

The header graphic features a blue and yellow background with a sunburst pattern on the right side. The word 'SUFFOLK' is written in white capital letters on the blue 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.

This bulletin is monthly. The next edition will be on Wednesday 5 July 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

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SUFFOLK'S

RESPONSE

Update to Thank you payments

Central Government guidance has been updated to reflect that the scheme has been extended into a second year.

Host thank you payments are made monthly in arrears.

If your guests arrive with you before the middle of a month, the first payment will be made the following month. So if your guest arrives on 2 May, you will receive your first payment in June. If your guests arrive after the mid-month point, your payments will start in the 2nd month after their arrival. So, if your guest arrives on 29 May, your first payment will be made in July.

When guests leave your hosting arrangement, thank you payments due to sponsors are calculated by counting each full calendar month from the start of the month your guest arrived, to the end of the month that your guest leaves. Any days your guest is with you before the first full calendar month and any days after the last full calendar month are added together (including the day of arrival but not the day of departure) and if this totals 16 days or more, sponsors will be eligible to be paid for an additional month.

The below table gives some examples of when sponsors would be eligible for an additional month's payment.

Guest Arrives	Guest Departs	Number of full calendar months	Number of additional days outside calendar months	Eligible for additional month's payment?	Total number of month payments due
1 May 2023	17 June 2023	1	16	Yes	2
16 May 2023	1 July 2023	1	16	Yes	2
19 May 2023	7 July 2023	1	19	Yes	2
30 May 2023	1 August 2023	2	1	No	2

Suffolk County Council will re calculate the payments made to hosts where guests have already left, and if any further payments are due we will automatically make these to hosts who chose to receive Thank You payments, by the 31st July 2023. This will be backdated to the beginning of the scheme (March 2022).

Current sponsors who have chosen to receive Thank You payments will receive payment automatically, where eligible, when guests leave them. You do not need to do anything.

If you should have any further queries do not hesitate to contact us directly at refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk .

Tell us how we can support you



Over the last year Community Action Suffolk has been working in partnership with Suffolk County Council to support community groups who have been helping Ukraine guests and hosts in their local area.

As we move into year 2 of the Homes for Ukraine scheme, we want to ensure that our support continues to meet current needs, and so we need to understand what these are for different people and in different parts of Suffolk.

We would like to have a better understanding of how hosts and Ukrainians are currently supported in Suffolk, and what else you may need further information about and support with, at the moment and going forward.

We are also exploring how we can support Ukraine guests to take part in local activities that they are interested in and so would like to understand more about the interests and hobbies of Ukrainian guests, and the kind of activities they might like to take part in, in their area.

To gather this information we have developed 2 online questionnaires, one each for hosts and guests. We would be very grateful if you would complete the questionnaire to tell us about these things, and ask your guests to complete it too.

The questionnaires can be accessed using the links below.

- **Host questionnaire:** <https://tinyurl.com/UKRhost>
- **Guest questionnaire:** <https://tinyurl.com/UKRguest>

If you have any questions regarding the questionnaires, or would like to discuss these further, please contact Liz Evans, Ukraine Community Development Coordinator, using the contact details below.

Thank you for taking the time to support us with this work.

Liz Evans
Ukraine Community Development Coordinator
Elizabeth.evans@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk
01473 345426

Meet the new Homes for Ukraine Casework Team!

As previously reported over the last few months, Suffolk County Council have made some changes to the Homes for Ukraine Casework team.

The Team

The team has grown over the last few months and within the team we have colleagues experienced in working within local authority, housing teams, Legal Teams, children & young people services, as well as the employment and education sector. We have well over 40 years of Local Authority experience within the team, and vast experience to call on to help resolve any issues faced by the hosts and guests..

What we can do to help

This means that we can now be the first point of contact for both hosts and guests and offer a more hands on and direct support to all. We can support you both in dealing with any worries or issues in a fast and professional manner to help maintain the valuable work that is being done in the local area.

