



SJOG HOMES FOR UKRAINE



Information session: Part 1

**Welcome to SJOG and
Homes for Ukraine Scheme**



What we are going to cover

1. About SJOG Hospitaller Services and Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN)
2. About Homes for Ukraine and our project
 - Application timeline
 - We also provide
3. UK government Homes for Ukraine scheme
4. Who is eligible to be sponsored
5. Who will I be hosting?
6. Matching
 - How we approach matching
 - Matching criteria
7. Key considerations
8. What hosting is
9. What hosting isn't
10. Requirements for your home
 - If you own or rent your home
11. Agreements with guests
12. Checks by the Local Council and the Home Office
 - Not meeting requirements
13. First contact with your guest
14. Withdrawing (you or your guest want to end the arrangement)
 - Guests want to move on early
15. Temporary absence
16. After 6 months of hosting
17. Rematching details
18. Other ways to help

About SJOG Hospitaller Services

- Saint John of God Hospitaller Services is a national charity helping people to lead fulfilling lives.
- We are part of an international family of 500,000 co-workers, working in 500 centres of care in 50 countries, and impacting over 7 million lives every year.
- Our main areas of work are within homelessness, modern day slavery, supporting people with autism, disability services, older communities and community support.
- If you wish to know more, please visit sjog.uk



Quick bit of history

Our founder

SJOG is inspired by our founder's drive to 'do good'. We follow his example and continue to add new stories to his 500 year legacy.



Statue of Saint John of God in Saint John of God Museum, Pisa



Saint John of God

Born in 1495, João Cidade dedicated his adult life to the care of the poor and sick, creating hospitals that changed the medical practices of the day.

Having experienced at first hand treatment for mental illness, he fought to change the practice, so that people were treated with love and compassion.

He looked after people no one else would and people soon followed his way, the Hospitaller way.

His following grew into a religious order and a worldwide movement. SJOG is inspired by the drive of our founder, Saint John of God, to 'do good'.

We follow his example and every day we continue to add new stories to his 500 year legacy.

Our projects



=



About Homes for Ukraine project by SJOG and CSAN

- SJOG and Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) are part of the Community Sponsorship movement in the UK offering a **matching**, **training** and **support** service to sponsors and guests under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.
- Together we are working to enable the generous people willing to open their homes as hosts and match them with people displaced by the war in Ukraine. We aim to support people on their journey and provide opportunities to integrate into our community in the UK.



