



SUFFOLK

UKRAINE BULLETIN

Dear all,

On behalf of Suffolk County Council and the Homes for Ukraine Team, I would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year.

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 winter 'Thank You' payments, upcoming events in Suffolk, and an important reminder about applications for the Independent Living Payment.

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 bulletin will be on Wednesday 14 February 2024. [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



Stand With Ukraine events - Bury St Edmunds

'Stand With Ukraine' is a group of Local guests, hosts and supporters who meet once a month in Bury St Edmunds to highlight the ongoing plight of Ukrainians and the war in their home country.

The next 'Stand with Ukraine' gathering, will take place on Saturday 20 January 11:00 - 12:00, at Angel Hill in Bury St Edmunds

February's event will take place on Saturday 24 February 11:00 - 12:00, at Angel Hill in Bury St Edmunds.

*Please, join the action #standwithUkraine
Saturday 20th January 2024*

Angel Hill 11:00-12:00



*Please, stand with us to show your
support for Ukraine and to let people
know that the struggle continues.*

Ipswich Vigil for Ukraine

The official **Ipswich Vigil for Ukraine** will take place at St Mary at the Elms Church, IP1 2EF, on the second anniversary of the commencement of the conflict in Ukraine - **Friday 23** and **Saturday 24 February 2024**.

Please see <https://www.togetherforipswich.uk/ukrainian-refugee-support/> for more information about this two-day event.

All are welcome to drop in (during either day) or attend the Civic Vigils (at 6.00pm on both evenings).

Ipswich Vigil for Ukraine

reflecting on the second anniversary of the commencement of the war

Friday 23 and Saturday 24 February 2024

- Together for Ipswich is hosting the town's official vigil at St Mary at the Elms Church (Ipswich IP1 2EF).
- All Ukrainians - and those from all other nations - are warmly invited to attend either or both these two open days **between 10.00 and 18.00**.
- Just 'drop in', or to stay as long as you can during either or both days, **AND....**
- Light a candle, sign a book of support, silently reflect, pray, draw, paint, or simply meet one another over Ukrainian food and drinks.
- Prestigious artists will be working to create artworks at the church during both days, and adults and children alike are invited to draw or paint their own interpretation of 'My Ukraine'.
- There will also be a short service at 1pm each day, led by regional and local Church and Community leaders.
- For more info, call or message Alan Cutting on 07834 693144.
- <https://www.togetherforipswich.uk/ukrainian-refugee-support/>

... arrive early for the major event - the Civic Vigil at 6pm on both evenings



Upcoming online network events for hosts and hubs

Suffolk County Council's Homes for Ukraine team and Community Action Suffolk are organising two events in February 2024.

Ukrainian Community Hubs' Network Event

- Date: Thursday, 1st February
- Time: 10:30am to 12:00pm
- Format: Online

This event is an opportunity for all Community Hubs to come together to share updates, challenges, success stories, and ideas for moving forward. We are also arranging for a few key stakeholders to join us, ensuring a productive and informative session. This is an ideal opportunity for Hubs to get together and offer support and share good practice now that many Hubs are scaling down in size. Hubs will be invited to give a small update if they

would like to do so.

Networking Event for Hosts and Hubs

- Date: Thursday 29th February
- Time: 6:00pm- 7:00pm
- Format: Online

This event is focused on information sharing between hosts as well as introducing key organisations supporting Ukrainians/hosts. It will serve as a platform to offer support to hosts, connect organisations/hubs with hosts, discuss experiences and opportunities, and ways to enhance our collective impact and ensure that any rural hosts are able to access a support network.

Invites to register for these events will be circulated in due course via the Host Facebook group, [Community Action Suffolk's](#) website and by direct email.

If you would like to contact us directly for the link please email refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk and put 'Network event' in the subject line.

Promote your events

As we come to the 2nd anniversary of the conflict in Ukraine in February 2022, we would like to invite you to let us know of any events, happening across Suffolk so that we can help promote to them the wider network.

If there is any future event you would like to promote, or would like a member of the Homes for Ukraine team to attend please email us at refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk and put 'event' in the subject line.

Seasonal Winter 'Thank you' payment

Suffolk County Council is offering a one-off additional payment of £315 to all hosts who are accommodating Ukrainian guests in January, as recognition of the additional pressures faced during our coldest months.

This payment will be made in February to those hosting Ukrainian guests during January 2024 and is in addition to the monthly payment already paid to active hosts on this scheme.

If hosts wish to opt out of receiving the additional payment, they can do so by contacting refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk by 31st January 2024.

If you have chosen **not** to receive the current monthly Thank You payment and would like to receive this additional Winter Thank you payment, please contact refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk by 31st January 2024.



Independent Living Payment

The Independent Living Payment was set up by Suffolk County Council to support guests to prepare for living independently after leaving their hosts accommodation.

A reminder of the criteria is below and if a guest has any questions in regard to this or their eligibility, they can contact the Homes for Ukraine team at refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk

- Guests/applicants must be moving directly from their Suffolk host or sponsor into their first independent housing property after the 1st of April 2023. (tenancy agreements dated before this date are not eligible)

- Guests must be registered on the Suffolk Homes for Ukraine sponsorship scheme.
- Guests/Applicants must have been living with a sponsor or host under the Suffolk Homes for Ukraine scheme for a minimum of two months.
- Guests/Applicants must hold a valid, current UK bank account in their own name. (applications which do not match the bank details will not be eligible)
- Guests/Applicants must provide a signed, correctly dated and current tenancy agreement for the address they are claiming for in the name of the applicant.
- The tenancy agreement must be attached to the application and be for a minimum of 6 months.
- Only one claim can be made per new household moving into independent living accommodation.
- The Independent Living Payment Application form must be completed in full, with the claimants' details, must be signed and dated and the tenancy agreement must be attached in full.
- Claimants must not have made a previous claim for the Independent Living Payment (only one claim per guest will be eligible)

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 9 January

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 9 January 2024:

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	286	238	207
East Suffolk	593	518	450
Ipswich	287	219	172
Mid Suffolk	361	304	271
West Suffolk	585	455	391

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 9 January 2024:

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	2,112	1,734	1,491
Cambridgeshire	3,044	2,658	2,324
Essex	3,420	2,878	2,450
Norfolk	2,381	1,955	1,662

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.](#)