

Homes for Ukraine Update 6 – Friday 24 June

Welcome to our latest update for hosts taking part in the Homes for Ukraine scheme in Norfolk.

This week's update includes a reminder about COVID vaccinations, a new Community Help session and biometric testing. It also includes information about Norfolk's Wellbeing Hubs, National Insurance numbers and some free family craft events taking place in Norwich.

Have you guests had their COVID-19 vaccinations yet?

One of the most important ways your guests can protect themselves and others against COVID-19 is to get vaccinated. Anyone over the age of 5 can walk into a drop-in clinic, no appointment is needed, and you don't need to be registered with a GP. You can also [book an appointment at a vaccination centre or pharmacy](#).

[More information about health services and vaccinations is available](#) in English, Ukrainian and Russian.

New Community Help session starting in Aylsham

As mentioned in our last update, we now have a welcome event starting Thursday 7 July in Aylsham at Aylsham Care Trust, Saint Michaels Avenue, Aylsham, NR11 6YA . This will be every Thursday 9am - 12pm and all hosts and guests are most welcome.

These sessions are a great way for both you and your guests to access the support and services that you need, as well as starting to navigate the local community.

Other sessions are held at Cromer, Dereham, Diss, Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn, Norwich, Thetford and Wymondham. [Find out more information about dates and times on our website](#).

Wellbeing hubs

There are currently three wellbeing hubs across the Norfolk and Waveney area, in King's Lynn, Norwich and Gorleston. They offer drop-in sessions and help support people with both their mental and physical health. All based in high street locations, they can also offer support to people who are in crisis, and offer an alternative to contacting more formal services like the police or emergency departments.

[Information about the hubs and what they offer is available](#) in English, Ukrainian and Russian.

New process for getting a National Insurance number as part of a Universal Credit claim

If your guest makes a claim for Universal Credit, they will be able to get a National Insurance number at the same time, if they don't already have one. The process for this has recently changed so that requests for people coming from Ukraine can be prioritised.

Once your guests have made their Universal Credit claim they will be sent a text message about their National Insurance number that includes a link to a website. They will need to go to this website to give some more information and to upload any documents that are asked for. They will get another text message within 48 hours of the first, to remind them to access the link. If they don't access the link, the Jobcentre team will try and call them by phone.

Once a National Insurance number is given them, your guest will get a message in their Universal Credit account. Having a National Insurance number also means that your guest can apply online for an advance payment on their Universal Credit. The job centre team will contact claimants to let them know when they can apply for this.

Update on Biometric Appointments

A 'biometric' is a measurement of a biological characteristic that is unique to every individual. Biometrics can be used to identify people, and to allow for automatic recognition when verifying your immigration status.

If your guest arrived using their passport, then they will need to have their biometrics done for their Biometric Residence Permit within six months of their arrival.

We are currently negotiating with the Home Office to arrange some more Biometric pop-up appointments at The Millennium Library, The Forum, Norwich for July, August and September. For information about bookings in general and those in other locations go to [UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services \(ukvcas.co.uk\)](https://ukvcas.co.uk)

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Family Décor Making with Gandaia Arts

Fabric Painting * Weaving * Bunting Painting * Fun!

New Routes, in Norwich, who support immigrant and refugees / asylum seekers are offering these sessions to refugees in June and July. They are free to attend, but please phone or email to join.

Dates Tuesday 21st June, Tuesday 28th June, Tuesday 12th July, Tuesday 19th July

Time: 4.30pm to 7.00pm

To register please RSVP Sadhia Islam. Tel: 07483 417407 or email youth@newroutes.org.uk

For more information

More [information about the Homes for Ukraine scheme is available on our website](#) where you will find lots of additional information including a [toolkit for hosts](#) that you can download, sources of local support and all [previous updates](#).

However, if you can't find an answer to your question, please email us at ncchomesforukraine@norfolk.gov.uk

Thanks again for your generous support of the Homes for Ukraine scheme.