Our primary duties in the past were to find rematches and process guests arrivals/departures. But now with the bigger and diverse team - and with the start of the second year of the scheme, with some guests beginning to move past the 12-month stage, we would like to offer our support for a wider range of issues, as we begin to be more visible in the community and conduct welfare visits in person and over the phone, and invite any support in any requests for assistance.

Our support can be via email, telephone or face to face meeting, please let us know what would be best for you. The Home for Ukraine team would like to encourage all on the scheme to get in contact if they have any issues or questions via refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk.

What we need to know

We should be your first port of call if you need assistance, be it with housing, welfare or employment, and would like to take a second to remind you that we need to be informed of certain developments as soon as they happen.

- Guests moving out to other hosts or independent living.
- Guests returning to the Ukraine (or another country)
- Guests moving out of county.
- Guests being joined by other family members in host accommodation.
- Relationship breakdown issues
- Updates for welfare checks

But please feel free to contact us when you have a question or would like some assistance in something else.

Welfare checks – initial, 4 month and 10 month

Initial checks - within the first few weeks of a guest joining a host we need to do an initial check on the welfare of everyone, this must happen to trigger the host 'Thank you payments'.

We will only need to be with you for a short time and will try to fit it around the best time for everyone involved.

4 month checks – As your guest is coming up to the 6 month stay point we will need to do another welfare check, this will be completed after the 4 month time frame to make sure that everything is still going well and what the plans are after 6 months. We will need to speak to both of you again but as before it will be at a convenient time to all involved and will be in person.

10 month checks – At the 10-12 month stage, we will send hosts a questionnaire via email, for you to complete and send back to us as soon as possible, including any details of what the plan is in regard to continuing to host after the 12 month stage, this is so we can support you and the guest if there is any need to re match or support with housing applications for independent living. The guest will receive an email asking them to book a telephone call with us, where we will discuss how they are doing and what plans they may have. If needed, we will then book a face to face meeting. Please encourage your guest to reply to the email requesting a telephone meeting so this can be arranged at a convenient time.

Events

We have already started to attend events in the local area to meet and support the hosts and guests. We are planning on getting out to the host hub meetings etc and have attended some housing support meetings. We are eager to attend other events which may be planned along with arranging to come (face to face or virtually) to other host hub meetings.

If there is an event you would like us to attend, please email us on refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk. And we will do our best to come.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Reminder - Independent Living Payment

Suffolk County Council is offering a one-off Independent Living Payment of £2,000 to all Ukrainian guests who are part of the Homes For Ukraine Scheme. This is to support people who are leaving their host accommodation and moving into their own home. In order to issue this payment, Suffolk County Council will ask to see a copy of a valid tenancy agreement in the guest's name.

In order to receive payment Ukrainian guests will need to meet the following criteria:

- Guests must be moving from their Suffolk host or sponsor into independent housing after the 1st of April 2023.
- Guests must be registered with Suffolk County Council's Homes for Ukraine sponsorship scheme.
- Guests must have been living with a sponsor or host under the Suffolk Homes for Ukraine scheme for a minimum of two months.
- Guest must have a valid, current UK bank account in their own name.
- Guests must provide a signed and current tenancy agreement for the address they are moving in to.

Only one claim can be made per new household. Attempts to make multiple claims will be rejected.

The funding can be used for purchasing items to support the move to independent accommodation or to help with the cost of moving. The new accommodation can be either furnished or unfurnished and can be situated out of Suffolk.

You can apply for the Independent Living Payment by downloading the form. Please send the completed application form **and copy of your tenancy agreement** to Suffolk County Council at refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk

If successful, the payment will be paid as part of the Homes for Ukraine standard monthly payment run on the third Wednesday of each month.

If you require support in filling out the form, please email refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk and a caseworker will help you.

Apply for support with costs involved with setting up independent living.



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 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.



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 30 May

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 30 May 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	267	223	194
East Suffolk	537	480	416
Ipswich	218	168	126
Mid Suffolk	341	290	252
West Suffolk	521	422	351

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 30 May 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	1,884	1,583	1,339
Cambridgeshire	2,775	2,410	2,064
Essex	2,970	2,535	2,144
Norfolk	2,121	1,766	1,470

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.](#)