

From:

Communications Mailbox



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 Guidance updates, upcoming events and a reminder on where to receive local support. 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 bulletin will be on Wednesday 11th December 2024. You can read previous editions of the Suffolk Ukraine Bulletin on our website. [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 Councillor Philip Faircloth-Mutton,
Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities
Stuart Keeble, Director of Public Health in Suffolk**



NATIONAL UPDATES

Homes for Ukraine Scheme - Policy Changes on Thank you Payment and Eligibility and Unaccompanied Minors

The following policy changes have been announced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and came into effect on 1 October 2024:

- For all new applications for thank you payments (rematches and new arrivals), sponsors who are in (or form) a close family relationship with their guest will no longer be eligible for payment. The policy will not be applied retrospectively, any current arrangements where thank you payments have been approved and commenced prior to 1st October will continue.
- Unaccompanied minors (UAM) policy has been amended so that, where a local authority identifies a Ukrainian child **already living in the UK** with a close family member/s only, this will not be treated as a new Homes for Ukraine 'sponsorship' i.e. the child will not be classified as an unaccompanied minor.

The full updated guidance, including definitions for close family members, can be viewed here:

[Homes for Ukraine: council guides - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-council-guides)

[Homes for Ukraine: sponsor guides - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-sponsor-guides)

[Homes for Ukraine: Guidance for guests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-guests)

E-Visa Roll out

The Government is urging all those across the UK who use a physical immigration document to **take immediate action to transition to an e-Visa**, as part of plans to digitise the UK border and immigration system.

If you have Homes for Ukraine guests, please ensure they are progressing their application to move to an e-visa'

All visa holders who live in the UK and use a physical immigration document, such as a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP), to prove their rights are urged to take action now at [Get access to your eVisa: Overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Video's explaining what needs to be done and how can be accessed here [Online immigration status \(eVisa\): help videos - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

For more information visit Gov.UK/eVisa:

Ukrainians are asked to retain their BRP – as this will help with a smooth customer experience to apply for the Visa Extension Scheme.



Support for Ukrainian Refugees and their hosts

Understanding Gender Based Violence & Supporting Survivors

The sessions aim to identify gender-based violence (GBV) and its impacts, clarify the links between GBV and migration and demonstrate how to effectively support survivors.

Date: 15th October 2024

Time: 12:30 pm. – 2:30 pm

To register email training@resetuk.org

Working Effectively with Interpreters

In this training, you will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully work with your Community Sponsorship group's interpreter. You will learn how to navigate culture and interpreting, plan the first week of arrival, follow-up sessions, and get top tips on working with interpreters.

Date: 7th November 2024

Time: 06:30 PM

To register email training@resetuk.org

Trauma Informed Care: Supporting Refugee Families

The session aims to ensure a clear understanding of trauma, to clarify the impacts of trauma on the body, brain and memory and to demonstrate how these impacts may present in the behaviour and wellbeing of refugee families. It also aimed to demonstrate the value of a trauma informed approach, building trust, a sense of safety and enabling choice through a strength-based approach.

Date: 21st November 2024

Time: 12:30pm - 2:30pm

To register email training@resetuk.org

Training - Budget Workshop



Presented by the
Money Advice Service

Anglia Care Trust
Support • Advice • Action

BUDGETING WORKSHOP

**Tips and Tricks on how to budget and
save yourself some money.**

WHO? For anyone who can benefit from budgeting advice

WHAT? A budgeting workshop to increase your income and help you budget better

WHERE? Teams

WHEN? Every month, please contact us for the next available



Please scan the QR code to look at available dates and to register your interest!

Budgeting Workshop held monthly.

Please contact Anglia Care Trust for dates and times

Phone: 01473 622888

Email: admin@angliacaretrust.org.uk

Conversation Classes

Hope Church English Conversation Classes continue every Thursday morning during school term followed by a Community Cafe. No need to book. Just come along for beginner, intermediate and conversation level classes.

When: Every Thursday

Venue: Hope Centre, 10 St Margaret's St, Ipswich IP4 2AT.

Time: 10:00 am -12:00 pm

Independent Living Payment

Suffolk County Council is offering a **one-off Independent Living Payment (ILP) of £2,000** to Ukrainian guests who are part of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and are leaving their host accommodation and moving into their own home. In order to issue this payment certain criteria must be met, and Suffolk County Council will ask to see a copy of a valid, signed and dated (by both parties) legal tenancy agreement in the guest's name.

