

ROBERTSBRIDGE & SALEHURST WELCOME UKRAINIANS

INFORMATION/MAIN SCHEMES (May 2022)

HOMES FOR UKRAINE (this is the scheme that the public sector works with)

This is the only current route by which safeguarding checks can be carried out and the route to the financial support the Government is making available.

It is therefore strongly recommended that anyone who is independently arranging to host refugees, registers for the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

When guests arrive email ESCC using Ukraine@eastsussex.gov.uk to activate the system

More info on Homes for Ukraine Scheme : <https://hoa.org.uk/2022/03/homes-for-ukraine/>

If you're preparing to host refugees, there's a welcome guide to try and help you settle them in and find services in the community. <http://ow.ly/wgqg50IFkgm>

THE UKRAINE FAMILY SCHEME (to bring family members from Ukraine)

More info on Ukraine Family Scheme. <https://settled.org.uk/ukraine-family-scheme-frequent-asked-questions/>

To extend stay once here (Gov. scheme) if: you have a Ukraine passport; you are in the UK; you applied under the Ukraine Family Scheme or Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) before you arrived in UK; your application has not been decided but you have received a letter saying you could travel to the UK; you were given 6 months permission to enter at the border and are now applying to extend your stay <https://apply.visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/product/ukraine-scheme>

MATCHING

Are you looking for a match? Support available for Ukraine matching process Sarah is a GP who lives in Catsfield. She has set up a group to support Ukrainian refugees to the UK. She has created a website, call centre and database which are linked together to support the process of matching hosts with refugees and supporting them through the visa application process. Fliers and posters have been distributed in refugee centres (in Ukraine, Poland)with the details of a dedicated call centre number. The call centre is manned by volunteers who speak Ukrainian and Russian and support the refugees, via phone or video call, in finding a host and completing the visa application form.

Sarah and the team are working with, Huw Merriman and ESCC to address the issues with the visa application process, as well as addressing what is needed locally to support refugees and their hosts.

For more information: <https://homes4ukraine.org/en...>

Email address - sarahjacques@doctors.org.uk or mobile 0777 566 5824.

HOSTING FAQ AND VOLUNTEER HELP THROUGH THE PROCESS

<https://www.facebook.com/ukwelcomesukraine/photos/a.122276077108733/124245250245149>

LOCAL AUTHORITY LINKS AND LOCAL/NATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP LINKS

East Sussex County Council – Ukraine Crisis and how ESCC helping

<https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/your-council/ukraine-crisis>

East Sussex County Council have published two welcome guides, one for hosts and one for guests, with more advice and information on safety, health, benefits, employment, applying for school places, and much more. These are on the ESCC website (and can also be printed):

Guide for hosts: <https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/.../ukrain.../hosting-refugees>

Guide for guests: <https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/.../ukraine.../welcome-pack>

Subscribe to ESCC **updates** via the ESCC link <https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/your-council/ukraine-crisis>

Rother District Council Ukraine Crisis Support and Help

<https://www.rother.gov.uk/news/ukraine-crisis-support-and-help>

includes: a Guide for Ukrainians arriving; Ukrainian Family Scheme; Homes for Ukraine factsheet; UK Visa Support for Ukraine Nationals; NHS info for refugees

Rother Voluntary Action

<https://www.rva.uk.com/ukraine-crisis/>

The Links Project Hastings Voluntary Action

<https://hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk/project/links-project>

HARC (Hastings Advice & Representation Centre) inc. Rother

<https://harcuk.com> Benefits Helpline: 0333 344 0681

TOGETHER SOUTH free service for Refugees Hastings & Rother

www.groundwork.org.uk/projects/together-hastings-and-rother

East Sussex Group for Homes for Ukraine Scheme Hosts and Refugees

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/547932003395742>

Burwash Sussex Ukrainian Assistance

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/675769230300263>

Hastings & St Leonards Support Group for Refugee Ukrainians and their hosts

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/966954347292969>

Hastings Support Refugees

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=hastings%20supports%20refugees>

