

Homes for Ukraine

Leeds Newsletter

ISSUE 6 - JUNE 2024

Homes for Ukraine



Welcome

Welcome to our June Homes for Ukraine (HfU) Newsletter. This newsletter from Leeds City Council's HfU team includes important updates on policy and government guidance, our progress in delivering the schemes and useful info for hosts, guests, and partners in the city. If you have any comments or suggestions, please email homesforukraine@leeds.gov.uk.

Migration Yorkshire appeal to hosts

Migration Yorkshire have launched a Host Campaign, to publicise the HfU scheme and encourage new hosts across Yorkshire and Humber in partnership with Creative Marketing Leeds.

Please see the accompanying poster for further information. They are looking for hosts past or present to share their inspiring stories and experiences. If you know of any hosts who are interested, they can either click the link on the poster or use [migrationyorkshirehosts](#) to register their interest. Please share with any hosts you're working with.

You can check out some of the recent social media posts by Migration Yorkshire on their [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.



New host training

Migration Yorkshire are offering training for new hosts, delivered by RESET. The training will look at expectation management, how to set boundaries and support people's wellbeing.

There are three sessions currently available. Click the links below to register for the sessions. Please share with any hosts you're working with.

- [Thursday 27th June, 10am](#)
- [Tuesday 23rd June, 6.30pm](#)
- [Tuesday 10th September, 6.30pm](#)

In this issue

[Welcome](#)

[Migration Yorkshire appeal to hosts](#)

[New host training](#)

[Refugee Week](#)

[LMP blog](#)

[Thank you payments update](#)

[Funding Leeds](#)

[Host support group](#)

[Case study - Dmytro & Richard](#)

[Migration Yorkshire horizon scanning](#)

[Rematching guide & housing info](#)

[Leave to remain queries](#)

[Reporting hate crime & anti-social behaviour](#)

[ONS Ukraine survey report](#)

[Useful info](#)

homesforukraine@leeds.gov.uk

[Website](#)

[Hosting info page](#)

Leeds Ukraine Welcome Hub
[The Reginald Centre](#)
263 Chapeltown Road
Leeds
LS7 3EX

Refugee Week, 17-23 June

Refugee Week is the world's largest arts and culture festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary, and coincides with World Refugee Day on 20th June. This year's theme is 'Our Home' - and everyone is invited to celebrate what their home means to them.

There are many activities taking place in Leeds and beyond (some are listed under 'Useful Info'). Visit the [Refugee Week website](#).



Leeds Migration Partnership blog

One of the best resources for the migrant and refugee sector in Leeds is the [Leeds Migration Partnership blog](#). Organisations can upload news items, flyers, presentations, event listings and so on. Please visit the website to have a look. There are also instructions on [how to upload an entry](#).

Thank you payments update

We are aware that some hosts have now passed their second year of hosting and our payments system requires us to restart their thank you payments annually. We must call each active host to confirm their guests are still living with them and then request that their thank you payments continue. We are aware that some people's payments will have ended, but the HfU team is working to ensure any outstanding payments will be made. We have contacted hosts but wanted to make partners aware.

Funding Leeds

Using [Funding Leeds](#) you can make funding searches to tap into local, regional and national funding sources, get regular updates on your funding area of interest and take advantage of useful information and local support to help you achieve your funding goals. You can sign up for alerts as funding opportunities are added to the website.

Other funding opportunities:

- Small grants from the MAP team - email migrantaccessproject@leeds.gov.uk
- [Hey Neighbour community grants](#)
- [Mayors Safer Communities Fund](#)
- [CPR and defibrillator training funds](#)
- [Adult learning from VocTech](#)
- [Community environment funds from Veolia](#)
- [Funding for places](#), Wolfson Foundation
- [Leeds City Council culture programmes](#)

Host Support Group

The Horsforth-based group is continuing to run with support from the Council's HfU team and is open to hosts across Leeds who want to come along. Hosts find the meetings to be a useful place to discuss ideas, any issues they have and to meet other people hosting.

