

A banner with a blue top half and a yellow bottom half, separated by a wavy line. The text 'SUFFOLK' is in white on the blue background, and 'UKRAINE BULLETIN' is in blue on the yellow background. A faint sunburst graphic is visible on the right side.

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 6 September 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

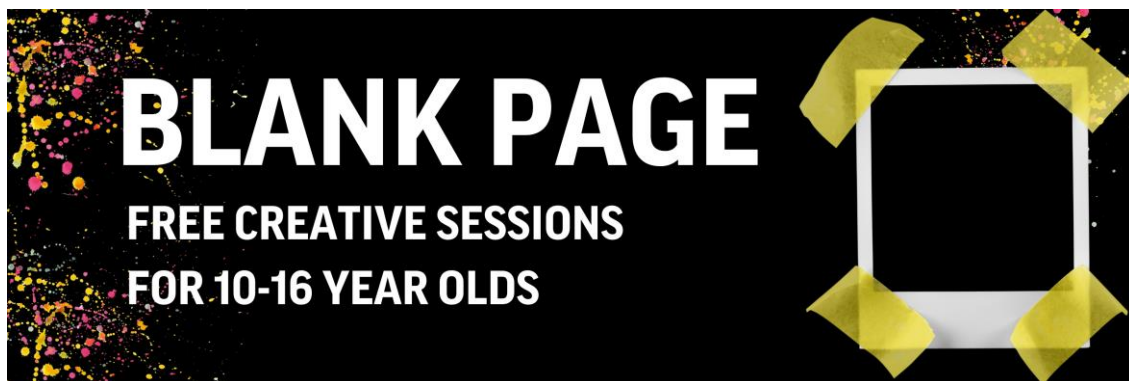
Stuart Keeble,
Director of Public Health in Suffolk

A banner with a blue top half and a yellow bottom half, separated by a wavy line. The text 'SUFFOLK'S' is in white on the blue background, and 'RESPONSE' is in blue on the yellow background. A faint sunburst graphic is visible on the right side.

SUFFOLK'S

RESPONSE

Free creative activities for 10-16 year olds throughout school holidays



Blank Page is an exciting new programme providing free high-quality creative activities run by local artists in libraries during the school holidays!

Blank Page activities give 10-16 year olds the chance to express their creativity through a range of mediums. Each activity day will run from 10AM to 3PM and will include a free lunch.

You can book onto as many workshops as you'd like. All workshops are designed to offer something different if you choose to attend more than one workshop day.

Visit suffolklibraries.co.uk to find out more or to book on to a workshop.

Visit the Suffolk County Council Website for more information about out of school activities in Suffolk.

Burlington Church Drop-In Event success

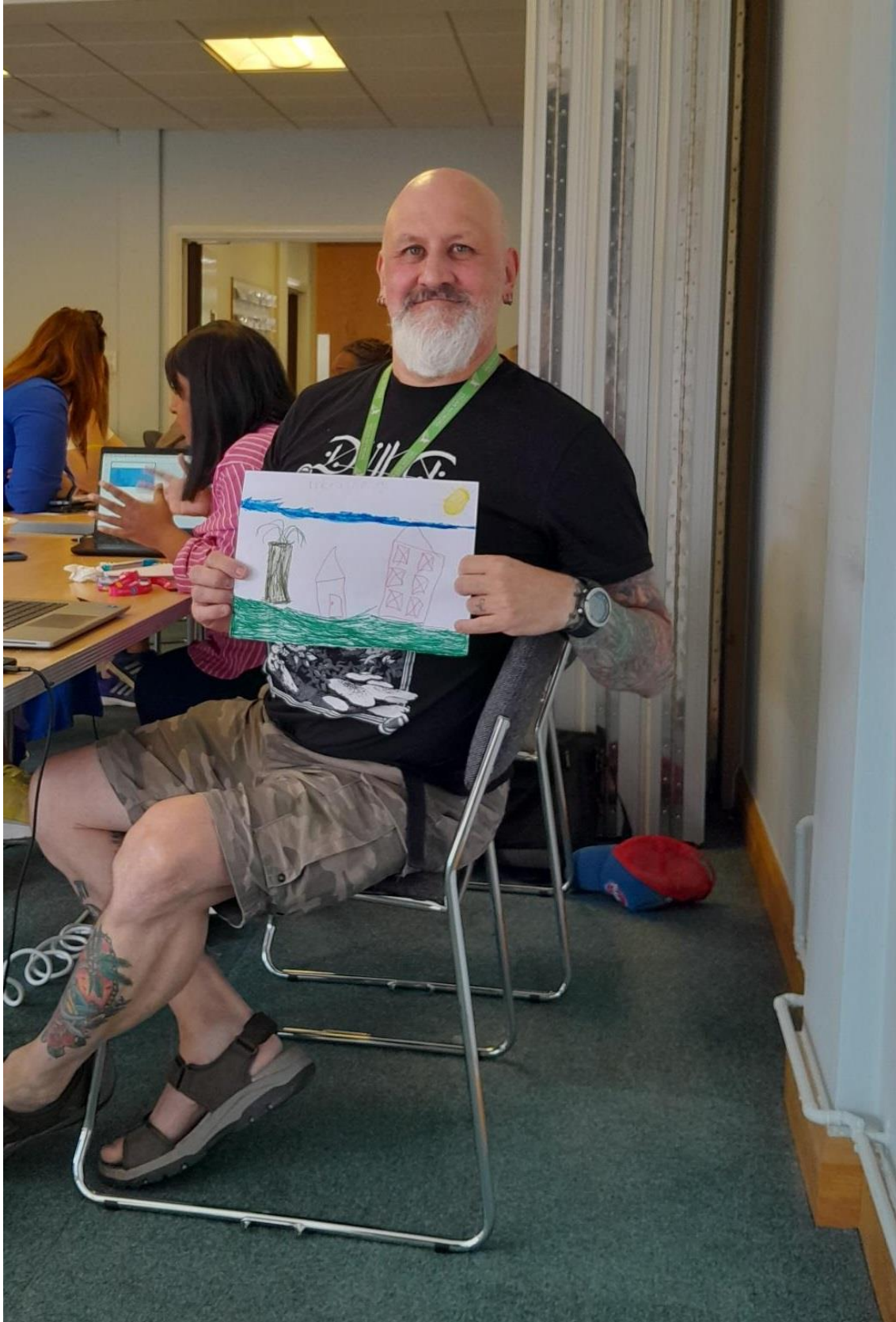
Thank you to those who attended the recent event at Burlington Church in Ipswich, on 21 July.

