



**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.

**Cllr 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 850 Ukrainian Refugees to arrive in Suffolk via the Homes for Ukraine scheme. We expect this number to increase over the coming days and weeks.

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## Visa data as at 19 April

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 19 April 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	60
East Suffolk	106
Ipswich	32
Mid Suffolk	74
West Suffolk	145

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 19 April 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	417
Cambridgeshire	624
Essex	723
Norfolk	447

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## Community groups

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](mailto:ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk)

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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](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/SupportingRefugees)

An information pack for Sponsors in Suffolk, is available on the [Suffolk County Council website](#). The pack 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](mailto:refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk) and we will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.



**Suffolk Refugee Support - Ukrainian Speaking Volunteers**



Suffolk Refugee Support are looking for volunteers who speak fluent Ukrainian (as well as English) to help us support Ukrainian refugees arriving in Suffolk. If you can help and would like to register as a volunteer, please contact Libby: [lruffle@suffolkrefugee.org.uk](mailto:lruffle@suffolkrefugee.org.uk)

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## 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) apply for Universal Credit?**

[You can apply for Universal Credit with GOV.UK.](#)

If you need help with your claim, you can call the Universal Credit helpline for free on **0800 144 8 444**.

Once a claim has been made, an appointment with a work coach will be made. The person applying for Universal Credit will be asked to take all their documents to the work coach meeting, who will then notify processing team that the person comes under Homes for Ukraine programme.

## **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision**

There are a number of large and small ESOL providers in Suffolk, these include:

- West Suffolk College:
  1. [Bury St Edmunds](#)
  2. [Haverhill](#)
  3. [Ipswich](#)
  4. [Newmarket](#)
  5. [Sudbury](#)
  6. [Thetford](#)
- [Suffolk New College](#)
- [Realise Futures](#)
- [Ipswich Community Media](#)
- [Suffolk Refugee Support](#)
- [PHOEBE](#)

The refugee guests will need to arrange to have an assessment first to see which level of ESOL provision would best meet their needs. The Suffolk ESOL providers work closely together, so if they don't have a class to meet a learner's needs, they will signpost to another provider instead.

All of the Suffolk providers are aware that there will be more learners arriving in Suffolk seeking provision. They are keeping this under review and some are ready to put on additional classes if needed.

## **Why won't you let us use a sofa bed – or swap our living arrangements around so we can fit more people in?**

We recognise that refugees are escaping dire conditions and we will do everything in our power to accommodate as many people as possible – but we also have to ensure that living arrangements are realistic over a long-term six to 12 month period for both hosts and guests. We want to ensure we are giving people a stable and safe refuge, not further change and upheaval in 2-3 months' time when their cramped living arrangements – however well-intentioned – become untenable for either party.

For this reason we are likely to refuse applications that rely on the use of sofa beds in living rooms, and/or where adults cannot have their own bedroom space. You can find out more about the government guidelines we use for housing checks [here](#).

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## **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](https://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](https://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](#)
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See below for the latest Government guidance about the current national situation:

### **Barnardo's free helpline to support Ukrainian families**

The conflict and ongoing violence in Ukraine have caused families to forcibly leave their homes, in search of safety, with many arriving in the UK.

In response to this, following discussion with the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain, Barnardo's has set up the Ukrainian Support Helpline to provide a holistic support service. The helpline is available to anyone fleeing the conflict in Ukraine.

Barnardo's free helpline (0800 148 8586) is staffed by English, Ukrainian and Russian speakers, to offer support to children and families arriving in the UK from Ukraine.

The helpline is open Monday – Friday (10:00am – 8:00pm) and Saturday (10:00am – 3:00pm). Callers will be able to get help and advice on a range of topics.

A dedicated email address [ukrainiansupport@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:ukrainiansupport@barnardos.org.uk) and webpage have also been set up for those assisting with the Ukraine response.

[Read more](#)

## **VCS Emergencies Partnership resources**

The Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership have been collecting and curating resources for those looking for more information to support people affected. The website hosts a centralised repository of insights, knowledge, guidance and advice to support sector preparedness and response. The resources have now been categorised by who they are intended for, for example, for Ukrainians or UK-based service providers, and where they have come from, for example, from Government departments and agencies or VCS partner organisations.

[Visit the VCS website to find out more.](#)

## **Moving to the UK from Ukraine**

[View detailed guidance on GOV.UK](#) about moving to the UK from Ukraine.

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

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## **Bingo and Auction in aid of the (DEC) Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal**

On Friday 29th April the [White Lion in Ufford will be hosting a Bingo and Auction of Promises Night in aid of the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.](#)

The auction includes some fantastic promises, such as: a week in Norfolk, a cream and champagne tea, plants, a gardening ground force, wine, paella for 50 people, a bell tent for a weekend, marmalade, a boat trip, the chance to appear in a novel, hampers, vouchers, home-made cakes, the services of a handyman and lots more.

The event is now sold out but we're casting our net wide and [sharing the catalogue](#) in case anyone would like to leave an advance bid. If anything in the catalogue tempts you and you would like to leave a bid, or for more information about any lot, please contact [jacquinedavies1@btinternet.com](mailto:jacquinedavies1@btinternet.com)

Please state Lot No and a brief description and give your maximum bid. Advance bids need to be in by 5pm on Thursday 28th April.

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## **Ukrainian Refugees visit Portman Road**

Two Ukrainian refugee families were invited to Portman Road for a tour last week, before also receiving tickets to Town's fixture with Wigan Athletic in the evening.

The families, who were forced to flee the war in Ukraine earlier this month, had a private tour of the stadium which included a surprise appearance from the Club's mascot Bluey in the Blues' home dressing room.

The visit was arranged along with *Suffolk Refugee Support*, a local charity who provide advice and practical support for asylum seekers and refugees in Suffolk.

Martin Simmonds, fundraising and communications officer at Suffolk Refugee Support, said: "The Ukrainian refugees arriving in Suffolk have been through so much, with their lives turned upside down, loved ones in danger back home and great uncertainty for the future.

"Alongside the practical support we are providing, we know that a warm community welcome will be vital in helping people to recover and rebuild, so we are very grateful to Ipswich Town Football Club and Amnesty International's Football Welcomes initiative for showing such generosity and giving these two families something to smile about again."

[Read more](#)

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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.](#)