The next meeting is taking place on **26th June at 7pm**. Please share with any hosts you are working with. They can email us at homesforukraine@leeds.gov.uk if they want to join the group.

Case study - Dmytro and Richard's story

Dmytro is a 28-year-old man who arrived in Leeds knowing little to no English. It took time for him to settle into life in a new country. After moving in with his host, very quickly the situation changed due to unforeseen circumstances, and Dmytro felt he had no choice but to leave the host's property.

Dmytro contacted the Council's HfU team for assistance with housing and finding a new host. There were considerable challenges in supporting him, as he was classed as not being in priority need owing to being a single man. Most available hosts were unwilling to support single men, with the majority of Ukrainians on the scheme being women or children.

Dmytro was sofa surfing with a friend in Manchester and commuting every day to Leeds to see friends and access support. Owing to the urgency of the situation, the HfU team helped him with emergency accommodation.

After a few weeks with no success, the HfU team were able to rematch Dmytro with a new host, Richard, who was able to provide him with the security he needed. Both of them get on well and Dmytro has made a new friend for life. Richard also allowed Dmytro's mother to visit and stay with them.



“We are both happy! Here we are playing tennis, which we do together often.” said Richard.

“Richard has been a great help, thank you so much to him and the Council for all their support”, said Dmytro.

If you're working with anyone who would like to be featured in a case study, please let us know by emailing homesforukraine@leeds.gov.uk

Migration Yorkshire horizon scanning report

Migration Yorkshire have shared a horizon scanning report, which looks at recent news and policy developments, the national picture, progress of schemes for Ukraine, Hong Kong and more. Check out the report [on their website](#).

Rematching guide for hosts and guests, and housing info

Please see accompanying guidance on rematching, the steps hosts should take, and the support available to help guests find a new host or independent accommodation. Ukrainian version now included.

We are working with a number of Ukrainian guests who are bidding for social housing, who are now being offered properties they have placed bids for. Please ensure that they are only bidding on properties they would actually consider moving to, as if they refuse a reasonable offer, they could lose their housing priority. If anyone has any questions, please email us or visit the Reginald Centre on Mondays or Wednesdays.

This [useful presentation](#) provides an overview of the services provided by Leeds Housing Options. For more info visit www.leeds.gov.uk/housing.

Leave to remain queries

If any Ukrainians want to check how long their current visas are valid for, please follow these instructions:

- The Government's right to work website is a way of helping guests to check their visa status.
- Guest inputs DOB and BRP info.
- No need to generate a share code.
- www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status

If someone's BRP is due to expire, please ensure they visit www.gov.uk/biometric-residence-permits/replace-expired-brp.

It is also important that guests update any changes to their details, such as if they have changed their address. This can be done at www.gov.uk/change-circumstances-visa-brp.

If anyone has a query about their visas, please note that the Leeds City Council HfU Team is not authorised to give immigration or visa advice. It is best to [contact UK Visas and Immigration](#). Immigration advisers must be OISC registered. You can look for an authorised adviser at the following link - <https://www.gov.uk/find-an-immigration-adviser>. Please note that local organisation [RETAS is now OISC registered](#), so they are authorised to give immigration advice.

E-Visa info sessions - please note that all the info sessions previously circulated have been cancelled.

Reporting hate crime and anti-social behaviour

Please see accompanying info in English, Russian and Ukrainian about how to report a hate crime. Please circulate this info so everyone is aware of how to report hate crimes to the Police, what is a hate crime, location of reporting centres and how people can contact other support services.

Hate crimes can be reported at the following link - [Hate crimes and incidents](#).

If anyone is experiencing antisocial behaviour, they can try to speak to the person responsible, as they may not realise the effect of their actions. People should only do this if they feel safe and comfortable to do so.

If this is not possible, people can report the issue to Leeds City Council. Any type of ASB can be reported, including:

- Abuse, intimidation or harassment.
- Drug or alcohol issues.
- Vehicle related nuisance
- Threat or use of violence.
- Prostitution.
- Antisocial use of fireworks.

