



A Big Lincolnshire *Welcome*

Homes for Ukraine Host e-newsletter

The Lincolnshire Resettlement Partnership welcomes you to the first of our Homes for Ukraine Lincolnshire host e-newsletters. We plan to send these emails every two weeks and hope they will help to answer any questions, along with providing useful links and information for both you and your guests.

You're receiving this email because you have either already registered as a Homes for Ukraine host in Lincolnshire or have recently made an application. If you wish to unsubscribe at any time please follow the instructions at the foot of this email.

Thank you

Firstly, we'd like to thank you and your family for playing your part in giving our Ukrainian guests such a warm and supportive 'Big Lincolnshire Welcome'.

Hundreds of households across Lincolnshire, including your own, have so far generously offered up accommodation for a minimum of six months. In addition, almost £8,000 has already been raised through the [Lincolnshire Community Fund's Ukraine Refugee Appeal](#).



Who does what?

There are many different organisations, all working together on our response to welcoming Ukrainian refugees to Lincolnshire. We know this can sometimes be confusing, so we've broken this information down to help highlight where different support sits.

Lincolnshire County Council

As the upper tier local authority, Lincolnshire County Council receives the necessary data from the central government Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities about sponsors/guests who have applied for visas (including the Lincolnshire accommodation address).

They will make initial contact with Lincolnshire sponsors via email to set out the next steps of the process and continue to track progress on a case-by-case basis. To enable suitable and safe sponsorship arrangements they will undertake safeguarding checks on sponsors including initiating DBS checks.

You need to let Lincolnshire County Council know at homesforukraine@lincolnshire.gov.uk when your guests arrive. They will then get in touch with you to share information regarding guest/sponsor payments.

Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service are undertaking post arrival 'safe and well' visits to sponsor households. They are sharing translated welcome information with Ukrainian guests and also offer home fire safety advice and install home fire safety equipment, if required.

District Councils

Your district council housing teams are arranging home visits to ensure that the accommodation you are offering is appropriate and that everything is in place for your guest(s). You can read more about what you need to do to make sure your home is suitable [here](#). District councils are also administering the optional monthly sponsor 'thank you' payment.

In the unlikely event that a sponsorship arrangement breaks down, district council homelessness teams may become involved to consider the needs around emergency temporary accommodation, as a last resort.

Wellbeing Lincs

Complemented by the information available on Connect to Support Lincolnshire, Wellbeing Lincs are there to offer emotional support, help with accessing health, education, benefits and council services, including housing to both sponsors and guests. Once district councils have verified the requests, Wellbeing Lincs are also administering the £200 interim guest payments and where applicable, the school uniform funding.

Wellbeing Lincs are also supporting guests and/or sponsors where there is a risk of arrangement breakdown, offering advice and support and facilitating onward referrals to support services if required.

Lincolnshire Voluntary Engagement Team (LVET)

LVET have been commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council to formalise an approach which has a focus on developing communications, ensuring suitability and security of voluntary and community groups offering support, and providing available and accessible countywide information and advice services. LVET are already engaging with various groups, sponsors and refugees to co-ordinate the work that sponsors, community and faith groups are doing to support refugees and to gain a greater understanding of any gaps to better meet the needs of Ukrainian arrivals.

Steps for host families

We've put together a short video to outline the initial process for hosts welcoming Ukrainian families into their homes. Watch it [here](#).

Homes for Ukraine programme

**These are the steps host families
should follow to welcome
Ukrainian families into their homes**

Connect to Support

Connect to Support Lincolnshire is an online information and advice library, community directory and provider marketplace for people in Lincolnshire.

**Connect
to Support
Lincolnshire**

The [Advice for Ukrainian Arrivals](#) information pages are now live and can be accessed [here](#).

A list of groups and organisations offering support to Ukrainian guests and sponsors can also be found within the [Activities & Events directory](#). This is being updated all the time so please keep checking for further updates. New or existing events, activities and any other voluntary sector support services open to Ukrainian refugees can be added to the directory by completing the following [short survey](#).

Most importantly, please let your guests know that all the information within the Connect to Support website can be translated into Ukrainian and Russian using the Google Translate function at the very top of the web page.

Support for your guests

In partnership with county and district councils, [Wellbeing Lincs](#) offers a dedicated service which provides advice and support to Ukrainian citizens arriving in Lincolnshire. The service includes emotional support, help with accessing health, education, benefits and council services, including housing.



Ukrainian guests can access the service by emailing Ukraine.Wellbeing@e-lindsey.gov.uk with details of their name, address, contact information and a brief description of the support they require. The team will aim to be in touch within two working days.

Alternatively, the team can be contacted by phone on 01507 613044 from 9am to 5pm Monday to Thursday or 10am to 4.30pm on Fridays. The phone line can get very busy, so email is the quickest way to make contact.

FAQs, support and offers

Visa applications - next steps

When a Homes for Ukraine visa application is submitted via the Home Office, these details are passed to the local authority in which the accommodation being offered is located. This data is drawn down daily by Lincolnshire County Council and shared with our district council housing standards colleagues.

When a new sponsor is identified, we will send an initial contact email to set out the next steps. This includes advising that your district council will be in touch with you soon to arrange a home inspection. Inspections are being prioritised on date of receipt and, where possible, date of anticipated guest arrivals. During the inspection you will be asked to show the visiting officer ID for all permanent residents of the accommodation aged 16+ so that Lincolnshire County Council can facilitate DBS checks. Please note, the checks to be undertaken by the council will happen concurrently to the Home Office assessing the visa application.