The funding can be used for purchasing items to support the move to independent accommodation. The new accommodation can be either furnished or unfurnished and can be situated out of Suffolk.

You can apply for the Independent Living Payment by downloading the form.

[Ukraine: information for guests - Suffolk County Council](#)

Please send the completed application form and copy of your tenancy agreement to Suffolk County Council at refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk

Suffolk Refugee Support

"Suffolk Refugee Support continue to provide a range of advice, supporting people into employment

and training, helping with benefits applications, facilitating access to ESOL classes, visiting community hubs, organising [social events](#) and providing free SIM cards.



If you are a Ukrainian refugee (or a host) in Suffolk and you need support or advice, please contact Suffolk Refugee Support on 01473 400785 or via office@suffolkrefugee.org.uk

Barnardo's Refugee Family Helpline

Our Helpline provides emotional and practical support as well as advice and signposting to children and young people seeking sanctuary aged 25 and under (as well as their families). Our Helpline is open from Monday – Friday 10am – 8pm, and Saturday 10am – 3pm. The Helpline can be contacted via free phone on 0808 156 9877 or via an email to RefugeeFamilyHelpline@barnardos.org.uk.

REFUGEE FAMILY HELPLINE

We are here to support children and their families seeking sanctuary in the United Kingdom.

Refugee Family Helpline
Freephone 0808 156 9877

Email RefugeeFamilyHelpline@barnardos.org.uk

The Helpline is open:
Monday to Friday: 10am-8pm
Saturday: 10am-3pm

Please scan QR code to find out more information or visit: helpline.barnardos.org.uk



Our Helpline provides emotional and practical support as well as advice and signposting to children, young people and their families.

All services include access to interpreters if required.



Funded by
UK Government

BARNARDOS

Barnardo's Registered Charity Nos. 216250 and SC037605 24915shc24

Therapeutic Support Service

Barnardo's are able to offer free therapeutic support to children and young people aged 21 and under living in England under the Ukraine and Afghanistan pathways (ARAP and ACRS). Referrals can be made by contacting the Helpline via email/phone, or by submitting a professional referral form. For further details visit: - [Therapeutic support | Barnardo's Helplines](#)

THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT

Funded by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities we can offer free therapeutic support to children and young people aged 21 and under on the Ukraine and Afghanistan pathways who are living in England.



For more information contact our Refugee Family Helpline

 **0808 156 9877**

Our lines are open
Monday - Friday (10am-8pm)
and Saturday (10am-3pm)

 RefugeeFamilyHelpline@barnardos.org.uk

Professionals can make a referral via our website
helpline.barnardos.org.uk



What is therapy?

What can our therapy service support you with?

Our therapist will listen to you and explore your feelings and experiences in a safe space, without fear of judgement. It is a chance to discuss any difficulty or distress you may be experiencing or have experienced in the past.

They can help you to accept the things that you cannot change and help you to bring about the changes that are possible.

We offer you 8 sessions with the therapist. Each session will last 45 minutes. This will take place virtually (via phone call or video call). We have over 90 therapists who speak over 40 languages.

How can I access this therapy support?

If you would like therapeutic support, you can contact our Helpline service by telephone on our freephone number **0808 156 9877** or you can email RefugeeFamilyHelpline@barnardos.org.uk

When you contact our Helpline our friendly Advisors will listen to you to learn and understand more about your situation.

With your agreement our Advisor will refer you to our therapeutic support service.

The therapist will then make contact with you in within approximately 2-4 weeks at a date and time that is convenient for you to begin sessions.

Whilst you are being supported by our therapy team, you can continue to contact our Helpline Advisors who will be happy to offer you any additional support that you may require.

How do I know if I could benefit from support?

If you are feeling low, lonely, stuck, hopeless, feel like you need someone to talk to or listen to you, then therapy may be for you.

We can support children and young people aged 21 and under who have settled in England on one of the following schemes;
The Homes for Ukraine scheme
Ukraine Family scheme
Ukraine Extension Scheme
Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (Pathways 1, 2 and 3)
Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy



Virtual Youth Space

Youth Space is a safe place for young people from Ukraine and Afghanistan to have fun, make friends and informally practice their English skills. Each session we play games and chat about different topics. Staff from the Refugee Family Helpline lead the sessions, but we also have interpreters available if young people need support with expressing themselves.

