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Our ref JS/ KF/ JS

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Homes for Ukraine Resettlement Support: Sheffield

Dear Sponsor,

I hope this letter finds you well.

Firstly, as always, a warm welcome to new sponsors. You have joined a growing number of hosts across Sheffield who have generously opened their homes to those who have fled war in Ukraine. Our Ukrainian community continues to grow, with over 300 new arrivals to Sheffield in recent months.

Partners across the city are continuing to work to support new arrivals and help them transition to life in their new city. We know that as hosts, you are also doing everything you can to support your guests.

As the only refugee programme of its kind in the UK, this continues to be a learning curve for us all. We have taken on board feedback regarding how we work and will shortly have completed recruitment to increase capacity in the Refugee Resettlement Team. This will mean that more focussed effort can be applied to issue resolution, responding to enquiries and host and guest communication.

Please find attached a Factsheet, produced to help Ukraine nationals, their families and host families in Sheffield understand what help and support is available in the city and how to access it. This includes finding employment, applying for benefits, accessing education as well as adult and children's social care services.

Whilst many sponsor payments are being made successfully for those with full clearance, we know that some hosts are still experiencing a delay in receipt of their 'thank you' payment which is processed by Sheffield City Council.

It is worth a recap regarding the DBS process, as some payment delays result from this and many turn out to be easily resolved.



SCC Housing and Neighbourhood Services has been assessed and certified by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance as meeting the requirements of IS 014001:2015 (for provision of social housing and leaseholder services to domestic dwellings for Sheffield City Council)



All adults (16 years and over) residing at the hosting address (excluding Ukrainian guests), will require a DBS check. We will make contact to gather all details for everyone requiring a check. This information is passed to Sheffield City Council HR corporate support to initiate the process. From here, an email containing the application form and details of what ID is required and how to submit this will be sent to everyone requiring a check (if this does not arrive in your inbox, please check your junk/spam folder).

Until **everyone** in the household (16 years and over, excluding Ukrainian guests) has a clear DBS check, we cannot process payment. Please note you do not have to submit your certificate to us, we will be notified of a clear check directly. Payments are made in arrears to the registered sponsor upon completion of a passed property check and a clear DBS check for **all resident adults** (16 years and over) at the hosting address.

The current ESOL sessions at St Marys' Church will conclude week commencing 22nd July.

Week commencing 25th July, those who have attended will be assessed and provided with advice and guidance, including information about high intensity training for work, apprenticeships, education, skills and training.

New referrals continue and they will be assessed leading up to 1st August. In August, three new ESOL courses for adults will commence, based on different levels of attainment. Courses are four weeks in duration and will run twice weekly. Various childcare will be available: onsite creche for 0-5 years, summer club for 6 -10 years. Parents of children aged over 10 will need to arrange their own provision. Whilst it is anticipated that approximately 40 people in total will benefit from these initial courses, further courses will be added as required.

Additionally, during August there will be a programme for teenagers, running two days per week. This consists of morning sessions of academic English and afternoon sessions of cultural / academic visits. Those attending in this group will also be taken to Sheffield College to discuss future opportunities, as well as Sheaf Training (if required). They will also receive information and advice regarding apprenticeships. For further information about adult ESOL or the August provision for teens, please contact kevin.straughan@sheffield.gov.uk

We have been working with the DWP to organise a jobs fair for refugees on the 21st July, that might be of interest to your guests. Please find attached a flyer with details.

As summer holidays are almost here, please see below information about opportunities that will be relevant to Ukrainian children:

- Children and young people who are eligible for free school meals, can choose from a range of fun, free activities happening across Sheffield throughout the holidays. Activities include arts and craft, music, sport, dance and nature, with new activities added frequently. Children can be dropped off at most of the sessions (although you should check with the organiser first), and attendees will also receive a free school meal. To register, visit [activities – sheffieldhealthyholidays.org](http://activities-sheffieldhealthyholidays.org). The parent of a child/children will need to create an account on the website and then book the required activities.

- Many schools offer summer schemes for children, although often these are on a paid-for basis. Please contact your local school/s to find out details if required.

Additionally attached is a list of free, adult centred activities which might be of interest to your guests (and you!). Details regarding location, booking and further information is enclosed.

Representatives from Sheffield City Council, including myself, have attended recent Saturday Club sessions to discuss Housing and ESOL. Education and Housing will attend future sessions, as well as partners including DWP and SPRING.

The 'Help Yourself Hub' and 'Saturday Social' continues at St Mary's Church on Bramall Lane. For more information, please contact Olga or Lena on 0114 2230223.

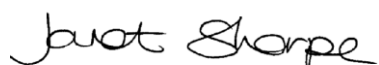
If you have any concerns about your hosting arrangements, please do get in touch. We, and other partners across the city want to help, and if we can do so at the earliest opportunity, the outcome will be better for all concerned.

Lastly, for those whose guests have not yet arrived, please email ukraine@sheffield.gov.uk once you have a confirmed arrival date, **and again** to confirm that they have arrived.

This will help us ensure we can arrange a visit at the earliest opportunity and provide your guests with their arrival pre-payment cards.

As always, a sincere and heartfelt thank you for all you are doing to help refugees in our city.

Kind regards,



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Sheffield City Council