

PREPARING TO HOST GUESTS FROM UKRAINE

Is this for me?	Consider whether you are truly prepared to share your home and your time
Register with Homes for Ukraine Scheme	https://www.gov.uk/register-interest-homes-ukraine (NB this will <i>not</i> connect you to people needing sponsors, it will simply register your interest)
Find someone to sponsor	You can connect with people needing sponsors on sites like https://www.opora.uk/ https://resetuk.org/about/ukraine https://ukrefuge.com/ There are also numerous facebook groups, however these come with less support and guidance.
Build a relationship	Once you have found someone, talk regularly and get to know them as much as possible. Be prepared for differences in communication styles and methods, and go at their pace. Make sure they know enough about your home (location and people) to decide whether it is the right place for them.
Apply for visas	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-visa-under-the-ukraine-sponsorship-scheme A form has to be completed for each individual. Decide with your guest who is going to complete the forms, and be ready to work closely together – it will need both of you. If your guest does not have an international passport they will need to visit a visa centre for biometrics (Nearest one to Ukraine at the moment is Poland)
Inform local authority	Email HomesforUkraine@shropshire.gov.uk This will trigger the necessary checks and processes, including a property inspection (checking your home is adequate for the number of people you have offered to accommodate), gas safety certificate for all appliances (council will pay for this), and DBS check
Clarify expectations	Decide (and discuss with your guest) how the hosting will work. Which rooms will they have access to? How much time will you have available to help? Will guests pay for their own food or will you pool resources and share bills? Will you take it in turns to cook, or cook separately? Will you live as an extended family or each in own space? SORTING THESE AND SIMILAR ISSUES EARLY PREVENTS MANY PROBLEMS LATER
Prepare your home	You will need a carbon monoxide detector in every room that has a solid fuel burning appliance, and a smoke detector on each floor. Don't worry too much about food – taste is so individual – but ask your guests if there is anything they would like to be here ready for them.
Support with travel arrangements	When visas have been processed they will receive a “permission to travel” letter which they must take with them on their journey. Matching organisations like Opora and Reset may be able to help with travel arrangements. Some transport operators are offering free travel to Ukrainians to get to their hosts.

Visit hub for advice. Option to be added to the hosts whatsapp group – message 07487 883777

Look at Shropshire website for help and advice – <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/homes-for-ukraine/>