

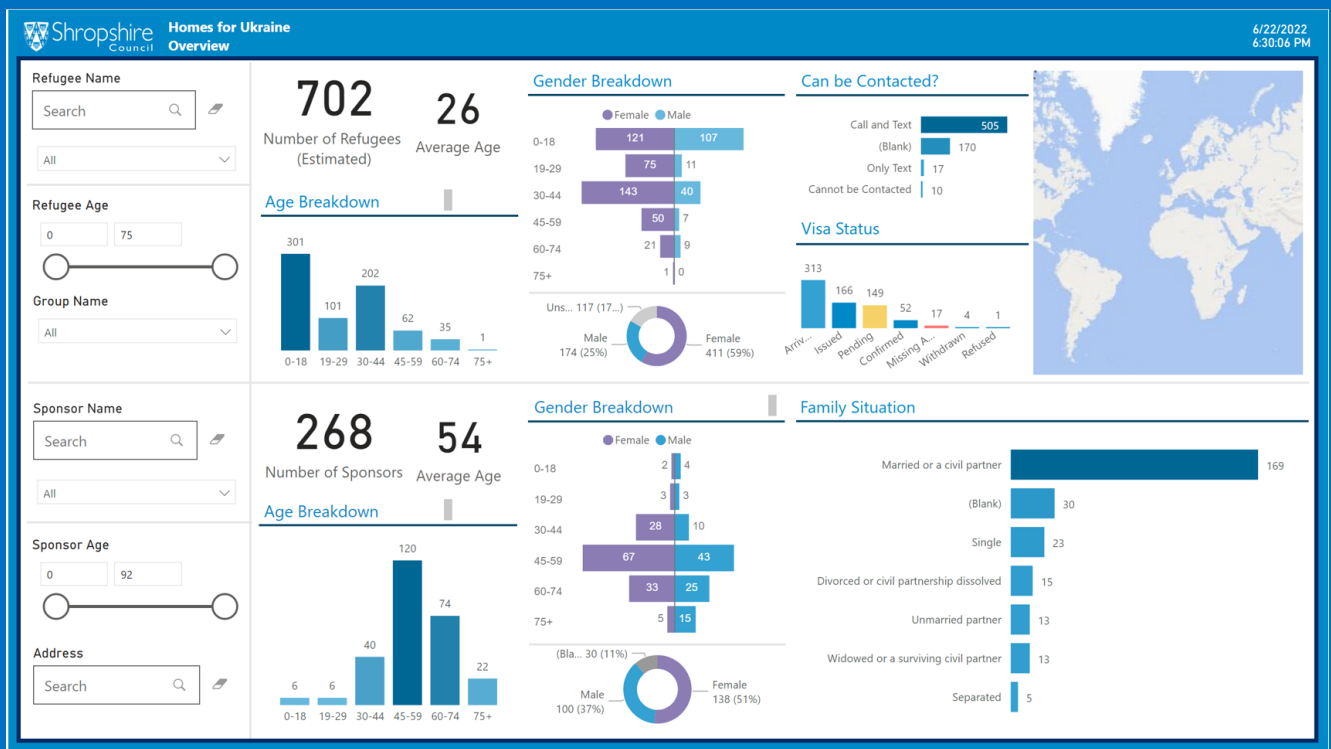


## Homes for Ukraine Newsletter

Shropshire Council continues to work with key local partners to assist and support Ukrainian guests arriving in the county under the Governments Homes for Ukraine scheme. Please see updates below.

### Headline Figures

- We are expecting 702 guests to arrive in the county – currently we have received 313.
- The 702 guests will be living across 268 hosts.



**DBS Checks**

*Please note this data is accurate at the time of reporting. As at Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June:*

- Over 400 DBS applications have been input on to the system
- 150 have been verified and are going through the relevant checks
- 15 have been archived (failed housing check, incorrect information, pulled out of scheme)
- 85 waiting to be verified
- 54 have completed applications but have failed to send through the correct documents need for video verification (we have contacted them and are waiting for them to send through the correct documents)
- 79 waiting for people to send through documents for us to check before video verification
- 17 haven't completed their application links

**Property Inspections/ Welfare Checks**

- The majority of hosts have now had their property inspection completed. Although there are approximately 10 new hosts a week these are being booked and managed.
- The focus has now turned to the in-person home visits which are being completed by both Children's and Adult Social Care workers. A big thank you to all staff who are carrying out checks in addition to their usual work

**Payments**

- As of Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June there had been 260 payments made to guests.
- We have started processing the host monthly gift payments, and hosts have started to receive these. There are a number of 'checks' that need to be completed as well as the payments being made in arrears.

**Education**

- As of 15 June 2022, 81 Ukrainian children have secured a place in a Shropshire education setting – 6 in early years provision, 41 in primary schools and 34 in secondary schools. Of these, 65 have come through the Homes for Ukraine route, while 16 have come through the Ukraine Families route. It should be noted that the current Government position is that the schools admitting refugees through the Ukraine Families route do not receive funding to support their education.
- The Government's Foundry system, which provides details on matches between hosts and guests, indicates that 122 children aged under 18 have arrived in Shropshire via the Homes for Ukraine route and that a further 95 are expected to arrive in the coming weeks and months.
- Grants of £50 per child placed in mainstream schools will be allocated shortly to the schools admitting refugees, to support the costs of uniforms and resources.
- The programme of welfare visits to hosted families enable us to ask questions about school places and to seek information on those children of school age who are not currently in school, and establish what provision is being made for their education.