The Refugee Buddy Project (Hastings, Rother & Wealden)

<https://www.facebook.com/TheRefugeeBuddyProject>

East Sussex High Weald Ukraine Support Network

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/837766874286129>

Hosts for Ukrainians in the South East of England

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/377197357584711>

Battle Stands for Ukraine

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/651820312694132>

Homes for Ukraine Heathfield

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1386836768436619>

[Eastbourne a home for Ukrainians](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1802667349938501>

UK Accommodation for Ukrainian refugees (national)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1161142981324270>

Association of Ukrainian Women in Great Britain (founded 1948) (National)

<https://www.facebook.com/AssociationOfUkrainianWomenInGB/>

Red Cross. (National)

You can contact an adviser through free Help to Claim phone service. Advisers are available 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday:

England: 0800 144 8 444

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/get-help-as-a-refugee/help-for-refugees-from-ukraine>

Citizens Advice

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/universal-credit/claiming/help-to-claim>

DBS CHECKS

Enhanced only needed if hosting under 18's. ESCC should pay.

The rules changed to allow for the scheme and ESCC is supposed to cover the costs of DBS from the additional £ the Government is giving them for Ukrainian refugees.

HOME SAFETY CHECKS backlog so delays. Will take place after guests settled.

LANGUAGE HELP

ESOL courses Hastings <https://adult.escg.ac.uk/courses/english-modern-foreign-languages/english-as-a-foreign-language/esol-63669/>

Also at **ETC Sussex**. 49 Cambridge Gardens, Hastings. Contact:

etc.english@btinternet.com

Also Free Drop-in 11-3pm Wednesdays Central Bank Buildings, Hastings TN34 1NG

Ukrainians Learn English – support group for Ukrainians and Hosts to help learn English

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ukrainianslearnenglish/permalink/1026157618109014/?app=fbl>

Free language sessions

<https://www.lingohut.com/en/l83/learn-ukrainian>

sayhi translate app

<https://www.sayhi.com/en/translate>

[Duolingo – basic ukrainian phrases translator app](#)

<https://blog.duolingo.com/ukrainian-phrases-english-translation>

Emergency Health visual communication pdf pack English/Ukrainian

How2UK - website for Ukrainians about the UK in Ukrainian text

<https://how2uk.org/?lang=uk&fbclid=IwAR0evLyByvMBjCzNwsFUVOQcQWbUssDxvF-g-oQpQLkuLRbk0TYoOJ7xNCY>

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/what-we-do/services/barnardos-ukrainian-support-helpline>. Barnardo's free helpline (0800 148 8586) is staffed by English, Ukrainian and Russian speakers, to offer support to children and families arriving in the UK from Ukraine.

The helpline is open Monday – Friday (10:00am – 8:00pm) and Saturday (10:00am – 3:00pm). Callers will be able to get help and advice on a range of topics.

PHONES

Vodafone and 3 offering free SIM cards for Ukrainian Refugees.

THREE is offering a SIM with one month unlimited text, calls and data but may extend. Vodafone, they are offering six months free could take up to 30 days SIMS to be distributed. Can be accessed through RefugEase <https://www.refugeease.org/> SKY:, 5 months free, then £6 a month after, free unlimited calls to Ukraine, txt to Ukraine & the same in the Uk 2g data

BT: .Unlimited texts, roaming internet access, free calls to Ukraine for 3 months and can be extended to 6months

FINANCE/BANKS/ENTITLEMENT

Ukrainians with visas arriving in East Sussex are immediately entitled to work, claim benefits, receive free NHS care and education for their children. They can also apply for social housing if at risk of homelessness.

Households who become sponsors through the [Homes for Ukraine](#) scheme will not lose their council tax discounts. Regulations will protect sponsors' council tax discounts for single persons and limit impact on council tax payments for those sponsoring a family in a second property.