We are a recognised provider

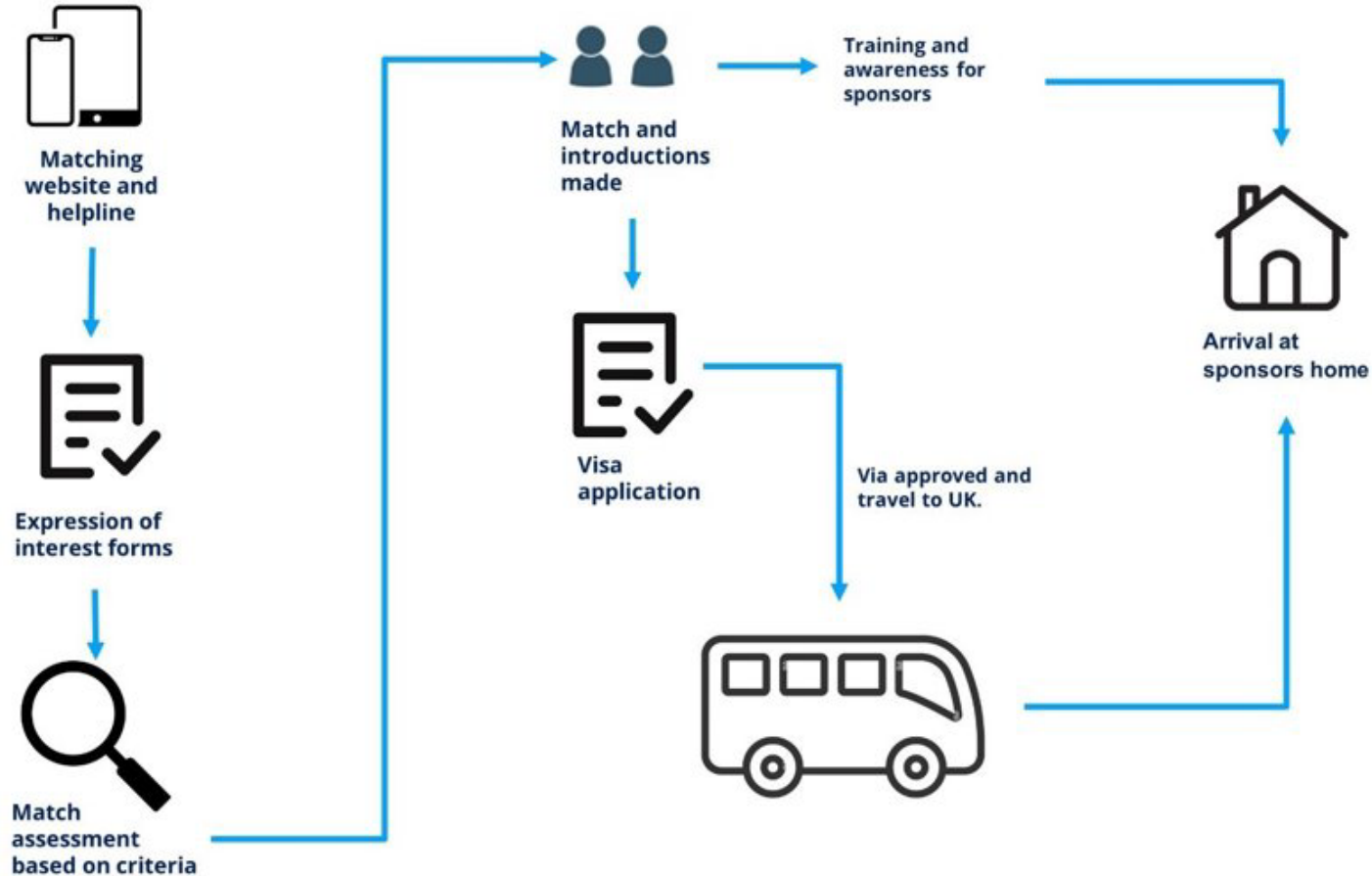
- We are here to support sponsors and guests by providing information on what it's like to be sponsored in the UK, or what it's like to be a sponsor.
- Our website contains helpful guidance, information, training, and toolkits and our services are free to use.
- We have experience working with sponsors and people fleeing conflict. We are already supporting guests in the UK under the Homes for Ukraine Government scheme from setting in and in the case rematching is needed.
- We cannot provide sponsors or guests with immigration advisors and cannot guarantee to find guests sponsors in the location of their choice.



How our project works



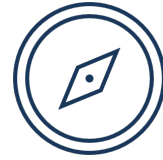
Application Timeline: 6 weeks



Our project also provides



Matching of hosts with guests to the requirements of both parties



Toolkit for hosts



Welcome book for Ukrainian guests



A “Welcome box” for the Ukrainian family upon arrival



Ensuring support from local communities



Multilingual team that speak English, Polish, Ukrainian and Russian



UK Government Homes for Ukraine Scheme

- Hosts commit to providing **6 months accommodation**.
- Hosts can live anywhere in the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) and can be of any nationality, provided they have at least six months' permission to stay in the UK.
- **Guests will have 3 years leave to remain in the UK**, permission to work and access to welfare benefits.
- Guests will also be eligible for a £200 interim payment.
- UK households are offered **£350 a month for hosting guests** during the first 12 months of their guests stay.
- Councils will administer these payments to sponsors once they are content that the sponsor meets the suitability requirements of the scheme. This payment is ended once all guests leave the household.
- The payments will be tax free and should not affect the sponsor's entitlement to benefits or council tax status.



Who is eligible to be sponsored?

