

A banner with a blue top half and a yellow bottom half, featuring a faint sunburst graphic on the right side. The text 'SUFFOLK' is in white on the blue background, and 'UKRAINE BULLETIN' is in blue on the yellow background.

SUFFOLK

UKRAINE BULLETIN

Dear all,

Welcome to the Suffolk Ukraine Bulletin. This 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.

As we approach one year since Russia's illegal and immoral invasion of Ukraine, Suffolk continues to show solidarity and support for the people Ukraine.

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.

This bulletin is monthly. The next edition will be on Wednesday 8 March 2023. [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 Bobby Bennett,
Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities

Stuart Keeble,
Director of Public Health in Suffolk



Recital at St Mary's Church, Bungay

A special presentation for Ukraine, on the occasion of the anniversary of the start of the Russian invasion; featuring Lana Kobyletska and cellist Will Bass. A donation from this event will be given to the UNICEF Ukraine appeal.

The recital will include lots of Ukrainian music; with piano, cello and singing - with Ukrainian sisters Lana and Helena Kobyletska, and a small choir - led by musician William Drew-Batty. There will also be poetry and some testimony.

When:

Thursday 23 February

1 pm

Where:

St Mary's Church,

18 Trinity St,

Bungay

NR35 1AU

Entry by donation, booking not required.

For more information, email fieldsartistic@gmail.com.

Ipswich Vigil for Ukraine

Prayer. Solidarity. Unity.

On the first anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine, Together for Ipswich, in partnership with Ipswich in Prayer, St Mary-le-Tower Church, Ukrainian community members and Ipswich Borough Council, plan to hold another vigil for Ukraine on the steps of Ipswich Town Hall

When:

Friday 24 February 2023

5.30pm

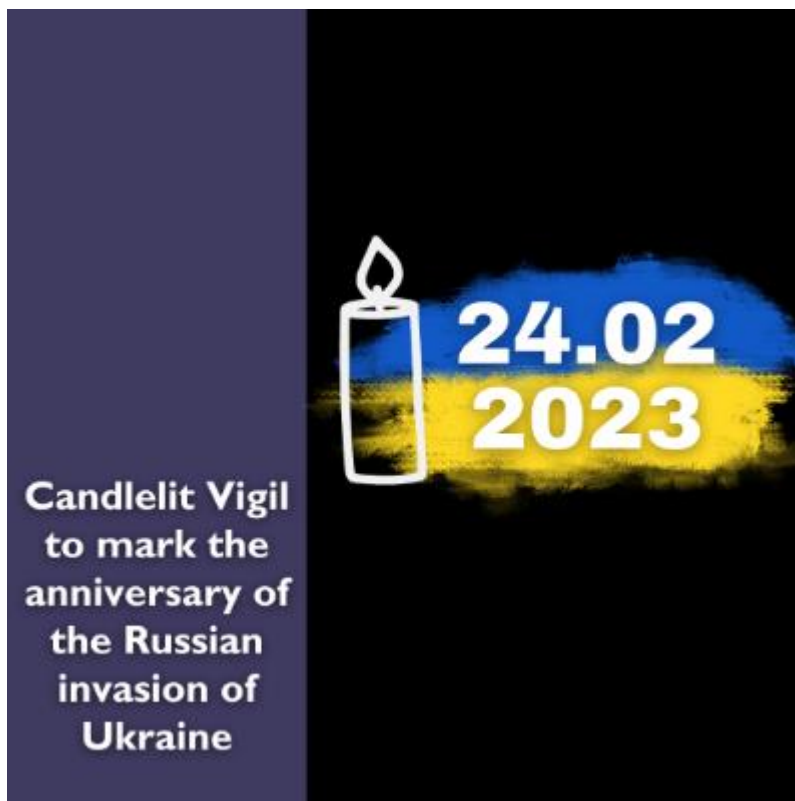
Where:

Ipswich Town Hall

Cornhill

IP1 1DH

Bury St Edmunds Vigil for Ukraine



Join us for a service with the Cathedral Choir, led by Bishop Martin and Ukrainian liturgy led by Fr Bohdan Chyborak.

We invite Ukrainian families, host families and guest from Suffolk Community.

