

**Janet Sharpe**  
**Director of Housing**  
**For Housing and Neighbourhood Services**  
**Operational Services**  
Sheffield City Council  
Sheffield Town Hall  
SHEFFIELD  
S1 2HH  
Tel: 0114 27 35493



**Our ref JS/ KF/ JS1300**

**23 June 2022**

Dear Sponsor

**Homes for Ukraine Resettlement Support: Sheffield 4<sup>th</sup> letter to sponsors – updated 22.06.22**

I hope this letter finds you well and able to enjoy the more temperate weather which seems long overdue.

Firstly, welcome to new sponsors. There are now over 250 Ukrainian new arrivals who have sought sanctuary in Sheffield. Whilst there are many challenges, we are starting to hear some positive stories from those who are beginning to settle into our friendly city. As always, none of this works without the commitment, hard work and dedication of sponsors in opening their homes to those in need. Again, thank you all, you make our city proud.

The Ukraine Resettlement Support Team have been working hard to try and develop ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) provision, as we know this is really critical for many Ukrainians in taking the first steps to being economically independent. We also know that childcare is an issue for some in being able to attend classes and colleagues are exploring this, particularly over the summer with school holidays upon us. In the meantime, if your guest does have childcare issues which are preventing them accessing ESOL classes, please get in touch with us at [ukraine@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:ukraine@sheffield.gov.uk) and we will try to help.

As summer holidays approach, we have been looking at what provision is available for families to get out and about. Sheffield Libraries have lots of family friendly fun and activities across the city in the coming weeks, as well as their regular offer. Please see the attachments for more information. It's free to join the library and you can join in person, or [online](#). It might be of interest to your guests to know that the service has recently acquired a small collection of Ukrainian language books. If there is demand, they will add to this.

We have been made aware of some cases in which Ukrainians are being asked to provide a DBS check when applying for certain jobs. As the requirements of DBS cannot be provided by new arrivals, colleagues at Migration Yorkshire have notified us that they are able to apply for a [Police Clearance Certificate](#) from the Ukrainian



Embassy. Apply via <https://vytiah.mvs.gov.ua> , and a confirmation letter will be issued by the Embassy on the basis of the record obtained.

The community have been busy locating the 'Help Yourself Hub' and venue for the 'Saturday Social' to St Mary's Church on Bramall Lane. If your guests want to know more, please contact Olga or Lena on 0114 2230223.

The £350 per month 'thank you' sponsor payments continue to be issued for those with full clearance. We understand that this has and continues to take time for many. However, please be aware that it is a government requirement for all checks to be completed, prior to commencement of payment. Payment will be backdated to the point at which your guests arrived in your home. A gentle reminder for those who have not yet begun to receive payment, to help move things forward, it is really important that you provide information requested for the DBS check in a timely manner to help minimise delay.

For those of you who begun hosting in March and April, guests will be approaching the three month point of their stay. Sponsors are committed to hosting guests for a minimum period of six months. There are different options available for hosts and guests after this point.

- The government will continue the £350 monthly 'thank you' payment for a further six months, should hosts and guests wish to extend the initial arrangement.
- Some sponsors may choose to continue, possibly by transferring from the government scheme into a landlord arrangement.
- Guests may seek independent housing.

We are establishing a team to work with hosts and guests from 3 months onwards to support extending sponsorship or progressing planned moves and will shortly be providing further advice. If you or your guest have specific queries in the meantime, please get in touch at [ukraine@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:ukraine@sheffield.gov.uk)

Please note however, social housing is not a first option for refugee move on. There is significant existing demand and limited capacity within the system. Please do not encourage your guest to think that this is the *automatic* suitable next step for them. Sheffield City Council will help and advise your guests regarding their housing options. We will work with each family on an individual basis so a housing assessment can take place so that we understand their future housing needs and can better help and support families to identify and secure a suitable home.

The government [Homes for Ukraine Scheme webpage](#) contains further information regarding this issue, and many other Frequently Asked Questions which may be of use to you and your guests.

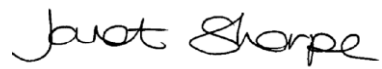
As always, if you have any concerns about your hosting arrangements, please do get in touch. We, and other partners across the city want to help, and if we can do so at the earliest opportunity, the outcome will be better for all concerned.

Lastly, for those whose guests have not yet arrived, please email [ukraine@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto: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.

That's all for this time, but as always, a sincere and heartfelt thank you for all you are doing to help refugees in our city.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Sharpe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Janet Sharpe**  
**Director of Housing for Housing and Neighbourhood Services**