



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 10 May 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.

Stuart Keeble,
Director of Public Health in Suffolk



SUFFOLK'S RESPONSE

Thank you payments

In March, Suffolk County Council announced that **from 1 April 2023** hosts who have had guests for a minimum of 6 months will be eligible for an additional £150 monthly top up payment, until guests have been living in the UK for 12 months. This will be in addition to the £350 monthly thank you payment hosts receive from the UK Government. The Government's monthly payment rises to £500 after guests have been in the UK for 12 months, at which point the councils' £150 top up would stop.

Further information can be found on our website: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/further-support-for-homes-for-ukraine-sponsors>

The top up offer starts 1 April 2023. Payments will be made one month in arrears, so for those eligible from April 2023, the first payment will be made in May.

Current hosts have received an email asking if they would like to opt in for the additional payment if/when it becomes appropriate to them. All new hosts will be asked if they would like to opt in when they sign up for the Homes for Ukraine scheme. If you have not received an email asking if you would like to opt in please email refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk.

Below summarises the payment entitlement which is based on how long the hosts have hosted, ensuring that hosts the have assisted multiple families are supported.

Length Sponsor has been hosting	UK Government payment	SCC payment
0-6 months	£350	£0
6-12 months	£350	£150
12+ months	£500	£0

Guest and Host checks

From the 1st of April 2023 Suffolk County Council's Caseworker team will be carrying out the guest and host checks, which were previously undertaken by Anglia Care Trust. Suffolk County Council's Caseworker team will also now be offering a check after 10-12 months with a host.

Below summarises the checks that will take place:

- **Initial welfare check** - undertaken 2-3 weeks after the guest arrival with a host, to check the guest is settling in and is able to access services required. It is also an opportunity for the host to ask any questions about the scheme.
- **4 month check** – Online form for the host to confirm what they need to happen at the end of 6 months and face to face meeting with the guest to ensure all is going well, BRP completed and to have a discussion about moving on if that is necessary. Hosts can attend the face to face meeting but are not required to.
- **10-12 month check** - On line form for the host to confirm what they need to happen at the end of 12 months and a phone call to the guest to check all is going well and particularly if the guest needs to move at 12 months, the offer of a face to face meeting with the guests to discuss moving on options.

The checks provide an an opportunity for any issues to be raised and discussed face to face with a member of the Casework team, and form part of routine fraud checks for payments. In the meantime if you have any questions please email refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk

Easter traditions



Community Action Suffolk have developed some information sheets about Ukrainian and British Easter traditions, which you may find helpful.

This information can be downloaded in English or Ukrainian, via the links below:

- [English](#)
- [Ukrainian](#)

Education Funding

Funding has been available in 2022-23 to support the education of refugees on the Homes for Ukraine scheme when they join Suffolk schools. Although the government is no longer providing this funding, Suffolk County Council will continue to provide funding for new arrivals in 2023-24. Funding will be available per pupil for up to three terms; when children move between schools, payments follow the child. We will also continue

to offer a one-off grant to schools which have enrolled Ukrainian children who have come to Suffolk on the Family Visa Scheme.

Preschools and nurseries can access the funding here: [1. Children from Ukraine – Suffolk Learning](#), while schools should contact us at refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk if they have not already done so.

It is up to each setting to decide how the funding will best support each child's education. This can include a wide range of options such as help with uniform and transport or English language tuition and mental health support. Parents can speak to their school if they believe their child needs support in a specific area.

Opt-in for school or post-16 travel

Is your child currently receiving SCC funded school travel? If so you must opt-in before 31 May 2023 to continue to receive it in the 2023/2024 school year.

If your child is starting secondary school in September 2023 and is eligible for Suffolk County Council funded school travel you will receive an email by the end of this week with details of how to opt-in.

For more information visit: www.suffolkonboard.com/optin

GCSE English Revision Programme



Suffolk Refugee Support will run a weekly GCSE English revision programme for young people up **to 25 years old**, from Tuesday 21st March to Tuesday 9th May.

Ipswich School, Henley Rd, IP1 3SG
Every Tuesday from 4.30pm to 6.30pm

This programme is open to all young people (to the age of 25) sitting a GCSE English (for the first time or resit) this academic year in May.

The sessions will be delivered by an experienced GCSE English and ESOL teacher. Suffolk Refugee Support will be supplying the revision guides and materials for the clients to work through. Sessions will be held every Tuesday from 4.30pm to 6.30pm, ideally clients should attend each week to ensure they fully benefit.

Please contact Sarah Owens, Youth Projects Coordinator at sowens@suffolkrefugee.org.uk for more information or to register your interest.

Homes for Ukraine Privacy notice

As we continue to develop the Homes for Ukraine services, we are working with some new partners and have updated our Privacy to reflect this.

These commissioned services will not collect any new or additional information beyond the current Privacy notice.

[View the Homes for Ukraine Scheme privacy notice on our website.](#)



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.

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.



Eurovision Song Contest 2023 tickets for displaced people from Ukraine

The government is providing these subsidised tickets to ensure that people displaced by the war in Ukraine are able to attend the Eurovision Song Contest 2023 in Liverpool. Individuals on the Homes for Ukraine, Ukraine Extension Scheme, and Ukraine Family Scheme are welcome to apply.

Applications for the ballot for tickets for displaced people from Ukraine for the Eurovision Song Contest 2023 are now open, [visit GOV.UK to apply.](#)

The ballot is open until **4pm on Thursday 6 April 2023.**

[Read more.](#)

Guidance from GOV.UK:

Updated Guidance for sponsors and guests

The government has updated its guidance to sponsor/hosts and guests.

[Homes for Ukraine: sponsor guides](#)

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

Each link takes you to a series of guides on specific topics, including the payment of £500 welcome payment at 12 months.

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 28 March

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 28 March 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	263	219	193
East Suffolk	527	461	396
Ipswich	198	158	121
Mid Suffolk	316	278	246
West Suffolk	503	401	336

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 March 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	1,807	1,517	1,292
Cambridgeshire	2,677	2,349	1,988
Essex	2,843	2,460	2,051
Norfolk	2,028	1,695	1,408

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.](#)
