



December-January Host Bulletin

Welcome to our December-January 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.

Christmas celebration 🎄

In December, we held our Christmas event for hosts and guests. We were delighted to welcome over 100 people to Evesham Town Hall. The evening was full of traditional Ukrainian dishes, music and crafts. There was even a special visit from Santa Claus! We want to give a big thank you to all who joined us and the following local businesses in Pershore who kindly donated fantastic raffle prizes: Harrisons, Follyies, Pplumz, Persora, Arcade Sweets, Coffee & More, Riverside Fish Bar, Fladbury Flowers and Upper Crust bakery.



English Courses

We know that some of our guests are still keen to improve their English. Worcestershire County Council have recently released their course dates for the new year, please take a look at the website below. There are lots of adult learning courses on offer, not just ESOL, this would be a great way for guests to make new friends. [Courses Search \(worcestershire.gov.uk\)](https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/courses-search)

International House London also offer a range of ESOL and foreign language courses online. For Ukrainian guests, the English courses are free of charge or at a reduced rate. [Online English Courses - International House London \(ihlondon.com\)](https://www.ihlondon.com)

Coffee Morning

You may be interested in encouraging your guest to attend our upcoming Coffee Morning in Evesham. This event is aimed at guests who are looking to make new connections in the community and explore the wide range of social groups in the district. In particular, we want to support guests with limited English and who may be feeling isolated in the UK.

18th January | 11:00- 13:00 | Wallace House, Evesham

We also have a poster available in Ukrainian, please email homesforukraine@wychavon.gov.uk if you would like to share this with your guest.



So far, we have translated over 100 certificates and qualifications from our guests through UK ENIC, an organisation who verify and translate international qualifications.

We know that gaining employment is a top priority for many of our guests, so have been offering this service free of charge. If your guest is interested in applying for a Statement of Comparability from UK ENIC, please get in touch homesforukraine@wychavon.gov.uk and we can begin the process.

Scheme Updates

Since the beginning of the Homes for Ukraine scheme, the context in which we are working changes regularly. You may be interested in updates as it develops with the changing needs of our guests. Your guests may also have questions about the future. Please keep a close eye on the government website for up-to-date information and releases.

[Homes for Ukraine: sponsor guides - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Gas safety certificates and boiler services

For those of you who have been hosting for a longer period of time, you may be required to show an up-to-date gas safety certificate and boiler service document. Please ensure you have these documents ready.

Next Steps and hosting again

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.

In some cases, we look for another host for guests, if you know of someone who is interested in hosting, please let us know and we can get in touch with them. We are also in the process of updating records, so if your guest is moving out soon and you are thinking about hosting again, we can make a note of this.

Guests can find private rental properties by contacting local letting agents or looking at sites such as [Rightmove.co.uk](https://www.rightmove.co.uk) or [spareroom.co.uk](https://www.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

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.