



HOMES FOR UKRAINE SCHEME

Hampshire County Council update – 21.04.22

Please note, this information is accurate at the time of writing, but the situation continues to change swiftly and is subject to revision at short notice.

SITUATION REPORT

The County Council continues to work with key local partners to enable support and assistance to Ukrainian refugees (guests) arriving in Hampshire under the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme.

The focus remains on conducting home visits and ensuring key information is shared with guests and sponsors efficiently.

Partner organisations include District and Borough councils and Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service, as well as the NHS, and Hampshire Constabulary.

Homes for Ukraine sponsorship scheme visas issued

The number of visas issued to Ukrainian guests listed by upper tier and lower tier local authority area is regularly updated by Government:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/homes-for-ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-numbers-of-visa-applications

As of 19 April 2022, number of visas issued	
England	28,345
Hampshire	1128

Note: the England total does not include records where a postcode match to a location of the sponsor's property was not possible.

Home visits and safeguarding checks

Visits to sponsors' homes continue to be arranged and undertaken at pace across the county and have continued over the bank holiday period.

Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) checks are undertaken by Hampshire County Council. These checks are required of all sponsors under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Collaborative safeguarding processes have also been established between Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Constabulary in support of DBS requirements.

Welcoming guests

- Home visit welcome packs

Work is ongoing by Hampshire County Council and District and Borough authorities to develop local information for guests to complement the Government's Welcome Pack for

Ukrainians arriving in the UK: (www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk).

- In the community

From 25 April, 'Ukraine Connections' groups begin in several Hampshire libraries. The sessions offer a welcoming space for Ukrainian guests to meet and find out more about library services, begin to meet others socially, and to find out more about life in their new, temporary home.



Ukraine Connections

A chance to meet others for a friendly chat and a drink, and find out about our library services.

Andover Library	Saturday: 10am - 12pm
Fordingbridge Library	Tuesday: 2pm - 4pm
Hythe Library	Tuesday: 10am - 12pm
Lymington Library	Friday: 10am - 12pm
New Milton Library	Tuesday: 10am - 12pm
Ringwood Library	Thursday: 2pm - 4pm
Romsey Library	Friday: 2pm - 4pm
Totton Library	Monday: 10am - 12pm
Whitchurch Library	Monday: 2pm - 3pm

The poster features a blue and yellow Ukrainian tricolor heart icon and an illustration of three people talking.

Volunteers are being sought to help welcome visitors. Individuals can apply online through the volunteer application form and specify 'Ukraine Connections'. <https://bit.ly/3JHfQtj>

Homes for Ukraine sponsorship programme and process guide

Hampshire County Council's guide for sponsors is published as an online poster (image below). The process, set out as a flowchart, shows the steps involved, including necessary safeguarding and wellbeing checks.

This sponsorship guide is available to view and download as a poster from the County Council's 'Support for Ukraine' webpages (www.hants.gov.uk/ukraine).

Please also consider sharing this information directly with your audiences as appropriate: https://documents.hants.gov.uk/communications/ukraine-homes-scheme-sponsor-flowchart-poster.pdf?_gl=1*o09dwv*_ga*MTg1NzgwNTUzNi4xNjQ4NzQ1NDE5*_ga_8ZVSPZWL5T*_MTY0OTg4MjkzNi4xLjAuMTY0OTg4MjkzNi4w



Homes for Ukraine
Information for sponsors

— National Government process — Hampshire County Council process

- Interested in offering a home to Ukrainian guests?**
Register as a sponsor
Register as a sponsor via gov.uk/register-interest-homes-ukraine.
- Find someone to sponsor**
You may already have a known contact you wish to sponsor. If this is the case, go to step 3. If not, a potential match could be facilitated via a local church or non-government organisation, such as resettuk.org.
- Apply for a visa**
All Ukrainian guests must apply for a visa via gov.uk (you will be asked to apply for a visa under the Ukraine sponsorship scheme). Where this is not possible, you may do this for them. Criminal record checks (CRB) do not need to be undertaken before visas are issued - see step 5.
- Sponsor info sent to Hampshire County Council**
Once you are matched with a Ukrainian citizen or family and the visa application is completed, the Home Office passes sponsor information to Hampshire County Council.
- Home visit takes place**
A representative from the County Council's Children's Services team and a Fire Safety Officer will visit your home to complete the initial safety checks and provide additional information to you in your role as a sponsor. This will include the financial support available.
- Hampshire County Council follow-up visit**
The County Council will revisit once your Ukrainian guest(s) have arrived.

Thank you for your support

Hampshire County Council
hants.gov.uk/ukraine

Funding and financial support

- The Government is providing £10,500 per person to upper tier councils to provide support for guests/guest families
- Schools will receive additional Government funding to support the educational needs of Ukrainian children and young adults staying in England
- All those arriving from Ukraine will be eligible for £200 per person to help with everyday living expenses. Mechanisms are in place for issuing Ukrainian guests with pre-loaded payment cards, with distribution of cards being undertaken by Children's Services staff during a second home visit.
- Sponsors receive a £350 per month Government-funded 'thank you' payment. This will be paid to sponsors monthly, in arrears. The mechanism to make these payments will be finalised following receipt of further Government guidance. It has been announced by Government that these payments will not be considered as taxable income.

Wellbeing support

The County Council's Adult Social Care team continues to liaise with NHS representatives regarding how support will be provided. GP support and the provision of crisis mental health assistance is a key consideration.

Fostering

Anyone interested in fostering an unaccompanied refugee child (from any country) can register their interest at: www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/fostering

COMMUNICATIONS

Website

Dedicated webpages containing information for sponsors and Ukrainian guests continue to be updated online, via www.hants.gov.uk/ukraine

Social media

Digital engagement activity has continued throughout the Easter bank holiday period, utilising graphics and animated assets to outline support across Hampshire for the Homes for Ukraine scheme, as well as sponsorship guidance, and details of the 'Ukraine Connections' scheme across various Hampshire libraries.



Sponsor communications

A letter to sponsors continues to be issued by Hampshire County Council to new sponsors once each sponsor is approved through the national registration system.

The letter includes useful information about the purpose of home visits, the requirement for DBS checks, financial support (sponsors and guests), and access to education and health care for guests. Also included is an email contact for any sponsor queries.

Media

No new enquiries from the news media have been received.

Due to the ongoing sensitivity of the situation, news media introductions to refugee families and individuals are discouraged, and liaison via local schools will not be facilitated at the current time.



Hampshire
County Council