When:

Friday 24 February 2023

5.30pm

Where:

Bury St Edmunds Cathedral

For more information, visit: <https://stedscathedral.org/events/ukraine-vigil/>

RESET Sessions for hosts

RESET are running a number of sessions to support hosts, whether you are considering hosting a family, just starting out, or coming to the end of your journey. Sessions include:

- Planning for the end of hosting
- How to support your guests' independence
- Trauma Awareness and Host Self Care
- Is hosting right for you?

[Click here to find out more or to book your place.](#)

Ukraine Community Meeting

Community Action Suffolk are hosting a community meeting, giving hosts and guests an opportunity to meet, share and socialise.

Thursday 16 February 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Framlingham Sports Club
Badingham Road,
IP13 9HS



Ukraine Community Meeting

Thurs 16 Feb 6.30 - 8pm

An opportunity for hosts and guests to meet, share & socialise!

COMMUNITY ACTION SUFFOLK
Strengthening the voluntary and community sector

Young people are welcome to attend with parents

**Framlingham Sports Club
Badingham Road, IP13 9HS**

Funding for Churches Supporting Refugees arriving from Ukraine & Afghanistan

Grants of up to £5,000 are available to Christian churches and registered Christian charities offering activities and services to welcome and support refugees arriving in England from Ukraine and Afghanistan. This could include funding for personal items, expenses for volunteers or facilities, integration and settling, language support and home items. The funding is made available by the Church Urban Fund in partnership with the Benefact Trust, through the Refugee Support Small Grants Programme.

The closing date for applications is the Friday 31 March 2023.

[Visit the Refugee Support Small Grants Programme webpage](#) for more information.

Opportunities to learn English

If your guests are looking to learn or develop their English language skills, the following places offer English courses in Suffolk:

- [West Suffolk College](#)
- [Suffolk New College](#)
- [Realise Futures](#)
- [Ipswich Community Media](#)
- [Suffolk Refugee Support](#)
- [PHOEBE](#)
- [Oasis English Language School](#)

Or if guests would prefer to learn on line [The Open University](#)

If hosts and guests feel these are not meeting the needs please email refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk as we are interested to know if more informal sessions are needed.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Options at 6 or 12 months

We hope you will consider continuing to help your guests beyond 12 months – at that point there are 3 options:

1. **Continued hosting:** If you are able to continue hosting and your guests wish to stay with you, then your payment will rise to £500 per month for the next 12 months as long as your guests remain with you. It is your responsibility to email refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk if your guests leave and your payments will be stopped.

2. **Change to a renting arrangement:** You might want to talk with your guest about moving to a more formal arrangement, if your guest would still like to live in your property or move to another property that you own. This would mean that you may need to become a landlord, which could require you to take on more responsibilities. Your rights and responsibilities could be different depending on whether the guest remains living in your property or moves into another property you own.

Information on what this means is available in the [How to Let in England](#) guide, as well as:

- [renting out a property](#)
- [rent a room in your home](#)

This will help guests when they are ready and able to move out of sponsorship into independent accommodation. This guide is now available in [Ukrainian](#) and [Russian](#).

If you start to charge rent, you must inform Suffolk County Council immediately by emailing refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk as you will no longer be entitled to the thank you payment and these payments will be stopped. Please be aware that checks on hosting arrangements will be undertaken between 12 and 24 months.

3. **Private rented:** At 12 months guests may wish for greater independence and would like to rent their own accommodation. They will need to think about what they can afford, talk to friends about sharing and look at the private rented market. [A short guide to private renting](#) is available in English, [Ukrainian](#) and [Russian](#). Additional advice on rights and responsibilities as tenants plus a guide to help guests understand how to rent in England [Renting private accommodation: Homes for Ukraine - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) is available in Ukrainian and Russian.

If guests have difficulties with the landlord requirements or finding the deposit they should approach your local district council.

Welcome pack updated

The welcome pack for sponsors has been updated following the new guidance from the government.

This includes the payment dates for the thank you payments.