Our Ukrainian Youth Space Sessions for 10 – 17-year-olds are held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. Young people are welcome to drop in at a time that suits them. If a young person wishes to join the sessions, they can register by visiting - [Virtual Youth Space | Barnardo's Helplines](#)



We Are Ukraine

Over the next few months The Hold is partnering with Together for Ipswich in enabling our Ukrainian friends to share their joys, their pains and their challenges, as they seek to integrate into Suffolk's County Town.



'We Are Ukraine' is a semi-permanent display of Ukrainian gratitude and culture, and a glimpse of how the people of Ipswich have sought to welcome those fleeing from the war. See the display in the foyer at The Hold, 131 Fore Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 1LR from 23 July 2024.

Events

Suffolk Tours - Article Written by Together for Ipswich

Together for Ipswich were able to give places on Suffolk (minibus) Tours to 90 Ukrainians during the summer, including a speedboat trip from Southwold, and a wood-fired pizza making workshop at the Suffolk Food Museum. Together for Ipswich hope to deliver one or two more Tours during the school half term holiday in October. Message Alan on 07834 693144 for details.



Ukraine Independence Day at the Hold - Article written by Suffolk Refugee Support (SRS)

Last month we celebrated Ukraine Independence Day at the Hold (Suffolk Archives), which attracted more than 200 guests from Ipswich and surrounding areas.

Our team at SRS and talented members of Ukrainian community put a lot of thought and effort to organize an unforgettable event, where every guest could enjoy art and handmade stalls, book exhibition (books kindly provided by Suffolk Libraries), buffet with the traditional Ukrainian food, a concert, and fashion show.

We were happy to see our Ukrainian clients, their British families and friends, volunteers, partners, and colleagues, among whom Alan Cutting and the Hope Church, volunteer David Jacobs, Woodbridge and Kesgrave Ukrainian hubs, Suffolk County Council Homes for Ukraine team members, and Member of Parliament from Ipswich Jack Abbot MP.



Upcoming events

Ukrainian Well-being Café

Together for Ipswich is supporting Bridge Church Ipswich in providing a Ukrainian Well-being Café in Ipswich. There will be coffee, cakes, and the opportunity to talk with those who have the compassion, training, and skills to listen. No cost, and no pre-booking required. (Families welcomed).



Location: 'On the Huh' cafe, St Peter's Street, Ipswich IP1 1XF.

Dates: Mondays

Times: 16.30-18.00 and 19.00-20.30.

Promote your events

We would like to invite you to let us know of any events happening across Suffolk so that we can help promote to them the wider network. If there is any future event you would like to promote, or would like a member of the Homes for Ukraine team to attend, please email refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk using 'Event' in the subject line.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025 Public Questionnaire Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board

Tell us how you access and use pharmacy services in Suffolk

We want to hear how you access and use community pharmacy (or local chemists) services in Suffolk. Everybody's views are important to ensure the pharmacy services in Suffolk meet your needs. Your views will help us to develop future pharmacy services.

We would be grateful if you would answer some questions about your own experience and views. It takes approximately 5 minutes to complete.

The information you provide in the questionnaire is confidential - Please see the privacy statement below. Your responses and comments will be published in the PNA on the council website in summary form only, and you will not be personally identified in any way.

For a paper copy or easy read version please contact:

Natacha Bines, Public Health Suffolk, on 01473 260091, or by email on:

natacha.bines@suffolk.gov.uk

If you would like to complete this online follow this link: [Suffolk pharmaceutical needs assessment public questionnaire - Suffolk County Council](#)

Closing date for this questionnaire is 8th November 2024

N.B. All responses and respondent details are anonymous. Any information provided will be kept in line with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). The information will be held securely and used for the purpose of planning appropriate services for all communities. It will not be passed on to any third party. For more detail on the Public Health privacy notice please visit: [Public Health and Communities privacy notice - Suffolk County Council](#)

Guests Leaving Hosts - reminder.

This message serves as a brief reminder of your requirement to inform us as soon as your guests are no longer with you, because they have decided to go on holiday or move on from their current hosting arrangement.

This is to allow us to make payment adjustments if required and process final payments in a timely manner to reduce the likelihood of any under or overpayments. We also need to ensure the safety and well-being of all parties.

You should inform us by emailing – refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk

Lead Host Declaration Reminder

Sponsors/hosts of Ukrainian guests on a Homes for **Ukraine** visa are eligible for a monthly payment from the UK government as a thank you for hosting.

