

# Update on Homes for Ukraine April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## Useful Information for those who have registered to host.

### 1. East Sussex County Council (ESCC)

ESCC have put a lot of very useful information on their website if you can't find it the link is <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKESCC/bulletins/312653d>.

If you have registered as a host under the Government scheme you should automatically receive a newsletter from ESCC.

This will give you guidance on for example how to register for a DBS check which can be done immediately and what accommodation checks will be carried out.

The ESCC have advised that

*'The newsletter is sent once we have received confirmation that hosts have registered for the Homes for Ukraine scheme. If hosts are not receiving the newsletter, I would suggest that they contact us by email to confirm that they are on our list of sponsors, we can then confirm we have the correct details and send a copy of the newsletter'*

You can also email [ukraine@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:ukraine@eastsussex.gov.uk) to ask for more guidance or if you have registered but haven't received the newsletter.

There is also a number to call 01323 724748. The line operates from 10am to 4pm, Monday-Friday.

### 2. City of Sanctuary UK

City of Sanctuary have held one online discussion which has produced a very useful document called Q&A document follow-up from 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme:

There are two more discussion proposed as 'Introduction to hosting' events which you can register for on their website [cityofsanctuary.org](http://cityofsanctuary.org)



#### Homes for Ukraine Q&A

28th April, 11-12:30pm

Do you have questions about the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme? Join us for informal discussions, with the opportunity to ask questions.



#### Hosting in Rural Locations

5th May, 1-2:30pm

This session will review considerations and practical tips for rural/semi-rural communities and hosts welcoming Ukrainian and other refugees into their

### 3. Useful information to all; Benefits and other practical help

#### a. Benefits for all Ukrainians resident in Ukraine on or before 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022

All Ukrainians i.e., including those who come under Family Re-union visas who were in Ukraine on or before 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 are entitled to full UK benefits immediately so it's very important, they register for these asap as entitlement starts from the day of they apply. These benefits can be claimed online or at the local Job Centre – there is also a link on the ESCC site to seek your local job centre.

For those Ukrainian coming under the **Homes for Ukraine** scheme they will be entitled to £200 in cash immediately, this and the £350 per month, paid in arrears to the hosts will be organised by Lewes/Eastbourne Council, who will also assist with benefits if there is a problem.

Can I give the £350 I get to my guests? If you do this, they will have to legally declare it to the DWP i.e., the benefit system and this will affect the level of their benefits, so sadly they won't gain from the money.

Those who have family members coming under the Family Re-union scheme are **not** entitled to the £350 per month 'thank you' payment or the £200 cash payment. Unfair but true.

LOSRAS can refer any Ukrainian arriving under either scheme to a foodbank (in the Lewes District) if there is an immediate need for food. Foodbanks require a referral.

#### b. Bank account

To receive benefits a bank account is needed, usually this is a complex process but Nat West bank has set up a simple process for Ukrainians who need to open a bank account they just need to show a passport and visa.

Link for this bank account is <https://www.natwest.com/ukraine-refugees.html#:~:text=Ukrainian%20refugee%20account%20opening,%E2%80%93%20see%20below%20for%20details>

#### c. Going on Holiday?

Can I go on holiday during the six months is a question often asked. Strictly speaking there is nothing to stop you but will you and your guests need to be happy for them to be placed in home alone situation.

### 4. Ukrainian Development Worker

3VA Sussex [3VA.org.uk](http://3VA.org.uk) has received funding for a Ukrainian Development Worker, (the advert is on their website) The role will cover the Districts of Lewes Eastbourne and Wealden and will really help connect the community organisations and the Local Authorities as well as offering training (and hopefully this type of briefing) in the future.

[www.losras.org](http://www.losras.org)

[info@losras.org](mailto:info@losras.org)