

# Homes for Ukraine

## Leeds Newsletter

ISSUE 7 - JULY 2024

# Homes for Ukraine



Leeds  
CITY COUNCIL

## Welcome

Welcome to our July 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 information for hosts, guests, and partners in the city. If you have any comments or suggestions, please email [homesforukraine@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:homesforukraine@leeds.gov.uk).

## Research into anti-social behaviour

Migration Yorkshire is collaborating with their partners at Leeds Beckett University (LBU) to carry out a small-scale research project on the experiences of antisocial behaviour of refugees and recently settled populations, an issue currently not explored in academic or practice debate. If you are interested to learn more or take part in the research project, please see the accompanying flyer for more information.

## STEP Ukraine - new classes

STEP Ukraine are pleased to announce that they have new start dates available in September and November 2024 for their free, 12-week intensive programme offering English language and employment support to Ukrainians in the UK. So far, STEP Ukraine has supported almost 10,000 Ukrainians living in the UK to learn English and find meaningful employment.

### Eligibility

- All applicants must be Ukrainian, over 18 and living in the UK on the HfU, Family Visa or Visa Extension schemes.

### A reminder of what STEP Ukraine involves:

- An intensive 10 weeks of 2.5 hour daily English classes by the British Council, with options to take the lessons morning, afternoon, or evening.
- 12 weeks of weekly employment support with a dedicated employment advisor, to support with: CV writing, job applications, interview prep, support with job search, and specialist workshops.
- All classes are remote, teacher led and free to attend. They are streamed so all classmates are at a similar level.

### To apply:

- [Complete the referral form](#).
- Call freephone 0800 319 6089

More details available in the accompanying flyer in English and Ukrainian.

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[homesforukraine@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:homesforukraine@leeds.gov.uk)

[Website](#)

[Hosting information page](#)

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

## Housing cover at the Reginald Centre

From 1st August Housing Advisers will no longer be present at the Reginald Centre to support people with housing advice and queries. Guests and hosts are still encouraged to visit where HfU team staff will be able to help with most general queries. We may have to direct people to Housing Options at Merrion House if they wish to register a new housing application and get more detailed advice. This is due to a reduction in demand for the service. We will keep these changes under review and will send further updates as necessary. It is important that every guest has completed housing application and assessment as soon as possible after they arrive in Leeds so that we can assess their long term housing needs.

## Case study - Marvellous and Liudmyla's story

**Marvellous and Liudmyla both needed new places to live. Thanks to the generosity of host Steve, both were able to live separately in his Leeds city centre apartment.**



Steve, Marvellous and Braian

Marvellous and her son Braian were Ukrainian nationals who came to Leeds in 2022 and needed a new host almost as soon as they arrived. The Homes for Ukraine (HfU) team supported them to find alternative accommodation. Two possible hosts were found, but both declined owing to Marvellous's background.

The third rematch was a success with new host Steve who offered a self-contained Leeds city centre apartment. Marvellous was able to find work in the NHS and Braian is doing well at school.

In January 2024, Marvellous and Braian were rehoused into a two bed Council property. Working with Housing Leeds, the HfU team ensured they settled into their new home.

**Marvellous said, "Where I was initially experiencing racism, I have finally found my home and stability for my child. The HfU team and Steve made this possible, thank you."**

Steve's apartment has now been given to another Ukrainian family who were threatened with homelessness, Liudmyla and her daughter Kateryna, after their previous home was needed back for their host's family.

Due to Steve living in Edinburgh, the HfU team arranged the transition between the two families, taking the keys, videoing the flat's condition and helping Liudmyla to move in. We're grateful to Steve for trusting us to sort this out.

**"We'd been asked to move and were struggling to find anywhere suitable. Thanks very much to Steve and the HfU team for helping us to move into our new home," said Liudmyla.**



Liudmyla and Kateryna

**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](mailto:homesforukraine@leeds.gov.uk)**

## 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.

Please share with any hosts you are working with. They can email us at [homesforukraine@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:homesforukraine@leeds.gov.uk) if they want to join the group.

## Ukrainian Independence Day 2025

Ukrainian Independence Day celebrations are taking place on 25th August. The Leeds Ukrainian Community Association is inviting people to their event, see details below.

The 33rd Ukrainian Independence Day will be celebrated in Leeds, with music entertainment - classic and modern Ukrainian performers, kids entertainment, traditional Ukrainian food (included in ticket price), an opportunity to pick unique presents at a variety of craft and Ukrainian souvenir stalls and a chance to win lovely prizes in a charitable raffle.

All proceeds from this event go towards fulfilling charitable projects in Ukraine. Come and bring your friends!

**Date: 25/08/2024**

**Time: 2pm**

**Anglers Club, Nippet Lane, Leeds LS9 7TB**

**£3 for your ticket, plus small booking fee (food included in this price)!**

**Book your tickets now!**



## Funding opportunities

Please look at and share the following funding opportunities. Further information available at [Funding Leeds](#).

- [Small Sparks Funding](#)
- [Doing Good Leeds](#)
- [Lloyds Bank Foundation](#)
- [Parkinson's UK](#)
- [VCSE energy efficiency scheme](#)
- [Arnold Clark community fund](#)
- [GSK community health programme](#)
- [ASDA Foundation](#)
- [Morrisons Foundation](#)
- [Sport England Movement Fund](#)
- [Npower Business Solutions Foundation](#)
- [UK SPF community grants](#)
- [Pilgrim Trust young women in mind programme](#)

# Useful information

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](mailto:RefugeeFamilyHelpline@barnardos.org.uk)
- Therapeutic support service - [referral form](#).
- Virtual Youth Space for 10-17 year olds - [register here](#).

## Being You Leeds

- Sessions and activities to support community wellbeing across Leeds.
- [Visit their website](#) to find out more.

## Finding free social activities for refugees and asylum seekers

- [Details on the LMP blog](#) with links to different services.

## Groundwork summer and autumn workshops

- Numerous workshops taking place in July and August, and further workshops taking place in autumn.
- For more information contact Groundwork at [skills@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:skills@groundwork.org.uk) or call 07730 765564.

## Healthy Holidays

- Programme of holiday events for children who are eligible for free school meals.
- [Visit their website](#).

## Immigration and asylum law - Rights of Women

- Guidance for women about the law and their rights.
- [More details available here](#).

## Keeping well during hot weather

- See accompanying email with links and attachments from Public Health about how to look after yourself and others during hot weather.

## Positive Youth from Path Yorkshire

- Path Yorkshire are running programmes for young people from Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Hong Kong.
- [Further details available here](#).

## Red Cross report - accommodation for Ukrainians

- [Red Cross report](#) on accommodation for Ukrainians - 'What can we learn about solutions to refugee accommodation from the Ukraine response?'

## Summer activities programme 2024

- Please see accompanying programme of summer activities for children and young people in East Leeds.



## Teaching English resources from LASSN

- [Online resource](#) from LASSN detailing resources for teaching ESOL.

## Time for young people

- [New service by The Children's Society](#) providing early emotional and mental health support to children and young people.

## Other support and information

- [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](#)