory school age are absent from school without good reason are committing an offence.

Parents are required to make their school aware on the first day of absence the reason that the child will not be attending that day.

This is particularly important if the family are leaving their registered address for a period, no matter how short or long this period is intended to be.

Good communication with the school will ensure appropriate management of the absence and may prevent a child's school place being needlessly removed.

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## **Pets**

Earlier in 2022 the government put in place emergency support for those fleeing Ukraine with their pet, using an emergency licence. In October 2022 the government updated the guidance and introduced a new online application service. The streamlined system covers the costs of any necessary stays in quarantine for the pets of those fleeing Ukraine.

The guidance [Bringing your pet to the UK from Ukraine - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bringing-your-pet-to-the-uk-from-ukraine) sets out the circumstances in which pets can be brought into the UK without going into quarantine and what arrangements need to be made if quarantine is required.

ALL guests with pets need to apply to bring their pets into UK [Start Application \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://defra.gov.uk/start-application)

If you are in the process of sponsoring a new visa application please ask if your guest is intending to bring a pet and direct them to the new guidance above. More information can be found in the [Sponsor Welcome pack](#).

If a guest arrives with a pet into your home please check they have a licence and if you have any concerns ring Trading Standards on 01473 264859 (option 3).



## Community Support for Ukrainian Refugees in Suffolk

Support from Suffolk communities is key to the county's efforts to help Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk. Community Action Suffolk is working closely with other partners in Suffolk to facilitate community support, in the form of:

- Peer support and networking for host families, and Ukrainian guests
- helping arrivals to join existing community activities such as playgroups, sports clubs

We are working closely with Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Refugee Support and District and Borough Councils to help coordinate the community response in the county. If you are currently supporting Ukrainian refugees in the county, or would like to offer your support, have a look at the resources available to you and ways to get involved.

[Read more about Community Support in Suffolk](#) and feel free to get in touch by email at [ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk](mailto:ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk)

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## 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.

The application process for Homes for Ukraine is outlined [in this Infographic](#)



## Visa and arrival data as at 11 October

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 11 October 2022:

*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	214	200	174
East Suffolk	438	424	363
Ipswich	156	137	97
Mid Suffolk	274	260	223
West Suffolk	402	373	308

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 11 October 2022:

*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	1,484	1,389	1,165
Cambridgeshire	2,196	2,042	1,693
Essex	2,296	2,138	1,761
Norfolk	1,596	1,486	1,203

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](mailto:refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk) and we will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.



**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](#)

[Factsheet \(translations available via buttons in top right of page\)](#)

[Homes for Ukraine campaign page](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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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.](#)