

Support for Ukrainian Guests in Wiltshire – an update from Karen Linaker, Community Engagement Manager lead link to the Wiltshire Council Refugee Support Team

General Position

Currently Ukrainian refugees can enter the country in two ways - as part of the [Homes for Ukraine scheme](#) or through the [Ukraine Family Scheme](#)

What is the Homes for Ukraine scheme? Well, this scheme allows Ukrainian nationals and their family members to come to the UK if they have a named sponsor under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

The government makes local authorities like ourselves aware of the numbers coming through so we can carry out checks and provide access to benefits.

The government supplies funding including the one-off £200 emergency fund per guest and the £350 monthly thank you payment for sponsors. As a council we also receive £10,500 per individual to provide wraparound support.

The Ukraine Family Scheme allows applicants to join family members or extend their stay in the UK. However, councils receive no notification and there is currently no government financial support.

It is important to say those arriving as part of the Ukraine Family Scheme can still access council services just as any resident of Wiltshire. There are more details on the services provided on our Help in a Crisis page.

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/958/Help-in-a-crisis>

For those coming through the Ukraine Family Scheme it is helpful to know where these families are based as that will help map out where additional support to wider services may be needed.

This could be for school places or to work with partners where services may be required.

Therefore, we do ask people or communities who are welcoming Ukrainian refugees under the family scheme to email us at H4U@wiltshire.gov.uk, so that we can build a real accurate picture of the situation.

Wiltshire Specific Position

Our Ukrainian guests continue to arrive and settle in communities. We thank you for your ongoing support and we hope you find these briefings provide useful updates.

Latest figures show approximately 2850 households have registered for the [Homes for Ukraine scheme](#) and currently 537 households have been

matched with 1,383 individuals. There are 230 school applications, 145 primary and 85 secondary. 155 school places are under offer, with the rest pending.

Latest figures show 37 Ukrainian guests matched to hosts in the Trowbridge Community Area (0-18 yo x 9 and 19-64 yo x 28)

There are a number of community groups set up across Wiltshire which are supporting Ukrainian guests. The latest information on these groups is available on [Key information links - Wiltshire Council](#)

Both Trowbridge Town Council and Trowbridge faith leaders are included in this list of community groups.

The [Wiltshire Together website](#) is also a good source of advice and information and also has details on community support, including a page on [Supporting Wiltshire's Refugees](#).

Pound Arts in Corsham has introduced an initiative to open the doors of cultural organisations across the county to welcome refugees and provide free tickets. A host of organisations have agreed to take part - meaning free tickets to music, theatre, museums etc. The initiative is spreading beyond Wiltshire. To book just get in touch



with your local organisation and ask for tickets. Our communities are keen to welcome all. More details on Pound Arts shows are available here [Homepage - Pound Arts](#). Look out for other organisations showing the Culture Welcomes Refugees logo (pictured below) to find other venues joining in this initiative.

We have a number of Ukraine nationals taking up lessons for people aged 19+ from the Wiltshire Council [Family and Community Learning](#) (English for Speakers of Other Languages) courses and the plan is to deliver courses across Wiltshire over the next couple of months. Melksham is currently underway with a new cohort due to start in July. The next cohort for Chippenham is in July. Devizes ESOL lessons started on 8 June and Calne the week beginning the 27 June with similar numbers projected. Salisbury is starting on 30 June and Marlborough is due to start in July. Details will be shared on the [Work Wiltshire website](#) in the coming days. People can find out more about the ESOL courses by going to familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk or by calling 01225 770478.

For young people aged 16 plus there is a host of information on options for employment, education and training on our Work Wiltshire pages. [Support for young people arriving from Ukraine - Work Wiltshire](#) The pages have information on transport, higher education, community support, and resources/equipment. There is more information about this in our news story - [Training and job opportunities for Ukraine nationals in Wiltshire - Wiltshire Council](#)

Employers who want to offer work to Ukraine nationals can find out more about how to register and share job offers by visiting the government pages - [Offer work to people who have come to the UK from Ukraine - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) More detail for employers is available at [UNHCR - Tapping Potential: Guidelines to Help British Businesses Employ Refugees](#);

There is also advice available for Ukraine nationals on finding work in the government information pack [Ukraine Welcome Guide.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

You may find people do regularly approach you for details on how we are supporting Ukraine nationals here in Wiltshire. They may have more specific queries around payments or the £200 voucher. Please encourage them to view our Ukraine web pages which has information for sponsors and more general information as well as a welcome pack for Ukraine people living in Wiltshire. [Wiltshire stands with Ukraine - Wiltshire Council](#)

Wiltshire Council's Refugee Support Team has recently expanded to accommodate the increasing demands on its services, previously its main focus of work was for Syrian and Afghan refugees. Very regularly the team hosts a multi-agency meeting with all relevant statutory and VCS partners to ensure we are doing the best we can to work together on the Ukraine situation. At that meeting, Karen Linaker – lead Community Engagement Manager on refugee work regular feeds in local community work and insight. Karen links then with the CEM for each community area – Liam for Trowbridge – to ensure the team is up to date and regularly feeding back local information into the multi agency meetings. At the regular Town and Parish Council Network meetings hosted by Wiltshire Council, councillors will have noted that a standing item is included now on this agenda for updates to be given about the county's work for Ukraine guests and for town and parish councillors to feed in their local insight and issues.

Please use the following as your main points of contact:

H4U@wiltshire.gov.uk to contact the refugee support team

Karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk to contact the lead Community Engagement Manager linked to the refugee support workstream

Please do regularly check this website page for updates: [Wiltshire stands with Ukraine - Wiltshire Council](#)