

Homes for Ukraine Sponsor event

The Robshaw Bar, Twickenham Stoop
Tuesday 26th April
6:30pm – 8:30pm

Format of the evening

6:30pm – Networking over light refreshments

7:00pm – Welcome from Assistant Chief Executive of Richmond Council, Jon Evans

7:05pm – Summary of the Homes for Ukraine scheme, the Council's role and support for your guests

7:20pm – Q & A with the panel

8:00pm – 8:30pm – Networking session

The Homes for Ukraine scheme

- The Homes for Ukraine scheme offers a route to those who want to come to the UK who have someone here willing to provide them with a home.
- Sponsors can provide accommodation for as long as they are able, but the Government has a minimum expectation of 6 months.
- People arriving under this scheme will be able to:
 - Live and work in the UK for up to three years
 - Access healthcare, benefits, employment support, education & English Language Tuition

The Homes for Ukraine scheme

The Government has published a number of guidance documents which include:

- Guidance for sponsors
- Frequently asked questions
- You will also find lots of information on the Council's Ukraine webpages:
richmond.gov.uk/ukraine
- Your feedback is appreciated on these resources!

What is the Council's role?

The Council is responsible for undertaking:

- DBS checks on all those aged 16 and over in the sponsor household
- A home assessment visit to assess whether space offered by sponsors is suitable for guests
- A welcome visit when your guests arrive

These checks are separate to the visa application process and **do not have to be completed** before guests travel to the UK. However, we are working through these as quickly as possible.

DBS checks

1. The Council will contact the lead sponsor asking them to fill in a short form providing names and email addresses for **everyone aged 16 and over** living in their household.
2. Within four working days, everyone listed on this form will **receive a system email from Employmentcheck** with login details to an online DBS application form and instructions on how to present their ID in person to verify their application.
3. Once the online form is completed and submitted, individuals will then need to **present their ID in person** at the Civic Centre in Twickenham. Hours are drop-in (appointments not required) between 9am and 4:30pm, Monday to Friday.
4. Once your ID has been verified, the check will be carried out by the Disclosure & Barring Service.
A **basic check should take 2-3 working days**, and an **enhanced check** (required when there is a child or vulnerable adult in the incoming group) may take **up to 7 working days**.
5. The Council will receive an electronic notification as soon as your check is completed by the DBS and **you will receive a certificate directly from the DBS** by post within 5 days of your completed check.

Home assessments

- The Council is required to carry out an in-person visit to your property, to ensure suitability and to check that the accommodation is safe and free from any hazards.
- This visit will be carried out by council staff from the Private Sector Housing team, working for the Regulatory Services Partnership serving the London Boroughs of Merton, Richmond Upon Thames & Wandsworth. **Please contact the Private Sector Housing team on privatehousing@merton.gov.uk to arrange a suitable time.**

What will happen when my guest arrives?

- You will have received an email with a link to an **online form** which you should fill out when your guest arrives.
- We will then contact you to arrange a **welcome visit**. This will be delivered by Achieving for Children if your guests include someone aged 17 or under, or by Council partner Ruils if your guests include only adults.
- At the welcome visit you will be given information about how your guests can access healthcare, schools, financial assistance and more. You can also find this information on our website.

£350 monthly payments to sponsors

- Sponsors will be eligible for an optional 'thank you' payment of £350 per month, paid in arrears, for as long as you are hosting your guests, up to 12 months in total.
- The Council will administer these payments to sponsors when all checks have been completed.

Please contact us at
homesforukraine@richmond.gov.uk
if at any point you can no longer
provide accommodation for your
guests or your guests wish to move
to alternative accommodation.

Healthcare

- Guests will have access to free healthcare while in the UK through the NHS.
- The first thing guests should do is register with a local GP.
- Guests are eligible for free COVID-19 vaccinations through the NHS.
- Our webpages contain more information, including a guide on how the NHS works in English and Ukrainian.

Mental health support

- Guests can contact their GP for mental health support.
- Once they are registered with a GP they can also self-refer to Richmond Wellbeing Service using an online self-referral form or by calling 020 8548 5550.
- This service will provide an interpreter to be present at appointments if required.
- Thrive LDN have produced a guide to supporting displaced Ukrainians' concerns or worries which you may find helpful.

Education

- Every child under 16 will be entitled to enrol in a local school.
- Our webpages set out how to apply for nursery/early years education (aged 2 to 5), primary school (aged 4 to 10) and secondary school (aged 11 to 18).
- Email richmond.admissions@achievingforchildren.org.uk for further help or you can email to request a call back by telephone.
- 16-18 year olds can apply directly to a school 6th form or further education college. You can find out more from the [AfC 14-25 Team](#) or by emailing 14-25@achievingforchildren.org.uk .

Financial assistance and work

- When your guests arrive they can collect a **one-off £200 payment** from the Civic Centre in Twickenham, Monday to Friday between 10am – 4pm. This will be in the form of a Post Office voucher which can be exchanged for cash at any Post Office.
- Guests are entitled to work while they are living in the UK.

Financial assistance and work

- **Citizens Advice Richmond** can provide support and advice on benefits, employment, housing, money and level one immigration matters. You can contact via their **online form** or telephone by Freephone 080 82 78 78 73.
- For those unable to contact us via web enquiry or by telephone there is a **drop in service** at their offices at Hampton Hill, 94-102 High Street, Hampton Hill, TW12 1NY, 10am to 1pm Monday to Friday, and in Sheen – Sheen Lane Centre, 74 Sheen Lane, SW14 8LP, 10am to 1pm Monday to Thursday.

Finding work

- Work Match is the Council's employment service that can offer support, advice, guidance and training, and can help guests find a job with a local employer. Guests can register either by calling +44 (0)20 8871 5191 or emailing richmondworkmatch@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Submitting biometrics

- Guests will need to submit their biometrics within 6 months of arriving in the UK to extend their stay for up to 3 years and be issued with a biometric residence permit (BRP) as evidence of their immigration status.
- Guests can start the process to provide their biometric information by completing this [online form](#).
- Guests do not need to do this as soon as they reach the UK, but they do need to make sure that they have provided their biometrics before the 6 months leave they are granted ends.

Language classes

- Richmond and Hillcroft Adult Community College (RHACC) offer English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses and English as a Foreign Language. Further information is available at www.rhacc.ac.uk/courses/learn-english or calling 020 8891 5907 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, or email info@rhacc.ac.uk
- Richmond EAL (English as an Additional Language) Friendship Group provide informal English classes combined with social opportunities. For more information visit www.richmondeal.org.uk

Question & answer session

For more information
visit richmond.gov.uk/Ukraine

For any other questions, email:
homesforukraine@richmond.gov.uk