

## Homes for Ukraine Update 15 – Friday 6 January 2023

Happy New Year and 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, ‘thank you’ payments and changes to the Cromer and Thetford community drop-ins. There is also information about our new guide to renting accommodation, free ESOL session in Norwich and forthcoming jobs fair.

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

Thanks to those of you who came to the December host networking and training sessions. There are still places available at the forthcoming hosts networking and training sessions in King’s Lynn and Norwich.

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 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

- [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.

## Host ‘thank you’ payments and other support

You may have seen the [news announced last year by the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities](#) that the Government is providing a new support package for the Homes for Ukraine scheme, we are awaiting full details. This new support means:

- All hosts will receive an increased ‘thank you’ payment of £500 a month for guests who have been in the country for over a year.
- ‘Thank you’ payments will be extended from 12 months to 2 years, so that guests who may not yet be ready to move into independent accommodation can stay in sponsorship for longer where sponsors are willing to extend arrangements.

In Norfolk we have been looking at what extra support we can offer Hosts and Guests with the direct funding that we receive from Government. We are developing wider proposals and will contact you to let you know this means for you and your Guest/s once a decision has been made.

## Welcome to Norwich for ESOL beginners

WEA are running a FREE face-to face course in Norwich for those people who have no, or very little English, and need basic speaking skills to get by on a day-to-day basis. This will be practical, inclusive, communicative, and fun. Students will also learn a little more about Norwich.

It runs on Tuesdays 2.30pm to 4.30pm from 10th January to 7th February at @REST Community Hub, Churchman House, 71 Bethel Street. NORWICH NR2 1NR if Guest/s are interested they can contact Nicky Turner at [nturner@wea.org.uk](mailto:nturner@wea.org.uk) to find out more or just come on the first day from 2pm.

## Jobs Fair at The Forum

Although not specifically tailored towards refugees, Guests might be interested in the [Norwich Jobs Fair at The Forum](#). It’s on Wednesday 25 January from 10am to 1pm. It’s a great opportunity to speak face-to-face with over 40 different employers about their job vacancies and boost employment prospects.

## Moving to rented housing

We have developed a short guide on how to rent a property from a private landlord. This is for Guests who are looking at getting their own living space or who want to move to a different area. You can [read a copy of the new guide](#), which will shortly also be available in Ukrainian and Russian.

## Community Help sessions in Cromer and Thetford

A reminder that the Community Help sessions for hosts and guests in Cromer have now changed. Instead of being held weekly, they are now on the first and the third Tuesdays of each month, at the same time of 2-4pm. This means that the next few sessions are on:

- January 17
- February 7 and 21

Watch out for the March dates, though, as these may change due to local elections.

There have also been some changes to the community help drop-ins in Thetford with sessions now alternating weekly between Thetford Library and the Salvation Army International Support International Support Session – CAMEO (Come and meet Each Other) at 22 Magdalen Street, Thetford IP 24 2BN.

These sessions are at the new time of 12.30pm to 2.30pm. Next week's session on 11 January will be at Thetford Library, and the week after that on 18 January will be at the Salvation Army.

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](mailto:ncchomesforukraine@norfolk.gov.uk)

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