



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 650 Ukrainian Refugees to arrive in Suffolk via the Homes for Ukraine scheme. We expect this number to increase over the coming days and weeks.

Please note that we cannot provide information about how many sponsors have signed up to the scheme as this information is held by The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). In the interests of protecting and respecting the privacy of these individuals, we will not provide any location information about where sponsors or refugees are housed.

Homes for Ukraine - Information for Sponsors

An information pack has been created for Sponsors in Suffolk, which contains information about the programme, access to support and health care services, applying for a school place and more. You can view the information pack on the [Suffolk County Council website](#).

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

Please check this webpage 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:

How does my refugee guest(s) access the one-off £200 payment?

In order to arrange the £200 payment to Homes for Ukraine refugee arrivals, please follow the following steps.

If you are the sponsor, once your refugee guest(s) have arrived at your address, please email refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk and use the title 'Refugee £200 payment' in the subject line.

Please provide the name(s) of the refugee(s), either a contact email or mobile phone number for the refugee, plus the address where they are living and the date of arrival.

Where there are children in the group, please provide the names of the children but include the email address or phone number of their responsible adult from the refugee group.

I've submitted my Homes for Ukraine application, what are the next steps?

Once a Sponsor is matched with a Ukraine citizen or family, and a visa application has been submitted to the Home Office, your details are downloaded by Suffolk County Council via the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) portal daily, Monday to Friday. This information is usually received by Suffolk County Council within 1-2 working days of the visa application being submitted. Suffolk County Council has no control over the Visa application itself. You can [apply for a visa on the government website](#) which also contains some additional guidance.

Suffolk County Council aims to call each sponsor within 2 working days of being made aware that the visa application has been applied for, to gather information which feeds into the initial accommodation and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks that are undertaken in parallel with the Home Office considering the visa application.

The visa process, accommodation and DBS checks are not done in any specific order, but they must all be completed. Sometimes Visas will be issued before other checks are completed.

More detail about the process can be found [via our FAQs](#).

How do families apply for a school place?

All school children, whether they have come to Suffolk via the Family visa scheme route or Homes for Ukraine, will be entitled to a school place.

Applications for school places for refugee pupils should be made to the SCC School Admissions Team for community and voluntary controlled schools, or to academies and voluntary aided schools directly.

In-Year applications

To make an application for a school place for the current (2021/2022) school year, please visit [move to a different school \(in-year applications 2021/2022\)](#).

Applying for a secondary school place for September 2022/2023

Find information on [how to apply for a secondary \(including high, middle and upper\) school place for the 2022/2023 school year](#).

Applying for a primary school place from September 2022/2023

Find information on how to apply for a primary (including infant and junior) school place for the 2022/2023 school year.

The Fair Access Protocol will apply if there are no places available in a particular area. However, we will not be able to place a child in a key stage 1 class if it already has 30 pupils with a single qualified teacher.

Refer to the school admissions pages for more information.

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

At the moment, we do not have any specific requirements for donated items here in Suffolk. If anyone wishes to do something practical, they could fundraise to raise contributions for charities working to support the refugee response. Details of some of those charities are below:

- To help meet the needs of the Ukraine refugees, you may wish to support national and international charities such as The Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal [Ukraine Crisis Appeal | British Red Cross](#)
- Suffolk Refugee Support are our local refugee charity, you can find out about their response to the Ukraine situation on their website [Update on Ukrainian refugee situation – Suffolk Refugee Support](#)

- Further information on how to help can be found on the Disasters emergency committee website [DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal | Disasters Emergency Committee](#)
-

Beware of Scammers

Please take care of your personal information to avoid sharing information with unscrupulous people who are seeking to exploit the current situation to commit identity fraud.

If you are either providing your personal information to allow the lead refugee guest to apply for the visa with the Home Office; or if you are offering your accommodation via a community group or other organisation, please make sure you know they are legitimate if you are sharing your personal information to enable them to make visa applications for you and your matched refugee guests on your behalf.

Whilst most people are very genuine, please also be aware that if you have agreed that the lead refugee guest will apply for the visa(s) with the Home Office, that we have heard that in some cases they are then applying for visas for more people than they may have told you and a larger group than you were expecting may arrive.



**NATIONAL
UPDATES**

See below for the latest Government guidance about the current national situation:

Ukraine: welcome guide

Ukrainian and Russian translations have been added to the [welcome guide for Ukrainians arriving in the UK](#). The welcome guide aims to help Ukrainians settle in the UK, find a home here, access essential public services, healthcare, find work and childcare and education services. The guide also includes specific information for those arriving on the [Homes for Ukraine scheme](#). The Homes for Ukraine campaign page and the [Homes for Ukraine scheme FAQs document](#) will be updated regularly so please continue to check back for further updates.

Ukraine: Homes for Ukraine matching service

National charities including Reset, Refugees at Home and Citizens UK are developing a process to assess applicants' suitability and eligibility for the scheme to allow Ukrainians to be matched with UK sponsors. This 'phase two' of the scheme will run in parallel with the current individual level matching and will then be rolled out to other accredited organisations. [Reset](#) will also be providing a training service for sponsors, councils and community groups, with DLUHC providing an initial grant of £300,000 to help design the matching process and pilot the service. Please do share any experiences you have of this next phase of the matching process with your [Principal Adviser](#).

Access to education

This week, the Education Secretary, Nadhim Zahawi MP, has [written to all councils on the right of children](#) arriving from Ukraine to access education and childcare while in the UK. The letter sets out the Government's expectation for councils to work with families arriving from Ukraine to enable the children to attend school as soon as possible, which we know many councils are already doing.

Council tax discounts and exemptions

On 1 April DLUHC issued an important [council tax information letter](#) (08/22). The letter set out measures the Government is taking to ensure that households providing a home for a sponsored person under the Homes for Ukraine scheme maintain their council tax discounts, exemptions and local council tax support. It also provided updates relating to the council tax rebate, including on payments to local authorities for the core rebate and associated discretionary fund which were paid in full on March 30th. DLUHC has [also](#)

[published a factsheet for members](#) of the public addressing some of the most common queries about the council tax rebate.

[More information about the Homes for Ukraine scheme can be found at GOV.UK.](#)



Suffolk Councils condemn Putin's invasion of Ukraine and pledge support for refugees

Suffolk County Council, alongside all five district councils in the county, have condemned the 'unprovoked Russian invasion' of Ukraine.

During council meetings last month, several councillors have proposed motions to condemn the attack and show support for Ukrainians fleeing their country for safety.

[Read More](#)

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.](#)