The Drop-in event offered the opportunity for Ukrainian guests to get one-to-one support on a range of issues, including housing applications, employment and benefit advice, Independent Living Payments, language learning and general support, to help them continue their journey in the UK.

The event was a huge success, with over 40 Ukrainian guests supported. The team received some very positive feedback, including a special thank you to Matt in the Homes for Ukraine team, from one young Ukrainian guest, who drew the picture below to say thank you for the help provided to their family – thank you!

The event was hosted by Together for Ipswich and attended by Suffolk County Council, Ipswich Jobcentre, Suffolk Refugee Support, Community Action Suffolk, Ipswich Borough Council and Anglia Care Trust.

Look out for future events near you, we will continue to share details of upcoming events via this bulletin.



Reminder: Support for Ukrainian refugees moving to private rented accommodation

In May, Suffolk County Council announced a one-off £2,000 support grant for Ukrainian refugees moving on from their host into their own accommodation.

The Independent Living Payment is available to any Ukrainian Refugees, moving into private rented accommodation after 1 April 2023. Guests must have been living in Suffolk for a minimum of two months and be registered on the Suffolk Homes for Ukraine scheme to be eligible for the payment.

The funding can be used for any associated housing costs, including furniture, moving costs or travel to work. The support can be used towards accommodation which is furnished or unfurnished, and accommodation can be in Suffolk or out of county.

Ukrainian guests can apply for the Independent Living Payment by [visiting the Information for Guests page on the Suffolk County Council website](#) and completing the application form.

Application forms can also be requested by emailing refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk

Please note that applicants must provide a copy of their tenancy agreement for the property they are claiming for, in order to receive the support.



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.



NATIONAL UPDATES

Driving licence requirements in Great Britain

If you are a Ukrainian national living in Great Britain (GB) on one of the Ukraine visa schemes, you can drive in GB without exchanging your Ukrainian driving licence for up to 3 years after becoming a resident.

This applies to licences that permit the driving of:

- cars up to 3,500kg
- motorcycles

This law came into effect on 7 July 2023.

If you have already exchanged your Ukrainian driving licence for a GB licence, you can continue to use your GB licence under its current terms and conditions.

If you stay in GB for more than 3 years, you will need to exchange your Ukrainian driving licence for a GB licence.

If you have transferred to a different visa

You can use your Ukrainian driving licence for 3 years from when you became a resident in GB if you entered:

- on a Ukraine scheme visa, but within 3 years transfer to a different visa, such as a skilled worker visa
- after February 2022 and transfer onto a Ukraine visa scheme

How to exchange a Ukrainian driving licence

You must exchange your Ukrainian licence within 3 years. You can do this at [exchange a foreign driving licence](#).

Your licence should arrive within 3 weeks if you apply online. It may take longer if DVLA needs to make additional checks.

If you passed your driving test before 28 December 2021

You can only exchange your driving licence for a UK licence that allows you to drive automatic vehicles. You will need to take a driving test for manual cars to keep driving these vehicles.

If you passed your driving test on or after 28 December 2021

If your current licence allows you to drive manual cars, you can exchange it for a UK licence that allows you to continue driving manual cars.

Guidance from 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 25 July

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 25 July 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	268	228	202
East Suffolk	546	490	426
Ipswich	231	173	132
Mid Suffolk	347	296	258
West Suffolk	536	426	359

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 25 July 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	1,928	1,613	1,377
Cambridgeshire	2,860	2,477	2,144
Essex	3,101	2,629	2,217
Norfolk	2,194	1,828	1,541

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.](#)
