



SUFFOLK UKRAINE BULLETIN

Dear all,

Welcome to the Suffolk Ukraine Bulletin. This weekly bulletin provides an update on the situation in Suffolk along with updates on the work of the county council and partners within Suffolk's Ukraine Task Group.

We are grateful for your support so far, and our regular updates will include further information on how you and your communities can get involved, as we continue to work together as a county to do all we can to help those fleeing the conflict in Ukraine.

With best wishes, on behalf of Suffolk's Ukraine Task Group.

Clr Bobby Bennett,
Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities

Stuart Keeble,
Director of Public Health in Suffolk



WELCOMING UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

The Homes for Ukraine Scheme [Homes for Ukraine – Homes for Ukraine – Local Sponsorship Scheme for Ukraine \(campaign.gov.uk\)](#) was launched on Monday 14

March to allow individuals, charities, community groups and businesses in the UK to bring Ukrainians to safety – including those with no family ties to the UK.

We are currently expecting to support more than 1,000 Ukrainian Refugees to arrive in Suffolk via the Homes for Ukraine scheme. We expect this number to increase over the coming days and weeks.

Visa data as at 3 May

Data about the number of Visas issued by The Home Office is 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, by District/Borough (Lower Tier Local Authority) as at 3 May 2022

Source: Operational data, Home Office (HO), and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

Lower Tier Local Authority	Number of Visas issued
Babergh	88
East Suffolk	199
Ipswich	51
Mid Suffolk	143
West Suffolk	206

The below table shows the number of Visas issued by the Home Office via the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship scheme, by County (Upper Tier Local Authority) as at 3 May 2022:

Source: Operational data, Home Office (HO), and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

Upper Tier Local Authority	Number of Visas issued
Suffolk	687
Cambridgeshire	1,013
Essex	1,144

We know that many more households in Suffolk are seeing their guests starting to arrive in Suffolk as visa processing has accelerated nationally.

Webpage refresh

The information on our website about Support for Ukrainian Refugees has been refreshed, to ensure this is more accessible and easier to navigate. You can find information via the links below:

- [Support for Ukraine](#)
 - [Information for Sponsors](#)
 - [Information for Guests](#)
 - [Further information](#)
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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 at:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/SupportingRefugees

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.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

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.](#)

Some of the topics we are being asked about this week are outlined below:

I'm a sponsor, how do I receive the £350 monthly payment?

Government guidance advises that sponsors who have applied via the Homes for Ukraine scheme are eligible for a monthly payment of £350 for up to 12 months.

As part of the initial contact with sponsors, Suffolk County Council will be asking if they wish to claim the £350 monthly payment and if so, will request bank details from the sponsor.

Payments are made monthly in arrears. Government guidance states that the payments can only start once the following five checks have been completed:

- The sponsors' residential accommodation exists
- The sponsors' accommodation has been visited and is suitable
- The DBS checks have been initiated
- The refugee guests have arrived at the host accommodation
- Safeguarding checks have been completed

Information in other languages

A suite of information in English, Ukrainian and Russian is available via our [via our FAQs](#), including information about NHS services, Fire Safety and DWP support for Ukrainians arriving in the UK.

Offering accommodation or support

If you are interested in offering accommodation via the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, you can find out more about the scheme and how to register at homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk.

For the latest information, updates and frequently asked questions about the work we are doing in Suffolk, and what you can do to help, visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/SupportingRefugees



Online learning for Ukrainian Refugees with the Open University

The National Employer and Partnership Team (NEPT) have partnered with the Open University to offer free extensive online support specifically for Ukraine Refugees.

[Free online resources for Ukrainian refugees - OpenLearn - Open University](#)

This learning provides free help and support with:

- English Skills
- Beginning German and French language
- Wellbeing and Mental Health
- Wellbeing support

All of the courses are free to Ukraine citizens regardless of previous education or learning experience.

The courses are delivered in many forms, from videos, to games, to interactive activities.

Some courses also offer a digital badge. OU digital badges do not carry formal credit but enable you to show commitment to your career development.

To find out how we work with The Open University and what they do to support jobseekers, view their account summary [Open University | DWP Intranet](#)

Ukraine: Anti-trafficking resources

The LGA, councils and partners have flagged risks around trafficking and modern slavery. As part of their [STAY SAFE, WORK SAFE](#) campaign, Stop the Traffik have produced a helpful resource providing guidance on anti-trafficking and a series of wider issues, available in [English](#), [Ukrainian](#) and [Russian](#).

A [recent report published by the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and University College London](#) made a series of recommendations for how government, councils and their partners can mitigate against this risk.

The Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority have produced a [checklist poster](#), [know your rights poster](#) and [leaflet on the issue of workers' rights](#), and the anti-trafficking charity Hope for Justice have collated a [suite of materials that will support organisations working](#)

[with new arrivals from Ukraine.](#)

The source materials for these resources are available via the [Homes for Ukraine knowledge hub group](#).

Guidance from GOV.UK:

Homes for Ukraine: new guidance published for organisations and businesses

DLUHC has (6 May) published the following guidance as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme:

- [Recognised Providers: Organisations who can help guests from Ukraine find sponsors in the UK](#)
- [Recognised Providers: Organisations who can help UK citizens become sponsors](#)
- [Guidance for matching organisations](#)
- [Guidance for businesses considering making offers of employment to people coming to the UK from Ukraine.](#)

Further guidance from GOV.UK can be seen below:

[Guidance for Councils](#)

[Week one guidance for Ukrainians arriving in the UK](#)

[Guidance for moving to the UK if you're from Ukraine](#)

[Homes for Ukraine Sponsor Guidance](#)

[Bringing your pet to the UK from Ukraine](#)

[Factsheet \(translations available via buttons in top right of page\)](#)

[Homes for Ukraine campaign page](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)



Community Groups

Community Action Suffolk are working with Suffolk Refugee Support to boost local support for Community Groups in Suffolk.

We want to thank the community groups who have offered help to the refugees arriving in their local areas for the valuable role they play.

If you are a community group who want more information about how you can help, please contact Community Action Suffolk who are offering support to community groups, at: ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk

For further information, please visit Community Action Suffolk's website: [Community Support for Ukrainian Refugees in Suffolk](#)

Suffolk Libraries services for Ukraine refugees



There are many ways in which any refugees can benefit from the library service. Those without a permanent address can still get an Instant Access Library Card. With an Instant Access card someone can:

- borrow up to three books from any library
- use online services and library computers
- borrow titles from the eLibrary (including downloadable books, music, films and courses, magazines and newspapers) Suffolk Libraries has recently added a list of Ukrainian Books to the [free Overdrive eBook service which can be found at here.](#)

There are more details on the [joining the library page](#) on the Suffolk Libraries website.

Libraries also offer a free space to meet and spend time, free Wi-Fi and internet access, access to printing and scanning and books in other languages. All libraries offer free social activities and groups for all ages.

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.](#)