**Employment Options-ENABLE**

- A proposal has been put forward for a specialised employment support programme which is currently under consideration. In the meantime, if anyone would like employment support, they can call our main number and will be referred to the most appropriate programme.
- There is some more information on our website about what support we can provide.  
<https://enableservices.co.uk>



## Community Support

- The last few weeks has been incredibly busy with guests arriving daily, hosts bringing them into the support Hub to collect phone cards, and to access the donations unit, and pick up free boat tickets. We have out grown downstairs, so we have had a team of volunteers as well as some of the men in sheds helping us to turn upstairs into a relaxing and therapeutic area, as well as helping us to maximise the storage space in the donations hub.
- Coffee Morning- Our very popular coffee morning Attracted between 40-45 people every Friday and 60 people attended a number of registration sessions for Esol support classes at the hub and gateway and new people come through every day at the moment.
- Job and Career Guidance- We have started hosting landau on a Wednesday who give work- and job-related guidance from the hub. Staff will be there every Wednesday for the foreseeable future to offer advice.
- Yoga -The yoga class is extremely popular with full class every week led by the very talented local Ukrainian Olesia who runs it from Jenna Blair's studio in Belle Vue. Olesia is planning on taking the classes around the county.
- Support Around the County -New coffee mornings and support hubs have been popping up around the county, with hubs now in Ludlow, Oswestry, Wem, Ellesmere, Bridgenorth, Market Drayton, Ellesmere, Telford, Churchstretton, and of course Shrewsbury
- There may be more out there that we are unaware of, so please do let us know if you hear of anything happening in your area and we will share it with the guests and hosts
- Community Contacts Meetings- Our next community contacts zoom meeting is on Thursday evening. Get in touch if you're interested in starting a gathering or coffee morning in your area: [Amanda.jones@shropshiresupportsrefugees.co.uk](mailto:Amanda.jones@shropshiresupportsrefugees.co.uk)
- Volunteer Recruitment - SSR have partnered up with The Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership to recruit and process the applications of new volunteers. This has been going well but we always need more, so please get in touch if you're interested in helping us to support refugees And Ukrainian guests in the county. [info@shropshiresupportsrefugees.co.uk](mailto:info@shropshiresupportsrefugees.co.uk)
- Padlet Resource Pool -We have created resource pool that we will be adding to Week by week - a quick and easy way to keep new hosts and guests up to date
- [https://padlet.com/Shropshire\\_Supports\\_Refugees1/p4nak4grcxex2wnm](https://padlet.com/Shropshire_Supports_Refugees1/p4nak4grcxex2wnm)
- Awareness Raising -Refugee week 2022 "healing"
- Refugee week starts next week, and we have a fantastic series of events available for people to attend, thanks to the hard work of Niki Holmes and all the people volunteering their time
- We are particularly excited to present two local Authors on Monday 20th at the UNI talking about their books and "Jewish Refugee Identity and the Legacy of Anti-Semitism in Europe." Please book your places to avoid disappointment!
- We are also very proud to present Gulwali Passarlay the author of "a lightness sky" on Tuesday 21st at Shrewsbury school. Please scroll through our events list here: <https://www.shropshirerefugeeweek.org.uk/healing-22>
- WhatsApp Groups -The WhatsApp groups are well used, 96 people in the hosts group and 95 people in the guests group, it's great seeing everyone help each other out in those!



**ESOL - English for Speakers of Other Languages**

- Shropshire Supports Refugees (SSR) is acting as a central coordination point for groups setting up ESOL across the county. We are gathering information on what English language support is getting underway, and will be offering advice, training and shared resources. I would welcome any updates on what is happening in ESOL around Shropshire to [ginny.sales@ealforlearning.co.uk](mailto:ginny.sales@ealforlearning.co.uk)
- In our needs analysis survey, more than half of guests named Shrewsbury as their most convenient centre for ESOL. At the Shrewsbury Community Hub, nearly 70 guests have signed up so far for English classes and conversation groups, which will start on June 20th. To date, the volunteer team includes 10 qualified English language teachers and around 6 others who will provide support, each offering one or two classes or groups a week. The Community Hub now includes a dedicated classroom and a resource base. We also have several teachers who will offer online classes for those who cannot easily access face to face classes.
- The Gateway Centre's ESOL classes are now full and learners are being signposted to the Community Hub classes. The Gateway will run an additional summer programme for some of its existing learners in July/ August.

**Health**

- We are in the process of setting up a Health drop in session at the Shrewsbury hub. This will be run by a local Ukranian speaking doctor and enable people to seek guidance on how to register for a doctor and what that means.

**Guest / Host Relationship Breakdown**

- Unfortunately, we have had a number of relationship breakdowns and therefore a few families have come through the homeless route. We are now operating a housing drop-in session weekly at the Shrewsbury hub.
- We are starting to look at the EOI list provided by the government which involves 1900+ people who want to be hosts but have not been matched in the hope we can re match guests and hosts.

**Leisure and Culture**

- Please see the attached document listing upcoming culture and leisure activities scheduled.