Those applying to be sponsored under the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme **must be Ukrainian**, or the immediate family member of a Ukrainian national who:

- Has been residing in Ukraine on or immediately before 1 January 2022;
- Is currently outside the UK;
- Has a UK-based sponsor.

Visas

Guests need to meet standard security checks prior to being issued with a visa.

Either a guest or a sponsor will be able to complete a single application for a visa. The form will ask the person completing it to name both parties.

Who will I be hosting?

Mothers with children	Young people 18+	Young couples	Families	Elderly people	Elderly people with children
<p>The most common category of people coming from Ukraine. The rationale for moving for such family units would be to find a safe place for the children.</p>	<p>Single young people tend to be more mobile and autonomous and are likely to be coming to the UK in search of employment or education opportunities.</p>	<p>This is a rare category since men of fighting age are not allowed by law to leave the country. However, some men may have already been out of the country by February 24 and might seek relocation to the UK for other personal reasons.</p>	<p>Although men of fighting age are not allowed to leave the country, there are some exceptions in place.</p>	<p>Hosts can expect to house elderly people, single or couples. This category of people is more likely to have limited English language abilities.</p>	<p>Although a rare and potentially problematic category (documents regarding legal guardianship), sponsors can expect to receive a family unit consisting of grandparents and child(ren).</p>

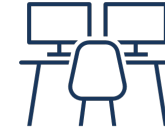
How we approach matching hosts and guests



We check references



Mediating video calls



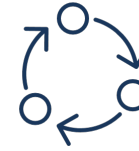
Training programme for hosts



Transfer from Polish Border



Support during the first month



We do re-matching



Matching criteria

The aim of our Homes for Ukraine Scheme is to create successful matches and placements. We are supporting guests who are hardest to reach and displaced by the Ukraine war to find accommodation in the UK. Ensuring that the initial matches are appropriate and thought out is a key component of this. We match based on the following criteria:

- Number of people for placement
- Accommodation suitability
 - Number of rooms available for each person aged over 10
- Location:
 - Rural / urban
 - North East, North West, Midlands, South East, South West.
 - School / employment availability
 - Transport connection (within the area and to larger towns / cities)
- Pet preferences/ Food preferences / Vaccination stance

Key considerations

1. Number of guests

You should consider how many people you can accommodate so that everyone has sufficient space. Two people should not be in one room unless they are: cohabiting partners; a parent and child; two siblings of the same gender if aged over 10; two siblings regardless of gender if aged under 10. Individuals who did not previously know each other should not be given the same room.

2. Have all household members, including children, been consulted and are in agreement regarding taking on the responsibility of hosting someone?

Hosting is a significant commitment. It is important that individuals and whole households take time to properly reflect together on your ability to take on such a responsibility, and the ways that hosting might impact on your life.

3. What would you want from a hosting situation?

Imagine you had suddenly been forced to leave behind your home, your loved ones, your job, your country and everything that was familiar to you. Try to think about what kind of support you might need if you were in this situation. It's also important to remember that people are individuals, so their support needs will vary considerably

Key considerations (continued)

4. Do you know what statutory or voluntary sector support is available to you and your guest(s) in your area?

It's vital for the safety and wellbeing of both guests and hosts that consideration is given to what support might be needed and how to access it throughout the hosting arrangement. Are there Ukrainian community centres in your area? Is your gym providing a free membership for Ukrainian guests? Did you know that BetterHelp is offering free therapy sessions for Ukrainians? Do you have a reliable support network outside of your household? Do you know other sponsors in your community? Online support forums? Putting support in place before you might need it will make a successful hosting arrangement more likely.

5. Financial Considerations

You might want to think about the impact hosting guests from Ukraine will have on your financial outgoings e.g. utility bills, council tax or rent, insurance, etc. Is there any financial support you or your guest could access to help with any associated hosting costs? You will be entitled to the £350 'Thank you' payment per month for hosting while your guest will have access to the £200 interim payment while they are waiting for their welfare payments from the government.



(Adapted from NACCOM 'Toolkit for sponsors')

What hosting is?