Guests can get £200 from local authority per person and £350 per host so inform on arrival. Tel: 01424 217259 or 07871603235 (for Rother). Payments now outsourced to RVA/Helping Hands

Robertsbridge and most Rother applicants should either make appointment to get benefits or job via local job centre - Hastings Dept Work & Pensions (DWP) Heron House, St Leonards on Sea. Ukraine staff and interpreters available. **OR Can drop in without appointment.** Can complete a UC application without a national insurance number, DWP will apply for one for applicant when they attend their ID appointment

Important to set up bank account as soon as poss, as benefits etc paid into bank. Easiest/helpful local banks Hastings/Battle are currently Nationwide, Nat West, HSBC, Santander

List of free Ukrainian Refugees Bank Accounts in UK
<https://fififinance.com/uk/ukrainian-bank-accounts-uk>

EDUCATION

Hub<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/04/11/how-do-families-arriving-from-ukraine-apply-for-a-school-place-and-childcare>

<https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/education-learning/schools/admissions/apply-in-year>

UK Higher Education opportunities and resources for Ukrainian Students
<https://docs.google.com/.../18okn2GiTE7EfqCex3O8U8Wh.../edit>

PRACTICAL NEEDS

SSA Second Hand School Uniform Shop (Robertsbridge Primary School)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/220413575651913>

RCC (Robertsbridge Community College) hold a stock of used school uniform

Tunbridge Wells based Ukraine Relief Group includes a large clothing bank access.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ukrainereliefgroup/>

Driving

Can drive on Ukrainian licence for 12 months and then exchange it for a U.K. licence. Can be added to host auto insurance for a cost

COUNSELLING/TRAUMA THERAPY

Counsellors Assist Listening Circles For Ukrainian Hosts” pilot project beginning May 7th 2022. 10 listening circles via zoom online. Spaces limited to 8 hosts per listening circles lasting 2hrs 15mins. One session per host.<https://counsellorsassist.com/2022/04/09/counsellors-assist-launches-listening-circles>.

Linda Bonavoglia shared a link to the group: **East Sussex High Weald Ukraine support network**.

[toS8f11 8t 1ti8al :pi2Ah8P019h4 75Mr](https://www.facebook.com/groups/toS8f118t1ti8alpi2Ah8P019h475Mr) ·

part of an international group of trauma therapists and educators who have been offering daily online trauma and resilience sessions to Ukrainian refugees, ex-pats or living in the country.

These sessions are free and translated simultaneously in Ukrainian.

Ukrainian text: link to the trauma group:

<https://saneukraineonline.org/?fbclid=IwAR0PB2FRrhqISbF8zFjXPbNuL0F04eyDAaubwxGxM3ZFwma3DTq5tMdo>

National Association of Therapeutic Parents

[ostre8h2m ar2A0iIA0i0 2u5 19tM 7:70p7](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ostre8h2mar2A0iIA0i02u519tM7:70p7) ·

Our expert team at The Centre of Excellence in Child Trauma has produced a free resource written in Ukrainian, Russian and English to be distributed to arriving families and their hosts.

The resource explains, in an overview, the effects of trauma (directly related to the Russian invasion of Ukraine), how to recognise it and what families can do.

Download here - <https://www.naotp.com/so/deO1Hxegf?languageTag=en>

MEDICAL

register with local GP practice in the usual way - hosts can download the forms from practice website or call in & collect them: [https://eu-west-](https://eu-west-1.protection.sophos.com?d=oldwoodsurgery.co.uk&u=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cub2xkd29vZHN1cmdlcncuY28udWsvcGF0aWVudC1pbmZvL3JlZ2lzdGVyLWw==&i=NThkYjgyZWZiNWwYzAxMDg1MGY3ZjMx&t=ZFZEVTZhR2RvakVadXdOTHdMTDI1REICU3orelU0Y3MzbDhyakVXQ1R3WT0=&h=28b997fc6bfb4994b3344fbb1967fc32)

