



Shropshire Supports Refugees – first half of August 2024 update

Shropshire Supports Refugees (SSR) does not stop at what it has achieved and spares no effort to help Ukrainians in all possible ways.

Key Points

Effectively cooperating with various organisations and the Shropshire Council, having incredible volunteers, caring people, Ukrainian-speaking staff members with great experience, knowledge & skills, the uniqueness, multitasking & multifunctionality of the charity in Shropshire, accessibility & a 6-day working week, striving for constant improvement of service & its quality, and many other things make the organisation so effective.

Surveys

Based on the results of the survey about visiting The Quarry Swimming & Fitness Centre in Shrewsbury for free, a form was created regarding visiting the Centre and all Ukrainians are invited to fill it out.

In addition, SSR is still conducting two surveys: ideas and suggestions on how Ukrainians would like to celebrate Ukraine's Independence Day and honour those who gave their lives for the freedom and future of Ukraine, as well as an eVisa survey: what do Ukrainians know about the e-Visa and how it works; and do Ukrainians know how to create & use eVisa and UKVI accounts. Everyone's opinion is important to SSR.

Employment Support

SSR collaborates with different organisations to support Ukrainians who are looking for a job. Ukrainians are welcome 6-days per week to find support in the Hub from the SSR team and meet "Enable" in the Hub every Thursday from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. At the same time, SSR has a separate WhatsApp group (regarding employment, job search, and self-development to get the desired position), as well as job search guides with a lot of useful information, to name just a few: the self-employment guide "Working for yourself" and the guide "All about work and its search in Great Britain".

Activities & Djembe Drumming Workshop

SSR created & populated a calendar of activities for Ukrainians in August, and links to registration forms have been added to the posters for easy registration. Apart from running informative and practical information-sharing sessions, SSR also runs psychosocial activities. In addition to popular yoga sessions, art classes with Nataliia Denysova and art workshops "Talk & Create" (in collaboration with

The Sea Change Trust), SSR organised "Djembe Drumming Workshop" in collaboration with The Hive and received very positive feedback. The djembe is a rope-tuned skin-covered goblet drum played with bare hands, originally from West Africa. The second session will take place on the 16th August, where Ukrainians will again have the opportunity to learn the techniques of playing this traditional instrument of Mali.

Planned SSR activities for the second half of August:

- Djembe Drumming Workshop (in collaboration with The Hive), 16/08/24, 10:30-12:30 pm;
- Yoga for Kids, 17/08/24, 10:00-12:00 pm;
- BeWILDerwood Trip, 19/08/24;
- Doodle a Plant Pot (in collaboration with The Hive), 20/08/24, 10:30-12:30 pm;
- Talk & Create: Art Workshop (in collaboration with The Sea Change Trust), 21/08/24, 10:30-11:30 pm;
- Art & Crafts Workshop (in collaboration with The Hive), 21/08/24, 10:30-12:30 pm;
- Art & Craft Workshop (in collaboration with The Hive), 23/08/24, 10:30-12:30 pm.

Selective Statistics

The selective statistical data within the first two weeks of August is the following:

- 40+ Ukrainian children took part in SSR activities & events;
- 12 hours of ESOL summer conversation groups were provided at the Community Hub;
- 60+ informative messages in the Ukrainian WhatsApp groups;
- 13 therapy sessions (Swedish massage);
- 30 Ukrainians got tickets to visit beautiful Shropshire gardens, and many more.

SSR is working hard to reach as many Ukrainians as possible throughout Shropshire, make services as accessible as possible, expand the range of activities during the summer holidays both for adults & children and much more.