



# Homes for Ukraine Newsletter

Please see below updates of the extraordinary ongoing work to support this resettlement programme.

## Headline Figures

- We currently have an expected 742 guests arriving across 354 hosts.
- To date we have had 424 arrivals.
- The average age of guests arriving are 27, with the majority aged over 18 being female.
- The average age of hosts are 56.

## Payments

- The number of interim guest payments made to date: 449 (£200) payments
- The number of host gift payments made to date: 321 (£350) payments

## Education

As at Friday 23 September 2022, 140 Ukrainian refugees have secured a place in Shropshire early years, primary, secondary and further education settings across the county. Of these, 113 have come through the Homes for Ukraine visa scheme, while 27 have come through the Ukraine Family route. It should be noted that the current Government position remains that schools admitting refugees through the Ukraine Families route do not receive funding to support their education.

The Department for Education has released their first payment to education settings for school age arrivals in Shropshire via the Homes for Ukraine visa scheme between 1 March and 31 May 2022. This covers the first 25% of the total payment they can expect to receive for each refugee. Early years settings with children who arrived up to 31 May will receive £750 per child, with a further £2,250 to follow later this year; primary schools with pupils who arrived up to 31 May will receive £1,645 per pupil, with a further £4,935 to follow later years year, and; secondary schools/FE colleges with students who arrived up to 31 May will receive £2,189 per student, with a further £6,565 to follow later years year. Settings with arrivals from 1 June 2022 onwards can expect to receive notification of their funding in due course.

### **Shropshire Supports Refugees Updates**

We were very pleased to be able to work with the Shropshire HAF summer scheme where many of our refugees and Ukrainian guests joined in with the various activities across the county, laid on by Shropshire Council for the children who weren't attending this for one reason or another we were able to support them to keep busy.

Our wonderful Ukrainian activities coordinator put on 21 activities for the children and adults who use our service through the summer these included visits to:

- 📅 The Shropshire cat rescue centre
- 📅 A games afternoon at nerdy cafe
- 📅 Visits to the cavalier horse riding centre
- 📅 Boxing sessions with bright star boxing
- 📅 Circus skills with Performance Without Borders
- 📅 Craft clubs run by Ukrainian guests
- 📅 Arts classes at the Shrewsbury museum
- 📅 Awareness raising training courses on exploitation and county lines run by the children Society for some of our teenagers
- 📅 Afternoon tea at Saint Chad's
- 📅 The Wrekin Forest school
- 📅 Castlefields Caterpillars activities for young children in the Shrewsbury Centre
- 📅 Movie and pizzas care of Dough and Oil
- 📅 Open gardens visits were facilitated
- 📅 Many of our Ukrainian guests joined in with the multicultural event at the United Reformed Church organised by the interfaith council
- 📅 We now have a Ukrainian dance troupe, choir, and members who can play instruments and join orchestras

### **ESOL**

We now have 177 people registered for ESOL in the Shrewsbury HUB. We continue to work closely with The Gateway and now Shrewsbury College for consistent and well-coordinated delivery of English classes as is possible. Throughout the summer, ESOL included English guided walks and tours of the town, English with history tours around the town and several creative conversation classes to make it interesting.

### **Development in SSR**

We now employ 5 Ukrainian support workers in the Hub (4 of whom have come since the war) We have one Russian speaking case worker and will soon be looking to employ another 4 part time people with lived experiences to be our people in the North East, South and West of the county. The staff team has grown to 9, with more to come soon!

### **Community Contacts Meetings**

These are still taking place every fortnight. If you are taking the lead in your local area, please get in touch and join the others doing the same around the county via

[Amanda.jones@shropshiresupportsrefugees.co.uk](mailto:Amanda.jones@shropshiresupportsrefugees.co.uk).



We continue to develop the support plan county wide in collaboration with Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership and Energize

#### Training and Development

West Mercia police have facilitated 3 raising awareness of exploitation courses and SIP have run a successful raising awareness in adults and children safeguarding course. SSCP are delivered a safeguarding children course earlier in the month. The Children's Society have facilitated 2 raising awareness courses for children vulnerable to exploitation. We will continue to offer monthly courses to ensure as many people as possible in the county are aware of safeguarding and exploitation risks for vulnerable people in our county.

#### Other Support at the Hub

We continue to distribute free SIM cards from Vodafone to any new guests that arrive. The Sabrina Boat tickets have been successful but as the season starts to come to an end so will these leisure donations but we are very grateful to Sabrina Boat for everything they have done so far for our guests to make them feel welcome.

Weekly visits and drop in support workshops continue from :

- Enable
- Staff Line
- Shropshire Council
- Landau

Monthly drop ins from :

- Purple Leaf/ Branch Project
- AXIS/ Womens Aid

#### Volunteers and use of the HUB

We are so grateful for the wonderful volunteers that have been so supportive throughout the summer holidays. With an average of 60 visitors a day, many of them children of all ages, made the hub a very vibrant space most days

Guests living in hotels used the hub daily to cook food and relax in, and the quiet space upstairs were used for haircuts, massages, yoga therapy and relaxing.

YOGA for Ukrainians was well attended throughout August- a very well attended and appreciated service for lots of our guests at Jenna Blair studios in Belle Vue.

We received up to 4 Shrewsbury Food Hub deliveries a week through the holidays- a much needed service for us, the guests and refugees using the hub were very grateful for!

Our dedicated and hardworking support team continue to help visitors settle in, meet other Ukrainians, link in with other services and organisations that can help them, they have helped people with a large range of issues.