Hosting is simply where someone **offers a private room** and access to shared facilities in their own home to a person or persons in need, **free of charge**.

As well as providing a safe, temporary home, hosting can give people in the asylum and immigration system vital stability that enables them to access the support they need to move forward with their life.

What hosting isn't

- **Provision of food and clothing**

You are not expected to provide your guest with meals or clothing. If, however, you are considering giving away your clothes to a charity shop, it might be nice to ask your guest if they would like to take some of the things you are giving away.

- **Payment of transportation costs**

You are not expected to cover your guests travel and transportation costs. Your guests will have an opportunity to travel to your home for free within 48 hours of arriving in the UK. You might like to suggest that they get a Railcard or use buses instead of trains to save on travel expenses.

What hosting isn't (continued)

- **Casework or legal support**

You are not expected to provide legal support to your guest. You can direct them to services that might be able to provide legal and immigration advice.

- **Phone top-ups and pocket money**

You are not expected to pay for your guests' phone top-ups or pocket money. Some hosts choose to give the 'Thank you' payment entirely to their guests, however, this is not expected of you. If you wish to give your guests the £350 payment for personal expenses.

What hosting isn't (continued)

- **Medical assistance**

You are not expected to attend your guests' medical appointment in a chaperone role. You may be able to help by directing your guest to the most convenient medical centre and their registration portal.

- **Trauma Counselling**

You are not expected to help you guest process the trauma they have experienced. You might want to think about useful services you could direct them to, as well as setting up a comfortable arrangement and clear boundaries to make sure your guest has sufficient alone time to process their emotions and seek the help that they might need.

Requirements for your home

Here's a quote from the UK government:

“All accommodation will be different and while there is no set expectation, your accommodation needs to be free from serious health and safety hazards. You should make sure your home is safe for your guests and that it is in a suitable condition.”

Accommodations should meet the following conditions

- Be kept clean and in a reasonable state;
- Have adequate kitchen and bathroom space;
- Have access to drinking water;
- Have a working smoke detector on each floor of the property and other fire safety precautions suitable for the building e.g. fire doors or escape routes as appropriate
- Have safe gas appliances and fittings and flues. You should make appropriate checks. A Gas Safety Certificate is not mandatory though you might need one if you have cause for concern.
- Have safe and working electrics, which a qualified electrician can help with if you are unsure;
- Be almost entirely free of damp or mould;
- Have doors and windows at entry level that lock properly;
- Be easy and safe to move around in, without excessively steep staircases that may cause harm;
- Have access to communication (telephone, Internet).
- Have sufficient heating to keep the property at a comfortable temperature.

Prepare your property

- Provide bed linen, towels and other items your guests may need.
- Provide spare keys to your guests.
- Space to store their own food in fridges and cupboards.
- Plenty of storage is available if needed.
- Be clear with your guest where they can and cannot smoke.
- Discuss “house rules” and leave info guide.
- Add toiletries, nappies for babies, crockery, culturally appropriate food or toys for children.
- Things for pets.

If you own or rent your home

Leaseholders

If you are a leaseholder, you will need to check the terms of your lease to see if you are permitted to have lodgers or subtenants.

You can get free advice from the [Leasehold Advisory Service \(LEASE\)](#)

Self-contained accommodation

If you can offer your guest self-contained accommodation, you should **agree with your guest who will pay the council tax.**

Tenants

If you rent your property, your tenancy agreement might include a term that says you need permission from your landlord before you host a guest.

Any terms in your tenancy agreement that do not allow you to take in lodgers or subtenants will also apply to these sponsorship arrangements. If you do need permission, it's best to get this in writing.

You can get free advice from [Citizens Advice](#) or [Shelter](#).

If you own or rent your home

Capital gains tax and private residence relief

If you host a person from Ukraine in a property you own, it is likely they will be occupying under a bare licence (where someone has been given simple permission to live in a property), instead of a formalised tenancy or commercial licence.

