



Homes for Ukraine Update 1 – Friday 13 May

Welcome to the first of our regular updates for hosts taking part in the Homes for Ukraine scheme in Norfolk.

Some of you will already be helping your guests to settle in, whilst others will be waiting for your guests to arrive. Whatever stage you are at, we hope this update will help answer some of your key questions and keep you in the picture as the scheme, and support offer, develops.

As well as this update, please remember to check our website where you will find lots of additional information www.norfolk.gov.uk/ukrainehostsupport including a [toolkit for hosts](#) that you can download.

Community Help events

We are holding weekly face-to-face drop-in sessions in libraries and other public buildings across the county. Locations, dates and times are on the website www.norfolk.gov.uk/ukrainehostsupport

These sessions are for both hosts and their guests offering a wide range of help and support with accessing essential services. These sessions will also give Ukrainians in Norfolk the opportunity to meet each other and get to know their local community. Hosts will have the opportunity to ask any questions you have and to meet other hosts all going through the same experience.

We have also been distributing lap-tops at these events, and so far have given out over 100 laptops to those arriving from Ukraine. We are currently waiting for more supplies and will let you know when these become available. In the meantime, if you have children who need laptops for study then do speak to their school to arrange one.

A growing community

We thought you might find it interesting to hear a bit more about the growing community of Ukrainians in Norfolk under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. As of Monday 9 May, nearly 200 Ukrainians have safely arrived in Norfolk under the scheme – that's 118 adults and 78 children. We are expecting many more arrivals to come, with just under 300 hosts in Norfolk still waiting for their guests to arrive.

Financial support

Here are the answers to some of the questions you've been asking around financial support, both for you and for your guests.

Q What is the £200 payment to guests for and how can they access it?

Each of your guests under the Homes for Ukraine scheme will receive £200 to cover their initial day-to-day living costs, whilst they make a benefits claim or find a job.

Once your guests have arrived, a council officer will make an appointment to visit you and your guests to make sure everyone is safe and well and to signpost to any services needed. This is called a 'welfare visit'. Once the council officers have confirmed they have carried out the visit, we will send a one-off prepayment card to the lead guest. This will be loaded with £200 for each of the guests in their party, including any children. The card should arrive in first class post, around three days after the welfare visit.

Q How can I claim my £350 a month support payment?

As a Homes for Ukraine host, you will be able to claim a £350 'thank you' payment each month. This will last for up to a year and only while you are still hosting.

When your guest has arrived, and the checks and welfare visits are complete, we will email you to ask whether you want to receive these payments. If you do, you will need to fill in a BACs form with your bank details. We will then arrange to the £350 to be paid directly into your account each month in arrears.

Which council arranges this payment depends on where you live in Norfolk:

- South Norfolk - [South Norfolk District Council](#)
- Breckland - [Breckland Council](#)
- All other areas of Norfolk - Norfolk County Council

Education and schools

Q Can I apply for a school place for my guest's children before they arrive?

It is important to discuss your guest's choice of school for their child / children and not make an application prior to their arrival without parental consent.

Once your guest has chosen a school for their child / children you might wish to support them to apply for a [school place online](#), or print off a copy for them to fill in and post.

If a child is due to move from Early Years provision to Primary school or move to Junior or Secondary school next academic year, you can support parents to apply for the child's next school. Information and links can be found at www.norfolk.gov.uk/schooladmissions Please support your guest to inform their child's school when they have made an application.

Schools have access to a telephone interpretation service, which can support your guests with the admission process.

Q What can I tell my guests about the school system?

The Bell Foundation has produced some information on the UK Education System in [English, Ukrainian and Russian](#)

In Ukraine children do not usually attend school formally until age 6/7. Adjusting to this change may be challenging for some children. Although a child can attend school in the UK part time or full time after their fourth birthday, the compulsory school age is on 31 December, 31 March or 31 August following a child's fifth birthday - whichever comes first. Parents may wish to talk to their child's school about the best options regarding a start date, within these guidelines.

Q How can my guests apply for a school uniform grant?

We are offering a one-off £170 per child school uniform grant to parents attending secondary school, and £80 per child for primary school children. This grant is only available to families on the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Schools will have copy of the uniform grant form and can help parents to complete and submit it.

How you buy the school uniform will depend on the school. Some have stocks of uniform in school while others ask parents to buy from a uniform shop in person or online. School can advise and support parents to do this.

Q Can my guest's children get free school transport?

Some 5–16-year-olds in Norfolk will qualify for free travel. This depends on how old the child is, which school they go to and where they live, and whether they have any special educational needs or mobility issues. Free school transport may also be available for families receiving certain benefits. Find out at www.norfolk.gov.uk/schooltransport

Support for schools

If you are interested in the support that we have been offering to schools, then find out more by reading our news release at

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/news/2022/05/extensive-package-of-support-to-help-schools-to-welcome-children-fleeing-the-war-in-ukraine>

Future updates

In future updates we will feature information on some of the key services and support that your guests may need to access, including education, benefits and language support. Information about these topics is already available on our website,

For more information

More information about the Homes for Ukraine scheme is available on our website at www.norfolk.gov.uk/ukrainehostsupport 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 for all that you are doing to support those fleeing the war in Ukrainian by offering a warm welcome in Norfolk – your generosity is greatly appreciated.