You do not have to apply for the Host “**Thank you**” payment (we will ask you at the initial telephone conversation with you if you would like to receive this payment) but if you do wish to receive this payment, Suffolk County Council is required, under the Government's terms of the scheme, to receive your agreement, and this is done by requesting that you complete our Declaration form.

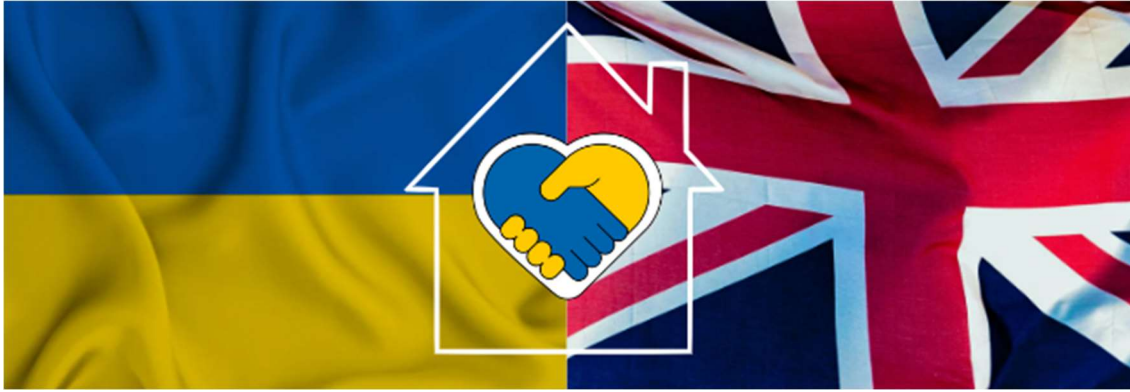
When you first apply to sponsor a visa or be a rematch host for Ukrainian guests under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, we will email you new sponsor information, and also send an email to the Lead Host called '**Homes for Ukraine Lead Host Declaration**'.

Please ensure that you complete the short online form sent in this email as soon as possible.

We will be unable to make monthly payments to you if we do not receive your completed initial declaration.

We will ask for the declaration to be agreed again at regular intervals throughout your hosting journey. If you have any questions regarding this, please email - refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk

Could you help a family in need?



In February 2022, the UK was asked to help support Ukrainians displaced by the war. Since then, the people of Suffolk have welcomed more than 1,400 Ukrainian Refugees into their homes.

Unfortunately, the war continues, and we still need hosts to offer a safe place to stay for individuals and families in Suffolk.

Can you help? Homes for Ukraine Suffolk still need safe and secure places in the larger villages and towns, with good access to public transport and amenities. If you can offer a safe place for a Ukrainian guest, please visit [Homes for Ukraine: record your interest](#) to express your interest by completing the online form. Accommodation must be available for at least 6 months and be fit for purpose.

If you sign up to the scheme and all checks are completed, you will be eligible for a monthly 'Thank you' payment.

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 question on our website](#)

Our [Ukraine: information for hosts](#) is also regularly updated.

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](#)

[Ukraine: information for hosts](#)

[Ukraine: information for guests](#)

[Ukraine: latest news and further information](#)

An information pack for Sponsors in Suffolk, is available on the [Ukraine: information for hosts - Suffolk County Council](#). This pack is currently been updated 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 - [Homes for Ukraine Scheme privacy notice - Suffolk County Council](#)



Visa and arrival data as at 1 October 2024

The data below is issued by The Home Office and available at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

- Total Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme visa applications received: 239,000
- Total Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme visas issued to people: 191,700
- Total arrivals of Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme visa-holders in the UK: 155,900 (Data as of 30th September 2024)
- Total Ukraine permissions to extend stay in the UK: **33,800** (Data as of 1st October 2024)

- Applications to extend permission to stay in the UK under the Ukraine Extension Scheme, and application outcomes as of 1st October 2024:

Scheme	Applications received	Applications granted	Applications awaiting conclusion
UKR Extension Scheme	31,700	25,600	100

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	307	254	230
East Suffolk	627	541	483
Ipswich	375	268	222
Mid Suffolk	390	327	292
West Suffolk	629	484	416

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 1 October 2024:

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
Suffolk	2328	1874	1643
Cambridgeshire	3349	2861	2513
Essex	3767	3093	2705
Norfolk	2576	2085	1812

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.

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