Many people are now starting to find their own accommodation and we continue to support them in this process. We have successfully assisted 3 groups of people to move into home situations which was very satisfying.

#### The Donations Unit

The donation unit was well utilised by guests and refugees throughout the summer. We are currently on the emergency only access list while we reassess how we manage the donations unit and continue to distribute the clothes and goods.

#### Whatsapp Group Support

The WhatsApp group for hosts is very active with a total of 98 group members. This is a space for peer-to-peer support, experienced hosts helping new hosts and a place to share ideas and activities. Many new homes have been found for relatives of existing guests through this group. We hope to support a peer-to-peer zoom chat for hosts to help them keep the hosting situation in place for as long as possible and we are working on an equivalent for Ukrainians.

The WhatsApp group for Ukrainians is equally as active, with 191 members sharing support, ideas, activities and events, self-organising groups and workshops, including; "t-shirt making and chat" group which we hope will be a regular event, and a craft and chat group.

We also have a WhatsApp group for all the key people in the community who are running coffee mornings and support for Ukrainian guests around the county. There are currently 25 participants in this group.

#### Shropshire Supports Refugees | Facebook

The closed Facebook group now has 3.6k members. Please send a request if you would like to join the network. This is where most of our information, news and activities is shared and allows people to help each other with tips and discoveries

#### Shropshire Supports Refugees - Education

Our City of Sanctuary and education link worked hard with the local authority to successfully place 7 children into schools who were struggling.

They will continue to develop support and share ways for schools to make the integration as easy as possible for the children who have been through so much already.

### Health

There have been some recent queries suggest that there is a need to do some further promotion of the resources that were put together in the spring to remind health providers, host families and refugees. We are undertaking this work now.



## **Community Support**

Now that the summer is behind us, we are looking to develop some new activities and if the pilots work, could become a regular weekly or monthly activity. We would love to hear from hosts and guests, with what might be enjoyable activities for when autumn and winter draw in.

### **1. Saturday get-togethers 3.00pm – 5.00pm**

Just to confirm that our regular weekly meetings at the Quakers Meeting House on Saturdays will continue into the autumn /winter.

As a reminder, on Saturday afternoons guests can:

1. Complete an English diagnostic assessment and book your lesson(s)
2. Hosts/ guests can collect SIM cards.
3. Talk to a volunteer or a member of the Enable service about help with finding a job, and making contact with local employers on your behalf.
4. Use a laptop, and talk to us if you are struggling with IT and need support
5. Book a lift to an appointment or social event etc
6. Take home children's games, books and toys
7. Meet with professionals including health care specialists on a monthly basis.
8. Ask for help and support, just ask we will try our best to provide help and guidance

Very importantly hosts, guests and volunteers meet informally to promote friendships and discuss and plan for social activities.

### **English Assessments and English Language lessons**

English Lessons Quakers Meeting House, St Marys Lane, Ludlow SY8 1DZ

- 📅 Tuesday mornings 10-11.30
- 📅 Wednesday evening 6.00-7.30
- 📅 Thursday afternoon 1.30-3.00
- 📅 Saturday early afternoon English conversation sessions 1.30 -3.00pm for more able English speakers
- 📅 Saturday 3-5 English assessment for new students or request an English assessment.

We are going to start a homework club for young people at school or college aged 11+ , from the 28th September , this will run alongside the adult English classes on Wednesday's between 6.00 and 7.30 pm

Please contact Jacki Moore email [jackiamoore@gmail.com](mailto:jackiamoore@gmail.com) or mobile 07929656545 to book onto a lesson or if you are interested in the homework club

### **Transport is available, throughout the week and weekends**



We are very aware that public transport is limited in South Shropshire and North Herefordshire, and want to enable guests to plan trips to lessons, appointments with the jobcentre, social events etc. We can pick up throughout South West Shropshire and Herefordshire borders, as long as we have enough notice and have volunteers available. Please give four days notice to book your lift. Peter Higgins is our transport coordinator and Peters contact details are , email [refugeesludlow@gmail.com](mailto:refugeesludlow@gmail.com) or mobile 07757989708

### Facebook Group

We would like to reach as many hosts and guests and volunteers as possible so please forward the this link to all. The Facebook group is named:

Ludlow Refugee Support Group

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/1239189220242149/?ref=share\\_group\\_link&exp=7ffb](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1239189220242149/?ref=share_group_link&exp=7ffb)

### New - Ludlow Leisure Centre

Ludlow LC is offering a three month free pass for refugees to access most of the facilities that are available at the Leisure Centre. If a guest is interested in applying, please contact [ericagarner@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ericagarner@hotmail.co.uk) , giving the following information:

Name and address of host family, and names of the family members who will be using the pass

### Autumn Activities

We are at the planning stage for organising the following :

-  Guests cooking together – we have a venue agreed, and a volunteer who holds a food hygiene certificate to provide some help. We are looking at a date in October, what would be a preferred day and time?? Perhaps a Saturday morning? We will provide cooking ingredients, please let me know either by fb or email if you are interested.
-  Craft activities for children during the October school holiday (Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October)
-  We would welcome suggestions from hosts and guests for any other forms of entertainment/ activities you may be interested in such as film nights, games nights, shared suppers etc.

### Feedback | Good News Stories

Ludlow Summer Club for Children - We have received some wonderful updates from a Ukrainian neuropsychologist and fitness trainer who kept some of the children in the south very happ with quizzes, baking, yoga, exercise, outdoor and indoor games, and sports activities.

