



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 5 April 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





Homework Club

Suffolk Refugee Support hosts a Homework Club for young people at Ipswich School, every Tuesday during term time. The club is open to all young refugees and asylum seekers.

- Every Tuesday 4.30pm - 6.30pm (term time only)
- Ipswich School, Henley Rd, IP1 3SG
- Next session 14th March
- Maths, English and specific subject support.
- Beginner, GCSE and L3/A level support available.
- Open to ages 11 - 19

Please contact Sarah Owens, Youth Projects Coordinator at sowens@suffolkrefugee.org.uk for more information or to register your interest.



GCSE English Revision Programme

Suffolk Refugee Support will run a weekly GCSE English revision programme for young

people up **to 25 years old**, from Tuesday 21st March to Tuesday 9th May.

Ipswich School, Henley Rd, IP1 3SG

Every Tuesday from 4.30pm to 6.30pm

This programme is open to all young people (to the age of 25) sitting a GCSE English (for the first time or resit) this academic year in May.

The sessions will be delivered by an experienced GCSE English and ESOL teacher. Suffolk Refugee Support will be supplying the revision guides and materials for the clients to work through. Sessions will be held every Tuesday from 4.30pm to 6.30pm, ideally clients should attend each week to ensure they fully benefit.

Please contact Sarah Owens, Youth Projects Coordinator at sowens@suffolkrefugee.org.uk for more information or to register your interest.

Help to get active

There are a number of initiatives in Suffolk which support people to become and stay active. Please share the following with your guests, if they would like to get involved with any of these groups.

Jumpstart - Suffolk Libraries

Suffolk Libraries run free virtual and in person physical activity sessions across Suffolk as part of their Jumpstart programme.

Further information and how to book can be found on their website: [Jumpstart | Suffolk Libraries](#)

Active Living

Abbeycroft Leisure deliver the Active Living programme, supporting people in Suffolk to become active, feel part of the community, improve confidence and feel healthier.

Find out more: [Active Living | Abbeycroft Leisure \(acleisure.com\)](#)

Parkrun

Free, weekly, community events where you can walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate in parks and communities across Suffolk.

There are now 22 parkruns across the county, find your local parkrun event at: [parkrun in Suffolk - Suffolk County Council](#)

Active Suffolk

There is plenty of information about the various physical activities and programmes happening across the county on the Active Suffolk website: [We are the Active Partnership for Suffolk – Active Suffolk](#).

SPEAK Ipswich - new language groups starting this month

Do you want to learn about other cultures and meet people from all over the world living in Ipswich? Come and join one of our groups.

Language groups are led by buddies from all over the world. They are fluent in the language you want to learn and will help you sound just like a local.

All of our groups are free!!

You can join on our website: <https://www.speak.social/en/ipswich/>

SPEAK IPSWICH AT THE HIVE



TUESDAY

English basic II (for Ukrainians)
from 4pm to 5:30pm
(16:00 to 17:30)

TUESDAY

German basic II
from 6pm to 7:30pm
(18:00 to 19:30)

WEDNESDAY

English conversational
from 6pm to 7:30pm
(18:00 to 19:30)

FRIDAY

English basic II (for Romanians)
from 6:30pm to 8pm
(18:30 to 20:00)

**Contacts
Address**

ana.reis@speakfounder.social
07483 284 184
The Hive
27-29 Norwich road, Ipswich, IP1 2ET

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.](#)

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.

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.



After hosting, would you consider being a foster carer?

You will have read in the government's letter you received recently, about the need for foster carers. There is a huge need for foster carers in Suffolk, to provide care to children and young people in need of support including children needing fostering or unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a registered foster carer or supported lodgings provider, please request a free pack at www.suffolk.gov.uk/foster or call 01473 264800.

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.

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 months or more, 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.

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.



Homes for Ukraine: emails to guests and hosts

The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, has today (1 March) written to guests and hosts on the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

The emails set out important updates that were announced recently including support and guidance available online and changes to ‘thank you’ payments.

Correspondence:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homes-for-ukraine-emails-to-guests-and-hosts>

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 28 February

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 28 February 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	259	218	191

East Suffolk	510	455	390
Ipswich	193	155	119
Mid Suffolk	315	278	245
West Suffolk	491	395	331

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 28 February 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	1,768	1,501	1,276
Cambridgeshire	2,629	2,304	1,953
Essex	2,802	2,417	2,007
Norfolk	1,951	1,664	1,385

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.](#)