

Homes for Ukraine Update 3 – Wednesday 1 June

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

This week's update will answer some of your questions around biometrics and includes more information about benefits, childcare and helping your guest with health care.

As well as this update, please remember to [check our website](#) where you will find lots of additional including a [toolkit for hosts](#) that you can download, sources of local support and links to Government information.

Bank Holiday arrangements

As our offices will be closed for four days over the Bank Holiday weekend, we thought it might be helpful to give you some links to useful information in case you or your guest/s need support.

If you need to tell us that your guests have arrived, please email us at ncchomesforukraine@norfolk.gov.uk. We are grateful for all the support you can offer to your guests in these first few days, and we'll carry out our initial welfare visit as soon as possible after the bank holiday weekend. If you or your guest need urgent support there is a list of [emergency contacts](#) available.

Frequently asked questions about Biometrics

What are Biometrics?

A Biometric Residence Permit holds someone's biographic details (name, date and place of birth) and biometric information (facial image and fingerprints). It shows their immigration status and entitlements while they remain in the UK.

All guests will need to have Biometrics completed within six months of arriving to confirm their immigration status. You can find out more on the [Government website](#).

Does my guest need to have a Biometric Residence Permit before they can claim Universal Credit?

If your guest already has three different forms of ID they will **not** need a Biometric Residence Permit to validate their benefits claim, so please support your guest to apply for Universal Credit as soon as possible. The bank account letter that we provide during our welfare visit counts as one of these forms of ID, as does a passport, driving licence, bank card and birth certificate.

Details of what evidence your guest will need to provide will be discussed with them when they apply. If your guest cannot produce three forms of ID then they may need to have their Biometrics done to make a claim. Your guests can get [support to make a claim from Citizens Advice](#)

Biometrics pop-up now fully booked

Earlier in the week we emailed you about the pop-up Biometrics sessions that the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) service had organised at the Millennium Library in Norwich for the week beginning 6 June.

All available slots have now all been booked. We are working with UKVI to create more of these pop ups over the next few months, so please don't worry, if your guest hasn't arrived yet, or your guest were unable to book a session. We will let you know when we can offer further opportunities.

Child Benefit

If your guests have children, they can apply for Child Benefit which is worth £21.80 per week for the eldest child and £14.45 per week for each additional child.

Anyone coming to the UK under the Homes for Ukraine scheme is entitled to claim Child Benefit immediately, rather than having to wait for the usual 3-month qualifying period.

Guests can claim Child Benefit if they are the parent or guardian of a child or children under the age of 16 (or under the age of 20 if they stay in approved education or training). By claiming Child Benefit, they receive monetary payments, usually every four weeks. They need to apply for Child Benefit by filling in a [Child Benefit claim form](#) and sending it to the Child Benefit Office. The address is on the form. More information on claiming Child Benefit, including the evidence that they will need to provide with your claim, can be found on the [Government's website](#).

Helping your guests with health services

Guests entering the country will have experienced a different health system, one which might not have the same routes into services that we have. If you can do so, please encourage your guests to register with a GP early, and not when they feel unwell. This will help the NHS to tackle health issues early before they can escalate. You can find out more information about [how to register with a GP](#) . We also have a [helpful list of health services](#) on our website. We would also strongly encourage Ukrainian guests to have a [covid-19 vaccination](#) as a matter of urgency.

Free childcare

In England, there are three government-funded early education schemes that offer free childcare for children aged two, three and four. Each of the free childcare schemes has different eligibility rules so it's important for your guest to check which of the schemes is right for them.

15 hours free childcare for 2-year-olds

If your guest is receiving Universal Credit, they will be able to get free childcare and education for their two-year-olds.

15 hours free childcare for 3 and 4-year-olds

All 3 to 4-year-olds in England can get 570 free hours of childcare each year. People usually take this as 15 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year, but people can choose to take fewer hours over more weeks. People can start to receive the childcare from 1 January, 1 April or 1 September following their child's 3rd birthday.

30 hours free childcare for 3 and 4-year-olds

To be eligible for 30 hours free childcare for their 3 or 4-year-old, your guest must expect to earn (on average) the equivalent of working 16 hours a week at the national minimum wage (£152 per week, less if they are under 23). The 30 hours are usually taken for 38 weeks of the year (during school term time). Depending on what the childcare provider offers, they may be able to get free childcare for 52 weeks if they use fewer than 30 hours per week.

[Find out more and apply](#)

For more information

More information about the Homes for Ukraine scheme is available [on our website](#) and at our face-to-face [Community Help events](#).

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.