Payment Date	Guest needs to have arrived by
11 January 2023	16 December 2022
8 February 2023	16 January 2023
8 March 2023	14 February 2023
12 April 2023	16 March 2023
10 May 2023	15 April 2023
14 June 2023	16 May 2023
12 July 2023	15 June 2023
9 August 2023	16 July 2023
13 September 2023	16 August 2023
11 October 2023	15 September 2023
8 November 2023	16 October 2023
13 December 2023	15 November 2023

[The Welcome Pack can be viewed at www.suffolk.gov.uk/ukraine](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/ukraine)

Need for new hosts in Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds



We need new hosts to support Ukrainian guests who have been in the UK for 6 or 12 months but are not ready to move to independent private rented accommodation.

The need is particularly great in **Ipswich** and **Bury St Edmunds**.

Please signpost any friends, family or colleagues that might be interested in hosting to the County Council's website [Support for Ukraine - Suffolk County Council](#) for more information and to express their interest by completing [the online form](#).

If you have any specific questions about hosting, you can email refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk and a member of the team will be happy to arrange a telephone call to discuss.

Experience of caring?

We are in particular need at the moment for hosts with some experience in adult social care or mental health for families that need a little more support and understanding - if you know anyone that might be able to help please email refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk

Anti-Fraud checks

Please remember that if you are receiving the thank you payment, it is your responsibility to notify Suffolk County Council of guest absences of over 4 weeks and if you are charging rent . If your guest intends to be away more than 4 weeks or when the absence reaches 4 weeks or if you agree a rent payment with your guests, let Suffolk County Council know by emailing refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk immediately. Government guidance states that “thank you” payments to the host must be stopped if you charge rent or paused until your guest returns.

In February a random sample of hosts receiving the thank you payments will be checked to establish that guests are still living with them. If guests are found to be paying rent or have been absent for over 4 weeks, payments will be stopped and any over payments will be reclaimed.

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.](#)

Moving to rented housing - a short guide

A new guide to services available to Ukrainian guests looking for assistance with private rented housing is now available on Suffolk County Council's website under the 'Housing' section of [Ukraine: information for guests | Suffolk County Council](#). Services to help secure rented housing by District Council (for example assistance with deposits and landlord incentives to remove the need for a guarantor) are shown in a table. This information is also available in Ukrainian and Russian.



NATIONAL UPDATES

Onward travel scheme for Ukrainian refugees extended – reminder

In December, the government announced the extension of a travel scheme helping Ukrainians reach safety in the UK for a further six months.

The free onward travel scheme, which was launched in March 2022, provides Ukrainian arrivals with a single no cost onward public transport journey within 48 hours of arrival at major English entry ports to their final destination in the UK.

The Department for Transport is working closely with operators to ensure support for Ukrainian arrivals is in place across the country.

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/transport-secretary-extends-scheme-helping-ukrainian-evacuees-reach-safety-in-the-uk>

Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/move-to-the-uk-if-youre-from-ukraine#travelling-to-where-youre-staying>

Guidance from GOV.UK:

Updated Guidance for sponsors and guests

The government has updated its guidance to sponsor/hosts and guests.

[Homes for Ukraine: sponsor guides](#)

[Homes for Ukraine: Guidance for guests](#)

Each link takes you to a series of guides on specific topics, including the payment of £500 welcome payment at 12 months.

Further guidance from GOV.UK can be seen below:

[Guidance for Councils](#)

[Arriving in the UK: Homes for Ukraine](#)

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

[Homes for Ukraine Sponsor Guidance](#)

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

[Homes for Ukraine campaign page](#)



Visa and arrival data as at 31 January

The data below is issued by The Home Office and available at [GOV.UK](#)

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 District/Borough (Lower Tier Local Authority) as at 31 January 2023:

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	256	217	189
East Suffolk	506	450	385
Ipswich	188	153	116

Mid Suffolk	309	276	239
West Suffolk	483	391	324

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 31 January 2023:

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

Upper Tier Local Authority	Number of Visas applications	Number of Visas issued	Number of arrivals in the UK by sponsor location
Suffolk	1,742	1,487	1,253
Cambridgeshire	2,578	2,259	1,921
Essex	2,737	2,377	1,964
Norfolk	1,900	1,633	1,348

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.

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.](#)