You can [report Anti-Social Behaviour online](#) or call 0113 222 4402.

ONS Ukraine survey report

The ONS has released its report following a survey of Ukrainians living in the UK. 7,594 Ukrainian adults responded. See the report [online here](#). Some highlights include:

- **68%** of respondents want to remain in the UK, mostly because there are more work opportunities.
- **88%** of respondents are happy with their accommodation.
- **50%** have experienced barriers to accessing private rented accommodation.
- **50%** have experienced difficulties finding work in the UK.
- **88%** of respondents intend to apply for the Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme.

Useful info

List of courses, links, events and support for Ukrainian guests, their hosts and people supporting them in Leeds, Yorkshire and nationally. Please let us know if there is anything you wish to add for future issues. Please refer to previous issues as well.

Barnardo's Refugee Family Helpline

- Call **0808 156 9877** or email RefugeeFamilyHelpline@barnardos.org.uk
- Therapeutic support service - [referral form](#).
- Virtual Youth Space for 10-17 year olds - [register here](#).

ESOL courses at PATH Yorkshire

- [Free ESOL courses in June and July](#).
- Sessions for young Ukrainians.
- www.pathyorkshire.co.uk

Find a job - GOV.UK

- The Government has [updated its pages](#) on support for people looking for work.

Finding support in a mental health crisis

- [Guidance from MindWell Leeds](#) on where you can go for support during a crisis.

Learn my way

- Free learning about digital skills.
- Call 07895 982019 or 07724 261387.

Leeds Refugee Week Events

- Mega Conversation Cafe, 18th June, Leeds Playhouse (see flyer on the right).
- Migrant Access Project drop-in
 - Shine, Harehills Rd, LS8 5HS, 18th June, 10am
 - MAP invite you to share information about your culture. It could be through a piece of music, poetry, anything that makes you think about 'Our Home'. Do email ideas to: migrantaccessproject@leeds.gov.uk
- [Flourish Party, 21st June, Roxby Community Garden](#).
- [Refugee Football World Cup, 22nd June](#).

Pathways to Higher Education

- Service from Leeds Uni supporting people to access Higher Education. [Register here](#).

RETAS weekly housing surgery

- New weekly [housing surgery](#) by RETAS every Wednesday.

Skills Connect - Intro to Self Employment

- 6 week course aimed at developing skills to improve people's chances of moving into self employment.
- Email info@cahlp.com to find out more.

Summer school for newly arrived pupils

- [Summer school](#) for newly arrived 8-11 year olds to help them practice English before school.

LEEDS PLAYHOUSE

Mega Conversation Cafe

Tuesday 18th June

Come and celebrate Refugee Week with us. You can join in with creative activities, play board games or chat over a cuppa! It will be relaxed event with a chance to meet lots of new faces from conversation cafes across the city!

11am-1pm

Level 2, Leeds Playhouse
Playhouse Square, Quarry Hill LS2 7UP

For more information email lily.craig@leedsplayhouse.org.uk or text 07521723826

Leeds CITY COUNCIL

Transformational Leadership - Free training

- Free online [leadership training](#) from Alison.

Training, resources and events from Doing Good Leeds

- [Leeds Trustee Network, 26th June](#)
- [Good governance guidance](#)
- [Volunteering Handbook](#)
- [Managing volunteers resources](#)

Other support and info

- [Leeds Ukrainian Community Centre and Association](#)
- [Meeting Point](#)
- [Harehills English Language Project](#)
- [Learning English Yorkshire and Humber](#)
- [Leeds Homes for Ukraine Communications Toolkit](#)
- [Leeds Refugee Forum](#) - updated activity timetable
- [Mafwa Theatre](#)
- [Migration Yorkshire Ukraine Hub](#)
- [Multiply - Money and Work](#)
- [New to Leeds](#)
- [Otley Welcomes](#)
- [Smart Works](#)
- [Red Cross](#)
- [Refugee Council support directory](#)
- [RETAS](#)
- [STEP Ukraine English and employment programme](#)
- [WEA Courses](#)
- [Working in the UK toolkit](#)