Because of this, **no part of your property will stop being your residence** as a result of that occupation, so **there is no impact on Private Residence Relief or Capital Gains Tax.**

Mortgage and household insurance

In some cases, you'll need to check with your landlord, freeholder or mortgage provider, and insurance company, to find out if they've got any policies which you need to consider or if there are any possible implications for your tenancy, mortgage, lease and insurance before your guest arrives in the UK.

If you are considering applying to be a host look at your mortgage lender's and insurer's websites for more information or contact them directly.

Agreements with guests

If your guests are staying in your home or in self-contained accommodation, you should **write an agreement that helps to set some rules**. This helps to **set expectations** about how you will live in the same space, or how your guests will live in your separate accommodation.

It can include things like:

- smoking or drinking
- noise
- shared spaces
- sharing housework

You could also use a more **formal type of model agreement** if you prefer. There are two:

- **Excluded Licence Agreement** will work if your guests are sharing accommodation with you, for example using guest bedrooms and sharing a kitchen with you.
- **Excluded Tenancy Agreement** can be suitable if your guests are living in self-contained accommodation (such as a holiday let).

Paying rent

- **Rent should not be charged under the sponsorship scheme.** This also means that tenancy rights should not be created.
- Your guest should not work in exchange for accommodation either.
- Councils can ask the sponsor and guest whether rent is being charged and whether the guest is being asked to provide contributions to food or utilities.
- Councils can use their discretion to assess whether these contributions are excessive and, if they constitute rent in practice, councils can decline to make the 'thank you' payment.

Paying bills

You may ask guests to pay a reasonable and proportionate contribution (according to use) for water, gas and electricity consumed or supplied to the accommodation or to any shared facilities. With self-contained accommodation, you should agree with your guest who will pay council tax.

Checks by local authorities

- Your local authority will complete checks on the accommodation and living arrangements, along with safeguarding checks (including Disclosure and Barring Service (**DBS checks**) to determine your suitability as a sponsor. Your local authority will decide which type of DBS checks are required in line with government guidance. You will not be charged for these checks.
- You should expect a visit and **housing inspection from your local authority** prior to, or shortly after, the arrival of your guests.
- Local authority is also expected to do an in-person visit once the guest(s) arrive for a **welfare check** to see whether there are any welfare concerns or formal assessments that should be undertaken.
- If you do not consent to undergoing these checks, you will not be able to become a sponsor.

Checks by the Home Office

- The Home Office will do **security and criminal checks on you**, and on all adults aged 18 and over who will live in the same household as the guests. Not all convictions, cautions or warnings will mean you are unsuitable to be a sponsor, the nature of the offence and the time since it happened will be considered.
- As the lead host, you will need to ask the consent of all adults in the household to provide their details on the application form for these checks.
- If, as a result of these checks, you or other adults do not meet the suitability requirements for an approved sponsor and the applicant contacts you about this, you should encourage them to seek a rematch if they still want to come to the UK.
- The applicant should not travel to your address. If they do so, you will not be eligible to receive the thank you payment as the arrangement will not be recognised under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Not meeting requirements

- If you are not eligible for approval as a sponsor, the guest can't continue their application with you as their sponsor and you will not be eligible for any payments.
- A sponsor may also be found not to meet the requirements for approval after a visa has been issued, for example after local council welcome checks. In this instance, you will not receive the monthly thank you payment, and guests will be helped to find a new sponsor.
- If a guest makes their own match and moves in with a new host without checks having taken place, this is at their own risk.
- All checks will be done for rematching as well -If the council later becomes aware, it is the responsibility of the council to undertake the appropriate DBS and accommodation checks as soon as possible to formalise this rematch. Formalising these rematches is necessary so the host can receive the thank you payments, and to ensure the transfer of the relevant tariff funding if the new host is in a different area.

First contact with your guest

- Set up a time to connect with the guest (family) over video - — MS Teams, Zoom, WhatsApp video etc.
- Consider the fact that it might be a practical challenge and require multiple approaches to set up a call if your guests are still in Ukraine or if their access to Internet connection is only intermittent.

