



A Big Lincolnshire *Welcome*

Homes for Ukraine Host e-newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of our Homes for Ukraine host e-newsletter.

To our new hosts, you'll receive these emails every two weeks and we hope they will help to answer any questions, along with providing useful links and information for both you and your guests.

Important updates to national host and guest guidance

The Government has recently added some important new guidance for both hosts and guests relating to the four to six month mark of the sponsorship arrangement. We strongly recommend that you read the following web pages and pass the information on to your guests:

- New guidance for hosts: ['Four to six months into your sponsorship arrangement'](#)
- New guidance for guests: ['Your living arrangements four to six months after moving to the UK'](#)

There's also a new page detailing sources of support available to sponsors containing a wealth of information and useful links. [Take a look here.](#)

Locally, our Homes for Ukraine Team has already spoken to more than 120 hosts in Lincolnshire who are around four months into hosting to check in on how the arrangement is going. It's been great to hear about your experiences so far including what's worked well along with any challenges. Positively, to date around 80% of the hosts we've spoken to have indicated that they're committed to continue hosting their guests for a further six months or more. Thank you all for your support!

ESOL directory now available on the Connect to Support website

English for Speakers of Other Languages, or ESOL, refers to learning English as a new resident in an English-speaking country.

A [new directory](#) containing details of face-to-face ESOL courses of varying levels in Lincolnshire, along with remote learning opportunities, is now live on the Connect to Support website. We will continue to add to this as new courses become available so please keep checking back for further information. [Take a look at the directory here](#).

Ukrainian Independence Day Wednesday 24 August 2022

On Wednesday 24 August, the people of Ukraine will mark their national day, which falls six months after the country's invasion by Russia. The day also commemorates 31 years of independence from the former Soviet Union.



In the run up to Independence Day next week, we'll be encouraging as many people as possible to show their support for Ukraine. We know that there are some wonderful events taking place across Lincolnshire to celebrate Independence Day. Thank you to everyone involved in making them happen.

Why not also support the #SunflowersForUkraine social media campaign by posting a photo or video with a sunflower using the #SunflowersForUkraine, #StandForFreedom and #BigLincsWelcome hashtags?

Children can also draw a sunflower on our [poster template](#), which is available to [download](#) and print.

Host and guest e-newsletter survey

We are currently developing a version of this e-newsletter that will be sent out to guests from September onwards.

Your opinion is important to us and we'd be very grateful if you could spare a few minutes to answer our [short survey](#) which will help to inform and evolve the content of both the host and guest e-newsletters.

[Complete the survey here](#)

Voluntary car schemes

There are 17 voluntary car schemes across Lincolnshire that are linked in with the Lincolnshire Community Transport Forum run by Lincolnshire County Council.

The schemes are run by parish councils, patient participation groups, GP surgeries and voluntary led schemes. They offer transport for journeys such as medical appointments, shopping and social needs. Each scheme has their own volunteers who have all been DBS checked, undergone online training for safeguarding and have badges issued by Lincolnshire County Council.

These schemes charge a nominal fee per mile to cover the driver's expenses.

To find out the details of your nearest scheme please call the Lincolnshire Transport Helpline on **0345 456 4474**.

Friendship Day for Ukrainian families and sponsors

From 1 - 4pm on Sunday 21 August, there's a Friendship Day event taking place in the beautiful gardens at Fydell House in Boston. Find out more, including details of how to book [here](#).

Address details: Fydell House, South Street, Boston PE21 6HT.

Your news and events

We'd love to include any events or news from our hosts and partners within this newsletter. If you have something you'd like us to feature, please send details to homesforukraine@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Please also submit any events to the Connect to Support directory, details of how to do this are included below.

Homes for Ukraine case studies

Would you be willing to answer some questions about your experience as a host for use on social media and within the media? If so, please look out for a survey in our next newsletter.

In the meantime, we're particularly keen to hear from hosts in Boston, East Lindsey and South Holland. If you can help, please email emma_welbourn@n-kesteven.gov.uk for further information.

Connect to Support

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



View the [Advice for Ukrainian Arrivals](#) information pages [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 new listings. 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.

Financial support

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

All sponsors have the option to receive a monthly payment of £350 for up to 12 months, paid in arrears, for as long as you are hosting your guests and that the accommodation provided is of a suitable standard. You will be eligible for the first monthly payment once the local council has visited to check the standard of the accommodation, your guests have arrived and a safe and well visit has been undertaken by Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue. There can only be one payment per residential address.

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.

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 Housing.Standards@boston.gov.uk
- City of Lincoln Council UkraineSPOC@lincoln.gov.uk

- East Lindsey District Council Ukraine.HousingStandardsELDC@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
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Department for Work and Pensions

The following [DWP document](#) provides an overview of support and services available to Ukrainians arriving in the UK, including how to get a National Insurance number, applying for benefits and Jobcentre Plus services.

The Job Centre has also put together a 'myth buster' detailing Jobcentre support for Ukrainian guests. Download it [here](#).

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. Support with translation services where needed to access the service is also available.

It's also worth noting that although the word 'credit' translates to 'loan' in Ukrainian, general Universal Credit is not repayable (although advances etc. are).

Who does what?

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.
- Makes 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.

- Undertakes safeguarding checks on sponsors including initiating DBS checks.
 - Please 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.
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Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service

- Undertakes post arrival 'safe and well' visits to sponsor households.
 - Shares translated welcome information with Ukrainian guests.
 - Offers home fire safety advice and installs home fire safety equipment, if required.
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District Councils

- Arrange home visits to ensure that the accommodation you are offering is appropriate and that everything is in place for your guest(s).
 - Read more about what you need to do to make sure your home is suitable [here](#).
 - Administer 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.
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Wellbeing Lincs

- Offers emotional support, help with accessing health, education, benefits and council services, including housing to both sponsors and guests.
 - Administers £200 interim guest payments and where applicable, the school uniform funding (once district councils have verified the requests).
 - Working in partnership with councils, supports 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.
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Lincolnshire Voluntary Engagement Team (LVET)

- Develops communications, ensures suitability and security of voluntary and community groups offering support.
 - Provides available and accessible countywide information and advice services.
 - Engages 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.
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Useful links

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

- Lincolnshire County Council Ukraine response [web pages](#)
 - Government 'Homes for Ukraine' [web pages](#)
 - Government 'Sponsor Guidance' [web pages](#)
 - Government 'Move to the UK if you're coming from Ukraine' [web pages](#)
 - [Refugees at Home – Advice to new hosts](#)
 - [Reset - Sponsor toolkit](#)
 - Connect to Support Lincolnshire - Advice for Ukrainian Arrivals [web pages](#)
 - Connect to Support Lincolnshire – Activities & Events [directory](#)
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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

Why have I received this email?

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 below.