



Shropshire Council Homes for Ukraine Newsletter

It's been another busy week of action and progress to support Ukrainian guests and hosts here in Shropshire. A big thank you to our colleagues and key partners for all their hard work and support in making this happen.

During Refugee Week (20 to 26 June 2022) we helped Shropshire Supports Refugees raise the profile of the annual campaign by helping to promote a series of events on our social media channels. Weekly updates are available on the staff intranet.

– [News | Shropshire Council](#)

Headline Figures and Overview

- As of 07.07.2022 we have had 366 individuals arrive in Shropshire which equates to 149 family groups. However, we are due to have 763 individuals arrive in total (although this number is growing daily). As you will see from the below updates, we are in the thick of all the necessary checks, inspections and payments and I continue to be grateful for the hard work put in by everyone working on this scheme.
- We are in the process of recruiting to our resettlement team which should help to make things to move a little more quickly so once those adverts are live, I will circulate.
- And finally, myself and Amanda attended a conference in Manchester this week focused on supporting refugees and asylum seekers and it was great to speak to others doing the same work as us and swap ideas and stories of how we had done things to date. Amanda was chairing the conference and it was great to watch her from the sidelines fly the flag for Shropshire!



DBS Checks

- Over 430 DBS applications have been input on to the system
- 202 have been verified and are going through the relevant checks
- 17 have been archived (failed housing check, were refugees, pulled out of the scheme)
- 119 waiting to be verified (this is individuals stats but most of these are family groups)
- 50 have completed applications but have failed to send through the correct documents need for video verification we have contacted them and are waiting for them to send through the correct documents
- 38 waiting for people to send through documents for us to check before video verification
- 26 haven't completed their application links

N.B. People haven't gone through the video verification stage then their DBS applications are not classed as initiated by Shropshire council this may affect their Gift payments going through so it is important to send through documents when requested to help move the process along.

Property Inspections

The figures for the housing inspections are as follows:

- 243 inspections booked
- 191 inspections completed
 - 182 marked as satisfactory
 - The others are either waiting works or issues to be resolved on Foundry
- A number of visits have also been completed for homes that are registered on the Friends & Family scheme

Welfare Checks

- Both Early Help team and Adult Social Care colleagues continue to work through the guests who have arrived to ensure they are happy in their host properties and feel safe and settled.

Payments

- As of 07.07.2022, there has been 318 guest payments of £200 and this list grows daily. We have also started making host gift payments and are working through the list of hosts to add further information so that are able to process more as soon as possible. To date we have made payments to 43 hosts.

Health/Community Support

- The attached flyer provides information on the Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine. The leaflet is translated into Ukrainian and other translations can be downloaded from here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-dont-let-your-child-catch-it>



PHE_Measles_A5_2p
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Education

- As of 29.06.2022 we have had 99 Ukrainian children securing a place in a Shropshire education setting – 7 in early years provision, 50 in primary schools and 42 in secondary schools. Of these, 76 have come through the Homes for Ukraine route, while 23 have come through the Ukraine Families route. It should be noted that the current Government position is that the schools admitting refugees through the Ukraine Families route do not receive funding to support their education. The Department for Education has yet to confirm the funding arrangements education payments to schools admitting Ukrainian refugees.
- The first payments of grants of £50 per child placed in mainstream schools have been allocated to schools admitting refugees, this is to support the costs of uniforms and resources.

ESOL - English for Speakers of Other Languages

- About 90 people have registered so far at Shrewsbury Community Hub for classes with Shropshire Supports Refugees. From 20th June, we have started offering 1 or 2 classes per week to everyone from qualified English language teachers volunteering their time. From 4th July we are adding a number of small-group, informal conversation classes. Three of our classes currently run in the evening and two are online, to try to meet everyone's needs; we plan to add more classes online and on Saturdays to meet the needs of learners in remote areas and those who are working during the day.
- Volunteers are also running classes in other locations around the county. SSR aims to act as a central point of communication and collaboration for these different groups, and offer guidance, training and resources as required.
- We are currently seeking funding to support the ESOL programme across the county and ensure sustainability in the longer term.

Employment Options

- We are in the process of setting up employment support from Enable at the community hubs. The teams will be able to support people of all ages who are looking for employment. We will also be able to support young people aged 15-24 into education or training as well as employment. Further information will follow once dates and locations have been confirmed.

Leisure and Culture

- Shropshire HAF (Holiday Activities & Food) Summer Programme:
 - Following a successful Easter holiday programme, which saw 1,233 children and young people aged 4 to 16, take part in four days of activity at over 46 venues from across the county, bookings are now open for the summer Shropshire HAF (Holiday Activities & Food) programme.



- Shropshire Council is working with 30 local schools, voluntary and community organisations, and childcare providers to run an exciting HAF programme this summer.
- There are free places available on the programme for over 1,600 children and young people aged 4 (reception class age) to 16, who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals and for those who have been referred onto HAF by a professional. Ukrainian families staying in the county are also invited to access the HAF programme.
- During 25 July to 2 September 2022, children and young people are invited to take part in a range of fun activities, happening at over 58 venues from across the county.
- There is something on offer for everyone, including; sports, arts, cooking, forest schools and other exciting opportunities. Free nutritious meals will be provided at each session, as well as information on nutrition to benefit the whole family.
- All bookings are now being made through a new centralised booking system at <https://haf.shropshire.gov.uk>. Information on how to book is currently being shared with eligible families through schools, libraries and professionals working with families.
- The Summer What's On Guide, details of how to book, most recent version of the timetable and eligibility criteria for who can access the HAF programme are also available online here
- The What's On Guide and information flyer are being translated into Ukrainian, Arabic, Polish and Bulgarian. These too will be available online and will be widely circulated.
- Some of the holiday programmes include spaces for children and young people who are not in receipt of free school meals.

Travel

- Arriva and community transport providers have agreed to provide free travel for Ukrainians who have arrived in Shropshire having fled the war. Passengers will be asked to produce their passport and boarding pass/card to access free travel.

And finally ...

1. We are keen to hear from you – whether you are a guest or a host, if you would like to tell us your story and experience so far, please email laura.fisher@shropshire.gov.uk
2. We are keen to organize a host 'meet and greet' event – so we can meet you in person but also so we can answer any questions you may have face to face. We will be organizing this in the next couple of weeks so watch this space.

Thank you

Laura Fisher
Head of Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living
Shropshire Council