We will make every effort to undertake our checks prior to guest arrival but this may not always be possible. However, this will not prevent guests from travelling. Your guests can make arrangements to travel as soon as the visa is approved and they are in receipt of the necessary documentation.

Guest arrival and accessing the £350 'thank you' payment

All sponsors are entitled to a £350 a month tax free 'thank you' payment. This is paid approximately one month in arrears for up to 12 months. To access this, please promptly email us on homesforukraine@lincolnshire.gov.uk to notify us that your guest(s) have arrived. We will then email you with information about how to apply for the £350 payment. We will also email you AND your guest(s) about how your guest(s) can claim an interim payment of £200 per guest for subsistence costs.

Colleagues from Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue will also be in touch shortly to arrange a 'home safe and well check' following the arrival of your guest(s).

If you have already applied for sponsor and/or guest(s) payment

The completed online application goes through to your local district council for verification. Please use the contact details below if you have any changes in circumstances that may affect the application:

- Boston Borough Council HousingStandards@boston.gov.uk
- City of Lincoln Council UkraineSPOC@lincoln.gov.uk
- East Lindsey District Council HousingStandards@e-lindsey.gov.uk
- North Kesteven District Council HomesforUkraine@n-kesteven.gov.uk
- South Holland District Council Privatehousing@sholland.gov.uk
- South Kesteven District Council ukrainespoc@southkesteven.gov.uk
- West Lindsey District Council homesforukraine@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Universal Credit

Please visit the [dedicated page](#) on the Government's 'Universal Credit' [website](#) for further information.

Citizens Advice also offer a 'Help to Claim' service. More details are available on their [website](#) or by calling 0800 144 8 444 from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday.

School uniform funding

Guests that have travelled with school age children, are also able to claim a further payment toward the cost of school uniforms. Once children are enrolled at a school,

please ask the school to email schooladmissions@lincolnshire.gov.uk to confirm. Wellbeing Lincs will then be in touch with guests to organise an additional payment.

Holiday Activities and Food programme

Looking ahead to the school summer holidays Lincolnshire County Council is offering a free inclusive [holiday activities programme](#) for children and young people from reception to year 11.

Bookings for the summer holidays will be going 'live' early in July so look out for more information soon regarding locations and activities. A small budget is also available to assist with transport costs where this could be a barrier to attendance.

Leaflets with further information are also available in [Ukrainian](#) and [Russian](#).

Support from sponsors, community and faith groups

[Lincolnshire Voluntary Engagement Team \(LVET\)](#) has been commissioned to provide a range of communications and services related to Ukrainian arrivals in Lincolnshire.

Please let them know about any new or existing events, activities and voluntary sector support services available to Ukrainian refugees by completing the following [short survey](#). These will then be added to the [Activities & Events directory](#) within the Connect to Support Lincolnshire website where guests can search for things to do in their area.

GLL Leisure pass

GLL (North Kesteven District Council's leisure contractor) is offering Ukrainian guests a 3-month FREE leisure pass for any of its UK facilities. This includes ONE NK, Sleaford Leisure Centre and Better Gym Sleaford. Visit GLL's [website](#) for more information about how to apply.

Advice for hosts

Thank you to those of you who have taken the time to share your feedback and advice with us. We hope to include this in forthcoming e-newsletters.

The following websites also include some useful advice for hosts:

[Refugees at Home – Advice to new hosts](#)

[Reset - Sponsor toolkit](#)

[Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities - Sponsor Guidance](#)



Lincolnshire host networks

It's been great to see the emergence of host networks sharing information and experiences. The Host Ukrainian Refugees Lincolnshire Network (HURLNET) [website](#) is a fantastic local resource, containing lots of useful details.

For those of you on Facebook, there are a number of local groups that have been set up within our Lincolnshire communities. These are a really good way to link up and share information with fellow hosts and guests in your area.

Do you have friends or family members who may be interested in becoming a host and are yet to find a Ukrainian guest to match with?

Whilst the national and local priority is to ensure as many sponsorship relationships as possible are sustainable and can support guests for six months and longer, in a minority of cases this will not be possible and a 'rematch' may be required.

If you think someone you know may be interested in providing accommodation for a minimum of six months for guests already in the UK and requiring a rematch host, they can contact homesforukraine@lincolnshire.gov.uk for an informal chat and more information.

Ukraine window flag

We've created a [poster template](#) for children to help welcome our Ukrainian guests uniting the Lincolnshire and Ukraine flags. This was included in Primary Times

magazine and was sent home with every primary school age child in late May. Those of you living in North Kesteven will also be able to find a printed copy within the latest edition of NewsNK, delivered to all homes in the district.



[Download](#) and print it, write on it with a bold message of 'welcome', 'peace' or 'hope' and pop it in your window, and ask friends and family to do the same. Post a picture on social media, tagging #BigLincsWelcome.

Useful links

Please visit the following websites to access up to date information in relation to the Ukraine response:

- Lincolnshire County Council Ukraine response [web pages](#)
- Government Homes for Ukraine [web pages](#)

Contact us

If you have any questions that are not covered within this email, please contact Lincolnshire County Council's Homes for Ukraine team by emailing homesforukraine@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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