

Briefing on Homes for Ukraine: Parish Liaison, 23 March 2022

As you know, the government's Homes for Ukraine scheme went live last Friday.

Under the scheme, sponsors offer accommodation to named people who have been displaced by the terrible impact of Russia's invasion. There is a monthly £350 "thank you" payment to sponsors regardless of how many refugees they sponsor.

This system obviously presents challenges if sponsors don't have the relevant contacts with Ukrainian people. Information for those wishing to sponsor but needing help to make connections with those in need is set out below.

Once there is a "match", this has to be followed by a visa application process and other checks. Subject to these checks, the displaced people can travel to the UK and take up the accommodation. They will have rights to work and benefits.

More information on the scheme can be found on the government's website <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>. The scheme is still open.

Locally, we are expecting to welcome our first guests under the Homes to Ukraine scheme into our area very shortly. They will join those who have recently arrived under the Ukraine Family Visa Scheme

We are not sure how many people will arrive in total under this scheme. We have welcomed 74 people under the Syrian refugee resettlement programme as part of around 20,000 nationally. The expectation nationally is that this figure will be larger for Ukraine and so far around 100 people have been matched to hosts and properties across B&NES. There is also expected to be a "phase 2" of the scheme where organisations not just individuals can act as sponsors.

We are working with our partners including Julian House and Bath Welcomes Refugees, along with local public services, to ensure the school places, health and other support are all available as new arrivals settle into our communities. We are also contacting all schools to keep them updated.

I would like to thank all local people who are offering accommodation and help to those in such need of our support.

There are other ways we can support too, particularly contributing to the Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal, UNICEF and the British Red Cross. More information can be found on the council's own dedicated [Support Ukraine](#) web page.

Information for potential sponsors

Bath Welcomes Refugees are advising people who don't have any contacts with anyone in Ukraine, to get in touch with charities that are helping with the matching process:

- <https://www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk/> - which is running online information events for hosts
- <https://www.refugeesathome.org/> - a charity that has experience connecting refugees and hosts online

- <https://www.roomforrefugees.com/> - a charity that has experience connecting refugees and hosts online
- <https://www.homesforukraine.org.uk/> - which also has a sponsorship scheme for refugees from other conflicts
- <https://www.worldjewishrelief.org/homes-for-refugees> - which runs a number of projects in Ukraine.