



SUFFOLK

UKRAINE BULLETIN

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.

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities. Following on from my predecessor, Cllr Bobby Bennett, I am committed to supporting you and your guests to settle here in Suffolk. As we approach two years since Russia's illegal and immoral invasion of Ukraine, Suffolk continues to show solidarity and support for the people of Ukraine.

In this edition you will read about how Suffolk is marking the 2-year anniversary of the conflict, an uplift in monthly Thank You payments, and an upcoming information sharing event for hosts.

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 13 March 2024. [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 Philip Faircloth-Mutton
Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities

Stuart Keeble,
Director of Public Health in Suffolk



2-year anniversary of the start of the War

24th of February 2024 marks the two-year anniversary of the Ukraine war. Suffolk County Council will again be lighting up Endeavour House this year and will follow the national one minute of silence, to continue to show our solidarity with Ukraine.



Below are some Local events which will mark the anniversary:

Ipswich Vigil for Ukraine

On the second anniversary of the commencement of the conflict in Ukraine, The official **Ipswich Vigil for Ukraine** will take place on **Friday 23** and **Saturday 24 February 2024**, at St Mary at the Elms Church, IP1 2EF.

The event organiser, Alan Cutting, said:

"It is now two years since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine began. February 24th is such a difficult day, but one on which all Ukrainians and many of their British friends will want to acknowledge - to lament, to reflect, to hope, to pray, and to come together in solidarity. Many Ukrainians will have stood with British friends outside Ipswich Town Hall for the three vigils Together for Ipswich has hosted already.

*"This year we will remember this painful anniversary during a **two-day Civic Vigil at St Mary at the Elms, IP1 2EF** – A relatively small church in Central Ipswich, but one with huge spiritual, historic, and architectural interest in the town. Adults and children will find various different opportunities to express their thoughts and emotions at the vigil venue, through art, music, food, candles etc. You may either merely drop in, or stay as long as you like during the two days - Friday 23 and Saturday 24 February 2024 (10am-6pm) - and we urge you to **arrive early for the formal civic vigils which take place at 6pm on both days.**"*

Contact Alan Cutting on 07834 693144 or visit <https://www.togetherforipswich.uk/ukrainian-refugee-support/> for more information about this two-day event.

All are welcome to drop in (during either day) or attend the Civic Vigils (at 6.00pm on both evenings).

Ipswich Vigil for Ukraine

reflecting on the second anniversary of the commencement of the war

Friday 23 and Saturday 24 February 2024

- Together for Ipswich is hosting the town's official vigil at St Mary at the Elms Church (Ipswich IP1 2EF).
- All Ukrainians - and those from all other nations - are warmly invited to attend either or both these two open days **between 10.00 and 18.00**.
- Just 'drop in', or to stay as long as you can during either or both days, **AND....**
- Light a candle, sign a book of support, silently reflect, pray, draw, paint, or simply meet one another over Ukrainian food and drinks.
- Prestigious artists will be working to create artworks at the church during both days, and adults and children alike are invited to draw or paint their own interpretation of 'My Ukraine'.
- There will also be a short service at 1pm each day, led by regional and local Church and Community leaders.
- For more info, call or message Alan Cutting on 07834 693144.
- <https://www.togetherforipswich.uk/ukrainian-refugee-support/>

... arrive early for the major event - the Civic Vigil at 6pm on both evenings



Stand With Ukraine events - Bury St Edmunds

'Stand With Ukraine' is a group of Local guests, hosts and supporters who meet once a month in Bury St Edmunds to highlight the ongoing plight of Ukrainians and the war in their home country.

The next 'Stand with Ukraine' gathering, will take place on Saturday 24 February 11:00 - 12:00, at Angel Hill in Bury St Edmunds and will mark the 2-year anniversary of the war.



Uplift for monthly 'Thank You' payments April 2024

With effect from the 1st of April 2024, Suffolk County Council will be funding an increase to the rate of monthly Thank You payments. Host Thank You payments are made monthly, in arrears, so the first increase will be seen in the payments received in May 2024.

If you sign up to the scheme and all checks are completed, you will be eligible for a monthly £350 'Thank you' payment, rising to £500 per month once your guests have been in the UK for more than 12 months or you have hosted for over 6 months.

- The £350 payment will rise to £375.00 per month.

Once your guests have been in the UK for more than 12 months or you have hosted for over 6 months, the thank you payment increases.

- Payments to Hosts currently entitled to receive £500 will rise to £525 per month.

