

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

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.

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 2 August 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

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SUFFOLK'S

RESPONSE

Ukrainian Drop-in Support Event

Friday 21 July (10.00-16.00)

***Burlington Church,
London Road
IP1 2EZ***

Suffolk County Council is offering a drop-in support event for Ukrainian guests and their hosts in Ipswich, in partnership with Together for Ipswich, Ipswich Jobcentre, Suffolk Refugee Support, Community Action Suffolk, Ipswich Borough Council and Anglia Care Trust.

During the day we can support you on a 1:1 basis with housing applications & advice and offer a range of advice around employment & planning. If you would like assistance completing a housing application, please contact us in advance, at refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk, and we will let you know what documents you will need to bring with you on the day.

Together, we will offer refreshments, general support and signposting, employment and benefit advice, Independent Living Payments, other move-on grants, a summer programme of Suffolk Tours, Community Hubs and English Conversation classes.

Call in at any time on the day, or call Alan Cutting on 07834 693144 with any questions

Ukrainian Community meeting

Ukraine Community Meeting for Mid Suffolk

Tues 18th July 18:30-20:00

An opportunity for hosts & guests to meet & discuss current support needs, and meet staff from Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Refugee Support

Open to any hosts and guests based in Mid Suffolk



Eye Scout Hut

Wellington Road, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7HF

Additional parking is available at Buckshorn Lane - IP23 7BD

Community Action Suffolk have organised a meeting for any Ukraine hosts and guests in the Mid Suffolk area. This will be an opportunity to meet the Ukraine teams from Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Refugee Support, ask questions and discuss any support you currently need.

For further information please contact Ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk

Initial, 4 month and 10 month welfare checks

At regular stages of guests staying with hosts, the Homes for Ukraine team are required to complete welfare checks – these happen at the initial stage (within two weeks of arrival) between 4 and 6 months, and again between 10 and 12 months. We will also complete further checks through the next year where appropriate.

It is imperative that we do these checks to ensure that any support needs are identified, and the welfare of both guest and host are met. The checks are also part of the specific conditions that the government set out and must be completed for the ‘thank you’ payments to continue.

If you or your guest have been contacted by our team, please reply, (this will be from the regugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk) and encourage your guest to arrange a meeting with one of our casework team as soon as possible.

Changes of circumstances or guest departures

Hosts are reminded that they are required to let the Homes for Ukraine team know when there are any changes in the hosting situation, in particular if your guest is leaving the property for more than four weeks. This is to ensure the continued welfare of the guests and that no over payments are made. It is important that we keep all our records up to date and are aware of the location of all guests to ensure their support and welfare needs are met.

Guidance around DBS checks

When you apply to become a Host on the Homes for Ukraine programme, Suffolk County Council is required to do a DBS check of all adults over 16 in your household, even if you

have an existing certificate.

The process for this is as follows:

1. You will receive a call from Suffolk County Council to gather some initial information, including how many people over 16 years live in the host household. We aim to make this call within 2 working days of receiving your information.
2. You will then receive an email from the Community Action Suffolk DBS Service asking you to complete an online DBS checking form.
3. You will be contacted by Suffolk County Council to make an appointment to attend a local library so that your ID documents can be verified.

At present, Suffolk County Council is only applying for DBS checks for new hosts, people who have recently joined a household, or people who have recently turned 16.

DBS Check renewals

SCC may need to renew DBS checks for existing hosts in the future. When a DBS check needs renewing, we will contact you. Any correspondence will be from an official Suffolk County Council email address; refugee.support@suffolk.gov.uk

Any DBS Check renewal for the Homes for Ukraine Scheme will be paid for by Suffolk County Council as with the original check. You will not be charged to renew your DBS check.

If you have any questions or concerns and DBS checks, please contact us refugee.support@suffolk.gov.uk

Be vigilant when giving payment details

In order to make payments to hosts, Suffolk County Council will get in touch to request your bank account number and sort code. This is the only information we will ask for. We will clearly explain who is calling and what information we need.

Never give your bank account details to someone you do not know.

If you have any concerns, please contact a member of our team at refugee.support@suffolk.gov.uk

Reminder: Support for Ukrainian refugees moving to private rented accommodation

In May, Suffolk County Council announced a one-off £2,000 support grant for Ukrainian refugees moving on from their host into their own accommodation.

The Independent Living Payment is available to any Ukrainian Refugees, moving into private rented accommodation after 1 April 2023. Guests must have been living in Suffolk for a minimum of two months and be registered on the Suffolk Homes for Ukraine scheme to be eligible for the payment.

The funding can be used for any associated housing costs, including furniture, moving costs or travel to work. The support can be used towards accommodation which is furnished or unfurnished, and accommodation can be in Suffolk or out of county.

Ukrainian guests can apply for the Independent Living Payment by visiting <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-engagement/support-for-refugees/support-for-ukraine/ukraine-information-for-guests> and completing the application form.

Application forms can also be requested by emailing refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk

Please note that applicants must provide a copy of their tenancy agreement for the property they are claiming for, in order to receive the support.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Could you help a family in need?



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

We are particularly in need of new hosts who live in Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds or Lowestoft.

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.

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.



Guidance from GOV.UK:

Guidance for sponsors and guests

[Homes for Ukraine: sponsor guides](#)

[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](#)



Visa and arrival data as at 27 June

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 27 June 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	267	228	198
East Suffolk	542	487	424
Ipswich	224	172	129
Mid Suffolk	346	293	257
West Suffolk	533	425	354

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 27 June 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	1,912	1,605	1,362
Cambridgeshire	2,817	2,462	2,096
Essex	3,054	2,598	2,172
Norfolk	2,158	1,814	1,510

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](#).