[1.protection.sophos.com?d=oldwoodsurgery.co.uk&u=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cub2xkd29vZHN1cmdlcncuY28udWsvcGF0aWVudC1pbmZvL3JlZ2lzdGVyLWw==&i=NThkYjgyZWZiNWwYzAxMDg1MGY3ZjMx&t=ZFZEVTZhR2RvakVadXdOTHdMTDI1REICU3orelU0Y3MzbDhyakVXQ1R3WT0=&h=28b997fc6bfb4994b3344fbb1967fc32](https://eu-west-1.protection.sophos.com?d=oldwoodsurgery.co.uk&u=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cub2xkd29vZHN1cmdlcncuY28udWsvcGF0aWVudC1pbmZvL3JlZ2lzdGVyLWw==&i=NThkYjgyZWZiNWwYzAxMDg1MGY3ZjMx&t=ZFZEVTZhR2RvakVadXdOTHdMTDI1REICU3orelU0Y3MzbDhyakVXQ1R3WT0=&h=28b997fc6bfb4994b3344fbb1967fc32)

Info on how to register with a GP & book a vaccine etc

- how the NHS works in both languages:

[https://eu-west-](https://eu-west-1.protection.sophos.com?d=doctorsoftheworld.org.uk&u=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZG9jdG9yc29mdGhld29ybGQub3JnLnVrL3RyYW5zbGF0ZWQtaGVhbHRoLWluZm9ybWV0aW9uLWw==&i=NThkYjgyZWZiNWwYzAxMDg1MGY3ZjMx&t=LzNPQWJIL24wU3ZrT2lxT2RKMVVVZdtL296blp5V2VXWkxtQllrQUR0ND0=&h=28b997fc6bfb4994b3344fbb1967fc32)

[1.protection.sophos.com?d=doctorsoftheworld.org.uk&u=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZG9jdG9yc29mdGhld29ybGQub3JnLnVrL3RyYW5zbGF0ZWQtaGVhbHRoLWluZm9ybWV0aW9uLWw==&i=NThkYjgyZWZiNWwYzAxMDg1MGY3ZjMx&t=LzNPQWJIL24wU3ZrT2lxT2RKMVVVZdtL296blp5V2VXWkxtQllrQUR0ND0=&h=28b997fc6bfb4994b3344fbb1967fc32](https://eu-west-1.protection.sophos.com?d=doctorsoftheworld.org.uk&u=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZG9jdG9yc29mdGhld29ybGQub3JnLnVrL3RyYW5zbGF0ZWQtaGVhbHRoLWluZm9ybWV0aW9uLWw==&i=NThkYjgyZWZiNWwYzAxMDg1MGY3ZjMx&t=LzNPQWJIL24wU3ZrT2lxT2RKMVVVZdtL296blp5V2VXWkxtQllrQUR0ND0=&h=28b997fc6bfb4994b3344fbb1967fc32)

Once registered, an appointment can be booked if medical care or regular medications needed. Access translation services via the telephone (i.e. if face to face, phone will be put on speakerphone)

CHURCH (Orthodox)

Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Mary Magdalene and Community Hall
St Margarets Road, St Leonards on Sea TN37 6EW. Tel: [01424 429694](tel:01424429694)
<http://www.hastings-orthodox-church.co.uk/>

Greek Orthodox Church of St Panteleimon & St Theodoros Eastbourne
<https://orthodoxeastbourne.org>

SOCIAL INTEGRATION

Sundays 2pm fortnightly meetings/gatherings for all Ukraine guests at the Common Room, Cambridge Road, Hastings (opposite ESK)
Every Tuesday 2-4pm meet Ukraine guests and hosts at His Place, Robertson Street, Hastings

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FNZ Fast track employment
https://fnz.wd3.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/fnz_careers/details/Fast-track-employment_REQ-05043?q=Fast-track+employment
local contact through Helping Hands 07726 592739