

Homes for Ukraine Update 11 – Tuesday 20 September

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

This week we have some guidance around guest contributions to living costs, information for hosts approaching the sixth-month mark and booking for the next training and network sessions. There is also a reminder of what your guests need to do if they arrive with any pets.

Cost of living

Many people are concerned about the costs of their energy bills this winter, hosts of Ukrainian guests are no exception, and many of you have asked us if it is appropriate to ask guests for a contribution and for guidance on how much to ask for.

Once your guest starts receiving benefits or finds employment it is OK to ask for a contribution towards your utility bills.

As a helpful guide we suggest that hosts and guests consider the following contributions based on Universal Credit income:

- £25 a week (£108 a month) where guests occupy a single room
- £46 a week (£200 a month) where guests occupy more than one room

This is meant as a guide and it is important to talk about money and the cost of living and come to an agreement about what works in your specific circumstances.

It can feel very awkward to talk about money. However, if this does come up, don't shy away from talking about the cost of living.

The UK is an expensive place to live. Whilst you can't change the overall cost of life in the UK, you can offer help with what to expect with managing finances in the UK, which will help your guests to become independent in the future.

Next steps for hosts on the Homes for Ukraine scheme

Around the six-month stage we are planning to visit hosts and guests to check in and see if any support is needed. At the visit we will meet with both you and your guests separately. This is a great opportunity to talk about what's working well, what improvements could be made, any more support that may be needed and future plans. If you are reaching this stage in your hosting journey, a local council officer will get in touch with you to arrange an appointment.

Hosts reaching the 6-month stage will also receive an email from the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme setting out the options beyond the original six-month commitment. Please consider the options in the email carefully and have an open conversation with your guests about the future.

Please update us as soon as possible about any changes to your hosting arrangement, the more notice we have, the more effectively we can support transition arrangements and re-matches. Please also let us know if your guest wants to move to another part of the UK. If your guest has found a new host in a different part of the UK, the new Council will need to approve the match and the move in order for the host to be eligible for the thank you payment. It helps us to know this as soon as possible, so we can contact the new council on your guest's behalf. Email us at ncchomesforukraine@norfolk.gov.uk

Hosts networking and training sessions

Thank you to those who have attended our pilot host sessions in Dereham, Aylsham and Diss.

These free, face-to-face sessions have been held in locations where host feedback suggested there was a need. If the events are popular, we will explore expanding them to other areas of the County.

All hosts and prospective hosts of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme in Norfolk are welcome to come along to share experiences, access training and get information, advice, and support.

Booking is now open for the October sessions. As well as taking a look at trauma and resilience, the October sessions will cover cultural events such as Halloween, Guy Fawkes night, as well as how we celebrate Christmas and Easter in the UK and how this differs to celebrations in Ukraine.

Just click on the session you would like to attend to fill in our online booking form.

- **Dereham** – [Thursday 13 October, 10.30am – 12.30pm at Dereham Ukraine Aid Centre at Wrights Walk, Dereham, NR19 1TR](#)
- **Diss** – [Friday 14 October, 10am-12 noon at The Corn Hall St Nicholas Street Diss, Norfolk IP22 4LB](#)
- **Aylsham** – [Tuesday 18 October, 1-3pm at Aylsham Town Hall, Market Place, Aylsham, NR11 6EL](#)

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.

Reminder of what to do if your guest arrives with their pets

If your guests have any dogs, cats or ferrets with them, they should have:

- a pet passport / health certificate issued before they left Ukraine showing the that their pet has
 - o been vaccinated against rabies and had a blood test 30 days later to confirm the vaccine worked, and waited 3 months after the blood test to travel to the UK
 - o been microchipped
 - o had tapeworm treatment

or

- a license from the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

If your guest has brought a bird, rodent, rabbit or other small mammal to the UK from Ukraine they need to have a licence from APHA.

Please can you discuss this with your guests and ask to see the paperwork or licence that your guest has.

If you have any concerns that the pet should be in quarantine or home quarantine, or if your guest has no license or paperwork at all, then please contact Trading Standards to discuss this as soon as possible on 01603 223178 or e-mail trading.standards@norfolk.gov.uk during normal working hours.

Outside of normal working hours please contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency, telephone: 03000 200 301.

For more information people can look at the Government issued [guidance](#) on what people should do if they want to bring their pets over to the UK from Ukraine.

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.