First contact with your guest

- Talk about your and their family's lifestyle, ask about their current location;
- If both you and your guests have small kids - approaches to parenting (bedtimes, meals, expectations regarding children staying at home alone);
- Covid vaccinations;
- Contribution to utilities (if you expect your guests to contribute to utility costs);
- Transport in your area - if you live outside a big city, try to be very clear about the transport options available and if they are at all limited;
- What kind of job or schooling your guests would like to access?
- Are there any particular services or support your guests feel they would need to access?
- Do they have family or friends who may be planning to join them at a later date?
- Anything you need to know about the pets they are bringing with them (if this is the case).

First contact with your guest

Staying safe online and in the UK

- Many sponsors and guests meet for the first time online. This makes matching quick and easy but matching on social media can have risks so you should be cautious when you meet someone online.
- Some tips about how to stay safe and make your guests feel safe too when you meet online are:
 - Get to know your guests and allow your guest to know you by asking and answering questions about you and your interests. Provide video tour of your house and allow all members of your household to video call with the guests.
 - Don't ask for or share any personal information like passport numbers, dates of birth, or where they work or study.
 - Your first meeting in person should be in a public place, ideally during the day where possible.
 - Help your guests get familiar with the local area.
- As a sponsor you will be checked by the UK government, and your local council will check where you live and your property to ensure safety on both for your guest and yourself.

Withdrawing (you've changed your mind)

Withdrawing before a guest arrives

In a minority of cases it may be that you are no longer able to act as a sponsor once an application has already been submitted or where a visa has already been issued. Where this occurs, **you should inform the guest** that you are no longer able to sponsor them under Homes for Ukraine and **contact your council as soon as possible** to ensure that the guest can be supported to find alternative arrangements. **If you have multiple applications, confirm which one you want to withdraw**, or if you want to withdraw all.

Withdrawing after a guest arrives

It may be that you are unable to fulfil your commitment to sponsor for the entire 6 months. If you are considering withdrawing, or your sponsorship breaks down, or you are worried it is about to breakdown, you should contact your council as soon as possible to make them aware. Where possible, you should aim to give your guest **2 months' notice** ahead of withdrawing. If appropriate, your local council may offer a rematch with a new guest within the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

If my guest decides to move on early or the sponsorship breaks down, can I be rematched with a new guest?

If your initial sponsorship breaks down or your guest moves on early, you should contact us and your local council in the first instance.

Temporary absence

Guests may need to be temporarily absent from their sponsor accommodation for various reasons.

Discuss arrangements and the length of absence before the guests leave. Where possible, guests should confirm their arrangements for their date of return with you before they travel, or should update you as soon as they can.

If your guest is leaving permanently, you must notify your council that the sponsorship arrangement has ended.

Less than 4 weeks absence:

- If your guest is away for less than 4 weeks, you **do not need to notify your council.**
- If your guest is **absent on multiple occasions** for fewer than 4 weeks, you should **discuss the reasoning for this with your guest.**
- Engage with your local authority if you have any concerns.

Continuous period exceeding 4 weeks:

- **Notify your local council.**
- If you are sponsoring multiple guests, you must only notify your council of their absence **if all guests are absent for more than 4 consecutive weeks.**
- Once you have notified the council of a guest's absence your 'thank you' payments will be paused.
- Notify the council when your guests return and your 'thank you' payments will be reinstated as usual.

After 6 months

Sponsors are initially asked to host guests for a minimum of 6 months, but in most cases we know that sponsorship relationships are being sustained for 6-months or longer. This is likely to be the best option for your guest until they are ready to move on, but talk to your guests 4 months after their arrival about the options they have.

1. Continuing sponsorship: If you are happy for your guest to stay with you **beyond the initial 6 months**, there is support for sponsors who are able to continue hosting for longer.

- The thank you payment will increase to £500, once your guest have been in the UK for 12 months.
- The payments will be available for up 24 months of your guest's stay, although **there is no expectation for you to host for this long**.

