



SUFFOLK

UKRAINE BULLETIN

Dear all,

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 how Suffolk marked Ukraine's Day of Independence on 24 August, along with updated guidance about safeguarding and scam awareness, and how you can help us to shape future communications to hosts.

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 edition will be on Wednesday 4 October 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



How Suffolk marked Ukraine's Day of Independence

On 24 August, Ukraine marked its national independence day. The day of independence was marked locally by communities across Suffolk.

Suffolk County Council marked the day by lighting up its Headquarters in the colours of the Ukrainian flag.



In Felixstowe, community group [Ukraine2Felixstowe](#) decorated the town's post-boxes with crocheted 'toppers' in Ukraine colours on a dozen post-boxes for the day and through until the start of the school term.

A small ceremony was also held to raise the Ukrainian flag outside Felixstowe Town Hall on 24 August.



In Bury St Edmunds, the Ukrainian Community turned out for a parade and tree planting behind the Abbey Gardens.

[Read more via Suffolk News](#)

Warning to stay vigilant against online scams



A host has reported that they have become aware of some different potential scams to guests. They include asking guests to pay for introductions to agencies to introduce hosts to guests.

Many of these potential scams can take place before guests come to the UK, which is why it is also important to share this information with friends and family who may be coming to the UK in the future, to help them to be cautious and safe.

Please share the following advice:

- **Know who you are speaking to** – Do not give away too much information about yourself until you are sure they are really who they say they are - is it a real Facebook profile, for instance?
- **Are they genuine?** – Look out for red flags that show they're not genuine: are they asking for money, requesting personal information such as relationship status, entering country under false pretences e.g. pretending to be in a relationships,
- **It's free to find a host** – don't get caught by payment scams or being asked for money up front. Don't make payments via friends and family on PayPal as this doesn't offer any protection.
- **Meet hosts in person safely** – e.g meet online first in a video call where you can see the person you are speaking to, where it is possible meet in a public place, make sure your friends and family know where you are and who you are meeting.

If you have any concerns about a communication you have received please inform us at refugeesuport@suffolk.gov.uk

Stay up to date with the latest scams and rogues by signing up to receive a weekly email from Suffolk Trading Standards here: www.suffolk.gov.uk/JoinTheFight

Hubs, Facebook and Bulletins - Tell us how we should update you!

As part of the work we have been doing this year to improve the service we provide the hosts and guests we have been collating feedback from various sources.

We want to make sure we are communicating important information to hosts in the way that works best for you, so we have created a questionnaire to find out how you would like

important updates and information to be shared with you. Please do take a couple of minutes to fill it in, by the 29th of September 2023.

<https://forms.office.com/e/wbXtu5qk3r>

Your response is greatly appreciated and will help us to improve the way we share important information with you in the future.

Reporting safeguarding issues

It is important that the Homes for Ukraine Casework team are kept informed of any potential safeguarding issues. This can be anything from mental health issues, concerns about a child, concerns about drug or alcohol abuse etc. SCC and the partners we work with can offer support in these circumstances and refer to the proper professional support organisation where needed.

The Homes for Ukraine casework team are there to help and support both the guest and hosts and can be contacted at refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk

Finding new hosts

When a hosting arrangement comes to an end it is the responsibility of the guest to find a new host.

Hosts can be found by:

- Posting on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/tfsukraine>
- The approved suppliers list on the Gov.uk site - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/find-a-sponsor-using-recognised-providers-homes-for-ukraine>

- Which includes amongst others Reset - [Home - Homes For Ukraine](#)

In the event that finding a new host via these links is not successful, contact Suffolk County Council Homes for Ukraine Casework Team on Refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk to explore whether the team can help.

Update on applying to stay in the UK under the Ukraine extension scheme

The Department of levelling up has confirmed that Ukrainian refugee guests who arrived in the UK via a Homes for Ukraine visa, **do not** need to apply to stay in the UK under the Ukraine Extension Scheme.

The Ukraine Extension Scheme is aimed at Ukrainian arrivals who came to the UK under different visas, such as seasonal workers or visitor visas.

It is recommended that Homes for Ukraine guests remain on the sponsorship scheme to ensure they can continue to receive a level of support, which other schemes do not offer.

For more information about the Ukraine Extension Scheme, visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-to-stay-in-the-uk-under-the-ukraine-extension-scheme>



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

Language and employment courses for Ukrainians

On 24 August, DLUHC announced an [£11.5 million support package to provide free English lessons and help to improve up to 10,000 Ukrainians' job prospects](#).

The intensive language programme will include nearly 20 hours of online English learning a week over a period of 10 weeks. Additional employment support over 12 weeks will include advice on how to find jobs, CV writing and application support, as well as one-to-one interview practice.

Following feedback from Ukrainian guests, the courses are online so that people with young children, caring responsibilities, or shift workers, can take part from anywhere in the UK.

The new English and employment courses come as the government reaffirms its commitment to helping Ukrainians settle and rebuild their lives in the UK on Ukrainian Independence Day.

Earlier in August, DLUHC updated the [learn to speak, read and write English: Homes for Ukraine guidance](#), which includes new information on the government funding for [STEP Ukraine](#).

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 29 August

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 29 August 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	270	228	202
East Suffolk	555	491	429
Ipswich	246	179	136
Mid Suffolk	353	299	259
West Suffolk	550	431	365

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 29 August 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	1,974	1,628	1,391
Cambridgeshire	2,900	2,525	2,183
Essex	3,180	2,682	2,272
Norfolk	2,227	1,857	1,569

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.](#)