Hosts will automatically receive this payment increase. If you do not currently receive 'Thank you' payments and would like to do so, please contact refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk to see if you are eligible.

Measles and MMR information

Measles is circulation in the UK. It is extremely infectious, can cause serious illness and in extreme cases can be fatal.

It is important that all members of the household are aware of the symptoms and what to do if you suspect someone may be ill with Measles.

The below information leaflet explains more.

This information is also available in Ukrainian:

[How to stay safe - Measles Outbreak - Leaflet - Ukrainian - Health Publications](#)

Is your child fully vaccinated? Catching up is easy at any age. Check their red book and find out more about childhood vaccinations and clinics across Suffolk at [Healthy Suffolk](#).



UK Health
Security
Agency

Measles is circulating

- measles is extremely infectious and can be serious
- Make sure your children get two MMR vaccines on time; the first at 1 year of age and the second at 3 years, 4 months
- If you or your children missed these vaccines, it's not too late. Ask for the free vaccine from your family doctor (GP) if you or your children aren't up-to-date
- if you have symptoms of measles, stay at home and phone your GP or NHS 111 for advice. **STAY AWAY** from GP surgeries and A&E departments – you could spread the illness to others
- symptoms include: high fever; sore red, watery eyes; coughing; aching and feeling generally unwell; a blotchy red brown rash, which usually appears after the first symptoms
- go to **nhs.uk** for more measles information

Symptoms

Rash



Temperature



Runny Nose



Red Eyes



Cough



Upcoming online network event for hosts

- Date: Thursday 29th February 2024
- Time: 6pm to 7pm
- Format: Online

This event is focused on information-sharing between hosts as well as introducing key organisations supporting Ukrainians/hosts. It will serve as a platform to offer support to hosts, connect organisations/hubs with hosts, discuss experiences and opportunities. It will outline ways to enhance our collective impact and ensure that any rural hosts are able to access a support network.

[You can book your place here.](#)

If you would like further information, please email refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk using 'Network event' in the subject line.

Upcoming events

Please see the below details of upcoming 'Skills Kitchen' events at The Food Museum:



Mondays 15, 22, 29 January, 5, 12, 26 February, 4 March 2024

10.30am-1.30pm

FREE
to take part!
Places are limited

At The Food Museum,
Stowmarket, IP14 1SL

FREE childcare available
FREE transport from a
pickup point

Skills Kitchen welcomes refugee and asylum-seeking women and their children to come share recipes and food stories with us at the Food Museum. Bake traditional breads and other tasty treats to share with your friends and family, learn new skills with our team & make new friends.

For more information and to book your place contact your Suffolk Refugee Support
Advice Worker or Amy, Skills Kitchen Leader:
Email: amy@foodmuseum.org.uk Tel: 07301142829

FOOD
MUSEUM


 Lottery Funded
ARTS COUNCIL
 ENGLAND

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

Guests leaving host properties

It is the responsibility of hosts to inform the Suffolk County Council Homes for Ukraine team when their guest leaves their property. This includes when a guest goes on holiday for 4 weeks or more and if they move into a temporary accommodation for any length of time. Due to potential safeguarding dangers to both host and guest, no guest should be staying in host accommodation if Suffolk County Council has not completed all checks set out in the Government guidelines. If you would like to inform us of a guest leaving your property, or would like to ask any questions regarding this, please contact refugeesuport@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 email refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk or visit our website www.suffolk.gov.uk/Ukraine and 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 £375 'Thank you' payment, rising to £525 per month once your guests have been in the UK for more than 12 months or you have hosted for over 6 months.

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.](#)

Our [Information pack for sponsors](#) is also regularly updated.



NATIONAL UPDATES

Guidance from GOV.UK:

The government has recently updated its guidance for councils – the updated guidance can be found here: [Homes for Ukraine: council guides - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-council-guides)

Guidance for sponsors and guests

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

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

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](#)



WELCOMING UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Visa and arrival data as at 6 February

The data below is issued by The Home Office and 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 and the number of arrivals, by District/Borough (Lower Tier Local Authority) as at 6 February 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
Babergh	287	239	211
East Suffolk	594	520	457
Ipswich	296	225	177
Mid Suffolk	361	305	271
West Suffolk	586	456	393

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 6 February 2024:

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	2,124	1,745	1,509
Cambridgeshire	3,062	2,667	2,347
Essex	3,420	2,878	2,450
Norfolk	2,407	1,963	1,677

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](#).