

Homes for Ukraine Update 14 – Friday 9 December 2022

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

This week we have an update about the latest host networking sessions, a reminder about council tax and insurance issues, and contact arrangements over Christmas. We have also included information for any guests who wish to teach in the UK and an invitation to Christmas drop-ins being organised by the College of West Anglia.

Hosts networking and training sessions – King’s Lynn and Norwich

There are still places available at the forthcoming hosts networking and training sessions in King’s Lynn and Norwich.

The December sessions will look at cultural adjustment and festivals, the January sessions will give an overview of the whole scheme from pre-arrival through to move on, and the sessions in February will focus on moving forwards, accommodation, and employment.

These events are free to attend and need to be booked as places are limited. Just click on the event you would like to attend to fill in our online booking form.

King’s Lynn

- [Tuesday 13 December – 2.30-4.30pm, King’s Centre Church, King’s Lynn](#)
- [Tuesday 17 January – 2.30-4.30pm, King’s Centre Church, King’s Lynn](#)
- [Tuesday 21 February - 2.30-4.30pm, King’s Centre Church, King’s Lynn](#)

Norwich

- [Thursday 15 December – 12 noon to 2pm – Vernon Castle meeting room, Millennium Library, The Forum, Norwich](#)
- [Wednesday 11 January – 12 noon to 2pm - Heritage meeting room, Millennium Library, The Forum, Norwich](#)
- [Wednesday 15 February – 12 noon to 2pm – Heritage meeting room, Millennium Library, The Forum, Norwich](#)

If you need help with making an online booking, please call Norfolk Libraries on 01603 774774 and choose the option to book an event, or pop into your local library.

Top up to 'thank you' payments

Earlier this week we sent you an email to tell you that we are topping-up Host's £350 'thank you' payments by £50 a month from six months, from November 2022 to April 2023. The email explained when you will receive the payments – if you have not already read our email, please take a look so that you know how much your thank you payments will be and when they will be paid.

The 'thank you' payments, including the top-up, is tax free and should not affect any benefit entitlements or council tax status. You don't need to do anything to receive the increase as it will happen automatically at the same time as your regular 'thank you' payment.

This increase is one of several new measures we are planning to support Hosts and Guests as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme in Norfolk - we will share further details over the coming weeks.

Reassurance around home insurance and council tax

Here is a quick reminder about single people's council tax discounts, second homes discounts and insurance protection under the Homes for Ukraine scheme that came into force earlier this year.

As a Host under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, your guests are not included when the single person council tax discount is calculated. This is to make sure that Hosts are not financially worse off as a result of taking part in the scheme. As well as there being no impact on a Host's discount for their main home, there will be a 50% discount for empty or second homes that are used to house Ukrainian families on the scheme. [Read the Government's statement.](#)

At the same time, [The Association of British Insurers confirmed](#) that sponsors will be protected from any changes to their home insurance costs, with their cover remaining the same for the first 12 months, even if their policy is due for renewal.

ESOL Christmas lunch

The College of West Anglia are hosting some Christmas lunches for refugees to come and chat about the help they can offer. This includes ESOL courses and Multiply maths classes, which help adults with numeracy skills.

These are being held at 1pm:

- King's Lynn – Friday 9 December
- Wisbech – Monday 12 December

Email them at esol@cwa.ac.uk for more information

Contact over the Christmas period

If you need to contact us over the Christmas period, please continue to use our ncchomesforukraine@norfolk.gov.uk email. However, if you or your guest need urgent support from the People from Abroad team, please call us on 0344 800 8020.

Ukrainian teachers and trainees coming to the UK

The Department for Education is supporting and encouraging schools and training providers to recruit Ukrainian teachers and teacher trainees. If your guest is interested in teaching children aged 5 to 18 or teaching other age groups in a University or in further education, they can find out more on [the Government's website](#).

Community Help sessions in Diss

A reminder that the Community Help sessions for hosts and guests in Diss are being held on Wednesdays from 10am to 2pm at the United Reformed Church, Mere Street, Diss, IP22 4AD. This session runs alongside the local Ukrainian coffee morning and is going from strength to strength, with more events being planned.

You can [find a full list of all the Community Help sessions](#) on our website.

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.