

WYCHAVON

Homes for Ukraine



August Host Bulletin

Welcome to our August Host Bulletin for Wychavon. These bulletins will be released on a monthly basis and will hopefully give you additional information to support you as a host.

If you have not already, please make the most of your free membership to Hold for Hosts, a service designed to support you to succeed in your important role as a Host. This will provide you with access to a fantastic bank of resources and wide range of services including advice lines, podcasts, discounts, health and well-being app and much more. It will also enable you link up with other hosts across the UK. Please contact homesforukraine@wychavon.gov.uk and we can send you more information about logging in.

Events

We were lucky to take 44 Ukrainian guests to the beautiful city of Bath this month. The guests enjoyed visiting the Roman Baths and exploring the city with a local guide. Our Liaison Officers, Yuliia and Mariia kindly translated the fascinating tour into Ukrainian. It was a long day, but everyone thoroughly enjoyed seeing the sights in the sunshine. The Roman Baths currently offer free entry for Ukrainian guests, providing they show their BRP card on arrival.



August 24th marks Ukrainian Independence Day, to commemorate The Act of Declaration of Independence of Ukraine in 1991. We came together with guests, hosts, and friends to remember all that's been lost since the conflict started and also to enjoy the rich culture which has been brought to the UK with our guests.



The day started with raising the flag at the Civic Centre. Chairman of the district council, Robert Raphael, shared a message of gratitude to the residents, volunteers and staff who have worked to help those fleeing the conflict. Later on, Ukrainian guests and hosts from around Worcestershire gathered together in Evesham's Abbey Park. The event included popular arts, crafts and sports activities, face painting and live music from Joe Wheldon. Everyone had a great time and the event was featured live on BBC Midlands Today evening news interviewing one of our HFU rematching officers, Tetiana Suleimanova, and a guest from the Evesham area.



Adult Learning

DLUHC is now funding new resources to support our guests to improve their English. STEP Ukraine is an English language and employment support programme for up to 10,000 Ukrainians across the UK. Enrolment to the programme is on a rolling basis, those interested are encouraged to register as soon as possible to secure a place in the programme.

The aim of STEP Ukraine is to help Ukrainians improve their English language skills and gain new employment or employment more in line with their skill level through the provision of English language training and employment support. The STEP Ukraine programme is delivered by World Jewish Relief in partnership with the British Council. Guests can sign up or you can make a referral. <https://www.worldjewishrelief.org/stepukraine/>

Other government resources for learning English: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/learn-to-speak-read-and-write-english-homes-for-ukraine>

School starting

With the new academic year approaching, your guests may have questions about their child's education and the different stages they may be at. We have a bank of information sheets which hosts and guests can refer to regarding this. Please contact us and we can send you the relevant information.

Next Steps

Your guests may be thinking about their next steps in the UK, many of our district's guests have already moved into private accommodation or social housing. If you can no longer host, we also have many other hosts who guests can be re-matched with, please get in touch and we can arrange this.

Guests can find private rental properties by contacting local letting agents or looking at sites such as Rightmove.co.uk or spareroom.co.uk. We may be able to offer support with deposits for guests. If your guests are thinking about renting privately then encourage them to get in touch with our housing options team who can offer them advice.

Guests can also rent a home from a social landlord. This is usually a housing association which offers homes to people that meet the qualifying criteria at a reduced monthly rent. The two main housing associations in Wychavon are Platform and Rooftop Housing.

There is a lot of demand for social housing so guests will have to bid for properties against other people. Our housing team can help explain to them how the process works in more detail. Ukrainian guests are considered a high priority which will increase their chances of getting a social home to rent but we cannot guarantee they will be successful.

If your guests are thinking of renting a social home in Wychavon then they will need to apply to join our social housing register. You can support them to do this by visiting www.housingforyou.co.uk

We recommend that guests register as soon as possible if they are interested in social housing.

If your guests need help finding new accommodation then please email housing.needs@wychavon.gov.uk or call our housing options team on 01386 565000 (option 5).

Please update us as soon as possible if there are any changes with your guest's accommodation- in particular, if they are moving to social housing or private accommodation, we need to be informed of the move out date.