

Guidance for individuals wishing to sponsor arrivals to the UK pursuant to the Government scheme entitled “Homes for Ukraine”

There are a number of key points to note

- A. Phase One of the scheme, which opened on 18 March 2022, is currently open only for individuals to sponsor arrivals NOT for organisations. As a result, the South London Church Fund and Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance (“the Board”) is not able, itself, to sponsor any Ukrainian refugees.
- B. The Board will allow sponsors occupying property owned or managed by the Board or for which it is responsible for maintenance.
- C. The Government intends to work to help organisations themselves sponsor individuals and the Board will review its position as and when the scheme is varied.
- D. Key email addresses and resources are detailed towards the end of this guidance.

Further detail

1. The expectation of Government is that sponsors (and by extension their families and households) will provide accommodation to displaced Ukrainian persons for **at least 6 months and up to 3 years**.

Careful consideration therefore needs to be given as to whether you, the sponsor, your family and other members of your household, can realistically commit to an extended period of support of this nature.

2. The sponsor (and potentially its family and household) will need to be willing to undergo Government vetting checks.
3. To enable the Board to assist sponsors, the Board needs to be aware of proposed sponsorship. Therefore, wherever a sponsor is occupying a home that is owned or managed by the Board or for which the Board is responsible for maintenance (“a Board property”), then
 - a. prior to filling in each application to sponsor a person and/or
 - b. as soon as reasonably possible after being nominated as a sponsor by a Ukrainian applicant,the sponsor must inform the Board as soon as reasonably possible.
4. The scheme at present requires Ukrainian individuals
 - a. who were resident in the Ukraine prior to 1 January 2022 and
 - b. who wish to travel to the UK and who have named UK sponsorsto apply (via electronic means) for a visa. The sponsor may submit the application instead. **One form is required per person** (so for example, a couple needs two forms).

[It follows that if the person or persons fail to qualify or fail to follow the required Government procedures, or their visa is withdrawn, they may be in breach of immigration legislation and/or be detained by Government forces as illegal immigrants. Sanctions exist for all those involved.]

5. The law of Great Britain will continue to apply both to the new Ukrainian arrivals and to the sponsors and the Board assisting them.
6. The Ukrainian persons will be entitled
 - a. to live and work in the UK for up to three years and
 - b. to access benefits, the NHS, education and English language tuition
7. Rent or other fees may not be charged to the Ukrainian persons.
8. Sponsors may receive payment direct from government in accordance with the rules of the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Practical considerations

9. Careful consideration needs to be given to the adequacy of any accommodation proposed for sharing. In some cases it may simply not be possible to house as many people as hoped, or indeed any. Sponsors are expected to provide safe, private or self-contained accommodation but not meals, cash, entertainment etc
10. Vicarages, as opposed to ordinary family homes, are especially exposed because of the confidential records that they hold. Wherever possible, studies or offices, must be kept secure to protect all those whose information is held in the confidential records.
11. While all Ukrainian persons are of course very welcome to attend our Christian church services and to participate in parish activities, it is strongly recommended that Ukrainian refugees should not be pushed into participating - they may naturally be invited but any participation should be entirely voluntary.
12. To ensure a free, welcoming and non-judgmental environment, proselytising is strictly forbidden.
13. It is strongly recommended that a clear set of practical rules be established for shared or communal spaces so that boundaries and expectations can be managed successfully

for both the sponsors and its family and household and for the Ukrainian persons sharing their homes.

14. While sponsors should be sensitive to
 - a. the trauma experienced by Ukrainian persons fleeing their homes, countries and friends and to
 - b. the different culture from which the Ukrainian persons may have comeit is strongly recommended that for the protection of the sponsor's family and household, a **"zero-tolerance"** approach be taken to any activity of a violent or criminal nature or involving any inappropriate activity. Very careful consideration should be given to contacting immediately the police on **999** and then the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.

15. Sponsors should be aware of the need for a support network for themselves their family and household. Who will support you? The chances of finding yourself out of your depth are very real. Please only offer your home if you have a strong support network around you.

Consider carefully how much emotional resilience you have, and how much time you have available. What is the wider network that will support you and your guests – is there a community that you are welcoming people into?

16. For the safety and protection of both the Ukrainian persons and the sponsor, its family and household (particularly where the family or household includes children, young people or vulnerable adults) the sponsor must consider the impact of introducing the Ukrainian persons into the home. You can find more advice on safeguarding considerations on the Church of England website where there is [information for everyone considering hosting](#) and [specific information for clergy](#). You will also want to comply with the Diocesan Safeguarding Policies set out in [A Safe Church](#).

In preparation for hosting, your Local Authority will require you and all adults in your household to undertake a Basic DBS check, and an Enhanced check if the refugees you are applying to host include children or vulnerable adults.

It is strongly recommended that each person planning to host refugees should do [Basic Awareness \(C0\)](#) and [Foundation \(C1\)](#) safeguarding training available on the [Church of England Training Portal](#). In addition, clergy should ensure that their [Leadership Training \(C2/3\)](#) is up to date.

17. Welcoming the Ukrainian persons into our communities is positive but it must be remembered that things do not always work out as hoped. It may be necessary to terminate a sponsorship arrangement, which may have very negative consequences for the sponsor and its family and household, as well as for the Board. If a sponsor becomes concerned that it may be necessary to terminate the sponsorship/sharing arrangement,

then it should contact the Diocesan Property Department in the first instance immediately to discuss how best to manage the process.

Process where you are considering becoming a sponsor

18. Contact your archdeacon as soon as possible. She or he will have some immediate considerations to look into, such as which room(s) you are proposing to use, for how long, and for how many people. You can do this straight away even if you have not finally made up your mind.

Archdeacons may check to see if there are restrictions on the use of the property, if the room(s) are suitable and if there are any planning or building regulation issues. This should be a quick desktop exercise.

19. Notify each person below in the **Property Team** (Maria.Beattie@southwark.anglican.org) and **Diocesan Safeguarding Team** (Uzma.Osinibi@southwark.anglican.org AND Zoe.Skilton@southwark.anglican.org) **JPIC department** Nicola.Thomas@southwark.anglican.org.
20. Once the archdeacons consider that the property is suitable and have answers to the initial considerations in para 1. above, the archdeacons will be able to give you a draft Lodger Agreement [with a translation into Ukrainian].
[The Lodging Agreement is NOT a tenancy and will usually be between you (or the incumbent if that is not you) and the Ukrainian individuals. You should understand that “accidentally” creating a tenancy, for instance by calling the Ukrainian persons “my tenants” needs to be avoided!]
21. Finally send a copy of the dated and signed Lodger Agreement to Maria.Beattie@southwark.anglican.org.