

The banner features a blue top half and a yellow bottom half, mimicking the Ukrainian flag. The word 'SUFFOLK' is written in white on the blue background, and 'UKRAINE BULLETIN' is written in blue on the yellow background. A faint sunburst graphic is visible on the right side of the yellow section.

# SUFFOLK

## UKRAINE BULLETIN

Dear all,

With the ongoing situation in Ukraine, we want to keep partners updated with what we are doing in Suffolk to support individuals and families fleeing the conflict, and how you can help.

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.

Suffolk's Ukraine Task Group includes representatives from Suffolk County Council, each of Suffolk's districts and boroughs, its three NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups, Health Outreach, Police, Suffolk Refugee Support, Anglia Care Trust and Community Action Suffolk. This group will adapt its membership as needed to meet the needs of the evolving situation.

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.

We continue to work with and support all refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in Suffolk.

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**



The Homes for Ukraine Scheme [Homes for Ukraine – Homes for Ukraine – Local Sponsorship Scheme for Ukraine \(campaign.gov.uk\)](https://www.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.

### **What happens next**

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 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.

We are working our way through our list of Sponsors. If you have not already heard from us, we will be in touch soon. Please bear with us as we work through this process.

Government guidance advises that guests who arrive via the Homes for Ukraine scheme are eligible for a one-off payment of £200.00 per person. Sponsors are also eligible for a monthly payment of £350.00.

As part of the initial contact with Sponsors, Suffolk County Council will be asking if Sponsors will be wishing to claim the £350.00 and if so, will request bank details from the host. Payments are made monthly in arrears.

We are currently establishing the process to enable us to make the £200.00 payment to guests arriving via the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Please bear with us as we develop this new system. We will share more information as it becomes available.

## **How to access support**

We are conscious of the plight of Ukrainian refugees and want to do all we can to ensure that their arrival into Suffolk goes as smoothly as possible. To assist with this, we hope that most hosts will be able to support refugees to register with a GP and apply for school places, however we recognise some people will need some additional support and we are putting networks in place for this, which includes support for sponsors, refugees and community groups.

We will be getting in touch with all sponsors about how you can get involved in due course.

We are considering how best to meet Ukrainian guests' health and wellbeing needs and how we can offer support to help with integration and ESOL (English for speakers of other languages), particularly if there are lots of people arriving in dispersed, rural locations.

## **About the Homes for Ukraine Scheme:**

- There will be no limit on the number of Ukrainian refugees who can come to the UK for up to three years
- Refugees will be able to work, claim benefits, and access health and education provisions

- The portal for host households to offer accommodation either in their own homes or separate properties is now live and can be accessed at [Homes for Ukraine: register your interest - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-register-your-interest)
- Arrivals will be split into two waves, with the first being host households who have already linked in with Ukrainian refugees and will submit a joint application, and the second consisting of refugees who have been matched to host households by charities and community groups
- Host households must commit to offering accommodation for a minimum of six months and will be entitled to claim £350 per month as a 'thank you payment' for up to one year
- Safeguarding checks will need to be carried out on adults in the host households
- Any accommodation offered will be assessed for suitability
- Once a host household stops accommodating the refugees, there will be an expectation for local authorities to help the refugees find alternative accommodation

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)

Please check this webpage 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.



We know that many of you will be interested in supporting the new government initiative to bring Ukrainian refugees to the UK to stay in people's own homes or other properties that you are able to offer. Here is the latest update on the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

The Government has announced the **Homes for Ukraine scheme**. If you are interested in offering accommodation, you can find out more about the scheme and how to register at [homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk](https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk).

Regardless of how sponsors arrange matching for the Homes for Ukraine scheme, they must register through the government website above.

More information about how Suffolk is supporting refugees can be found at [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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## **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.



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

- [Homes for Ukraine: guidance for councils - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils)
- [Welcome: a guide for Ukrainians arriving in the UK - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk)
- [Homes for Ukraine: sponsor guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-sponsor-guidance)
- [Homes for Ukraine scheme: frequently asked questions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions)
- [Amendment to statutory homelessness duties for councils to those from Ukraine. - GOV.UK \(www.legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uk/2022/10/1/1)
- [Update to Adult Education Budget funding rules \(inclusion of Ukrainian adults\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/update-to-adult-education-budget-funding-rules-inclusion-of-ukrainian-adults)



## **Suffolk County Council votes to condemn Putin's invasion of Ukraine and pledges its support for refugees**

At a meeting of the County Council held 24 March, councillors from across the political divide voted in favour of a motion condemning the war in Ukraine.

Suffolk County Council is pledging their full backing for the Ukrainian people and committing to support refugees arriving in Suffolk.

The cross party motion described the invasion of Ukraine as "immoral and reprehensible", and praised the "enduring bravery" of the Ukrainian people against Russian aggression. The motion also stated that the council in no way associated the actions of the Russian government with individuals of Russian heritage living in Suffolk.

On the issue of refugees the council made clear its willingness to help settle individuals and families fleeing the conflict. Committing itself to support the people of Ukraine and pledged to work with District and Borough Councils along with the Suffolk Resilience Forum, the Voluntary Sector, Suffolk Refugee Support and MPs to ensure all efforts are made to welcome Displaced People coming from Ukraine to Suffolk.

The motion went on to praise the Government's economic response to the conflict, but stressed the need for easier and faster routes for refugees wanting to come to this country.

[Read more](#)

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## Car washes clean up for charity

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has raised over £8,000 for Ukraine and The Fire Fighters Charity from holding car washes across the county

Eight fire stations took part in the event on Saturday 26 March including Beccles, Hadleigh, Holbrook, Ixworth, Lowestoft South, Newmarket, Stowmarket, and Stradbroke.

[Read more.](#)





Those wishing to show their support can still donate by [visiting Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's JustGiving page](#).

A further charity car wash will be held at Felixstowe Fire Station between 10am and 2pm on Saturday 16 April 2022.

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For the latest information about support to refugees in Suffolk, visit [www.suffolk.gov.uk/SupportingRefugees](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/SupportingRefugees)

