



HOMES FOR UKRAINE SCHEME

Hampshire County Council update – 06.05.22

PLEASE NOTE these briefings will be moving to a fortnightly basis. The next issue will be available wk/c 16.05.22

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 necessary safeguarding and wellbeing checks via home visits, distribution of financial support, in collaboration with public sector partners, 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 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

Summary – latest available figures

As of 3 May 2022, number of visas issued	
England	45,126
Hampshire	1,685

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

Hampshire County Council is in the process of completing home visits for those guests and sponsors that have been matched, and whose data has been provided to the Authority by Government, following accepted visa applications.

New sponsors are approved by Government every week and the team is working hard to complete the process as quickly as possible. Currently, the majority of initial sponsor home visits have been undertaken, with many more planned in the coming days.

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 are also in place between Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Constabulary in support of DBS requirements.

Welcoming guests

- **Home visit welcome guides**

Hampshire County Council has produced and published a welcome guide for guests arriving to Hampshire – now available on the ‘Support for Ukraine’ webpages : [Homes for Ukraine: Hampshire Welcome Guide | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/homes-for-ukraine-welcome-guide).

District and Borough authorities are also developing local information for guests to complement welcome guides by the County Council and Government for Ukrainians arriving in the UK: (www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk). Links to District and Borough authority welcome guides will be added to the County Council web pages in due course.

- **In the community**

Hampshire County Council continues to facilitate a community support working group which is well attended by District and Borough partners and will shortly include representatives from Community First and Citizens Advice. The wide range of community and voluntary support available is being mapped out and will be supported by a point of contact in each District or Borough to help with queries and to link families with the right support services.

Ukraine Connections groups are successfully taking place in several Hampshire libraries. The sessions offer a welcoming space for Ukrainian guests to meet and find out more about both the library and other support services, begin to meet others socially, and to find out more about life in Hampshire.

Education

To support Ukrainian children to integrate into English education, the Government has written to local authorities signposting to additional learning materials which can be used to complement their mainstream English education. This information has been shared with schools.

Leader’s Community Grants

The County Council has provided Members with details of how local community and voluntary organisations working to help Ukrainian families can apply for financial support through the Leader’s Community Grants: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/leaders-community-grants>

Due to the exceptional circumstances of the situation:

- Applications will be considered from Parish and Town Councils and local branches of national charities (where the support being provided is delivered specifically in Hampshire)
 - Applications can be made at any time for amounts under £5,000
 - Applications under £1,000 will be considered on this occasion
 - Applications will be assessed to ensure that the proposals are appropriate, that necessary levels of safeguarding are in place and that the activity does not unnecessarily duplicate support which is already provided through other channels.
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Homes for Ukraine sponsorship programme and process guide

Hampshire County Council's guide for sponsors is available as an online poster via www.hants.gov.uk/ukraine/sponsors. The process, set out as a flowchart, shows the steps involved, including necessary safeguarding and wellbeing checks.

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 are 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.
- The County Council will shortly be writing to sponsors to gather further information required to process the optional sponsor payments. Payments will commence once all relevant home visit checks have been completed and guests are in situ. Payments will be monthly, in arrears (for up to 12 months) and will begin from the end of May, subject to the required payment infrastructure being fully operational by that date. Sponsors will be reminded in the letter that it is their responsibility to inform the County Council when sponsorship arrangements end, or if circumstances change.

When sponsorships come to an end

Some sponsors and guests may wish to continue their arrangement beyond the six-month minimum period. However, at some point the sponsorship will finish, and the Government has published clarity around sponsorships ending: www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions

Where a guest becomes homeless, or is at risk of homelessness, District and Borough councils' statutory homelessness duties apply.

In Hampshire, work is in progress amongst partners to consider appropriate processes to manage the end of sponsorship arrangements.

COMMUNICATIONS

Website

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

Latest updated information includes:

- A new Welcome Guide webpage: [Homes for Ukraine: Hampshire Welcome Guide | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](http://www.hants.gov.uk/ukraine/welcome-guide)
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Sponsor communications

Hampshire County Council continues to issue an initial letter to new sponsors once each 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

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