2. Finding your guest a new host (rematching): If your guests are not ready to leave sponsorship and move into their own alternative accommodation, but you can no longer accommodate them, they may want to **find a new host**. You could help the for example through someone you already know, a recognise provider, local faith groups, community groups, charities, other organisations or local council.

- Once your guests have found a new host, it is very important that they contact the local council so they can make the necessary checks, and to approve the new arrangement.

After 6 months

3. Renting private accommodation: there is high demand for private rental accommodation and social housing. Some councils are using the funding they have received from the government to facilitate access to private rented accommodation for their Ukrainian guests – offering, for instance, 12 month rent guarantees or paying rent in advance. If your guests are ready to rent but are facing challenges getting into the PRS, they should contact the council to understand what schemes and offers of support are available in your area.

As a sponsorship comes to an end, you might want to talk with your guest about **moving to a more formal arrangement**, if your guest would still like to live in your property or move to another property that you own. This would mean that **you may need to become a landlord**, which could require you to take on more responsibilities. Your rights and responsibilities could be different depending on whether the guest remains living in your property or moves into another property you own.

4. Alternative accommodation: If your guest can't take advantage of any of the options above and you are concerned about where they will live after your sponsorship ends, contact your local council.

Rematching details

Your council or someone you know might ask you to host a guest or group of guests that have left their first host, either because their previous host were no longer able to support them, or the initial sponsorship period has come to an end. Be informed on what you need before you take a guest, some things to consider are:

- **Guests already living in the UK and wanting to 'rematch' usually need less support** than someone just arriving in the country. Many guests have already found work and are settling into the area, making them more self-sufficient.
- If you are asked through social media or a community group to host a guest or family who is already in the UK, you need to **contact your local council to make sure that they can make the necessary checks**. If you don't do this, the rematch won't be recognised as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme, and **you won't be eligible for the 'thank you' payment until the checks have been completed**. Make sure you think about the potential risks if you host a guest without any checks.
- Thank you payments from the government work the same way even if you have not hosted before. If a circumstance arises in which a Ukrainian household splits, and some of the household remains in the original sponsorship relationship, both the **existing sponsor and the new host will be eligible to receive the thank you payment**.

Other ways to help and support Ukrainian guests in your area

- One of the most important aspects to making the 'Homes of Ukraine' scheme truly beneficial for your guest(s) will be the **day-to-day support**, not just the provision of accommodation.
- It will be extremely important that we build **support networks** in our parishes and pastoral areas to help and support hosts and Ukrainians alike. Can you invite your neighbours and their guests for dinner to help them integrate in the community?
- Once the families from Ukraine arrive in our parishes, they will need support in many different areas both practical and emotional: such as registering with a G.P and seeking medical assistance, opening a bank account, translation, enrolling children in schools and seeking support or therapy for dealing with trauma. Can you help with any of these?
- Furthermore, it will be extremely important, that the families have a community of Ukrainians close by that can meet in parish halls together to maintain and support each other and their cultural identity. Can you help with organisation and running of community events?

(This presentation was prepared using materials from JRC, NACCOM, Caritas, Gov UK)

Thank you!



Contact us:



Zhenya Siryk, Project Officer
yevheniiasiryk@sjog.org.uk



Mariia Pashkova, Project Manager
mariiapashkova@sjog.org.uk

Website: sjog-homesforukraine.uk

E-mail: homesforukraine@sjog.org.uk

Facebook: facebook.com/sjoghomesforukraine



Information sessions for hosts

Can I be a sponsor?

You will learn about:

- SJOG / CSAN matching service
- Who is eligible to be sponsored
- Portrait of Ukrainian guests
- Key considerations before deciding to host
- The hosting process
- Expectation management

January 11, 7 pm

February 8, 7 pm

Happy Together

You will learn about:

- Well-being support to your guests
- Maintaining boundaries
- Safeguarding and types of abuse
- Communication tips
- Cultural differences
- Confidentiality
- Integration support

January 25, 7 pm

February 22, 7 pm



Questions & Answers

Register your interest

