

FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

17 October 2022

Could you provide a safe home for a Ukrainian family in Fenland?

Could you open your home to refugees fleeing the ongoing war in Ukraine? Fenland District Council is appealing for more people to join its team of Ukrainian hosts amid a continued surge of families looking to escape the conflict.

Six months on from the launch of the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme, more than 100 Ukrainian refugees have so far been temporarily rehomed in Fenland.

But with the war continuing, and thousands of refugees including women, children and men exempt from military service seeking safe homes in the UK this winter, further hosts are needed to help meet demand.

In addition, new hosts are being sought to help support Ukrainian guests whose original accommodation hasn't worked out, or where their original hosts have had changes to their personal circumstances meaning they are unable to continue to offer the use of their home.

Prospective hosts need to be able to offer accommodation for a minimum of six months, and those who are successfully matched to Ukrainian guests are offered a £500 per month 'thank you' payment.

Fenland District Council and partners provide a wrap-around support package for Ukrainian guests and works with host families to carry out the necessary accommodation and disclosure checks, and to help them with access to financial support, education, healthcare, and social care services when they arrive.

The Government's Homes for Ukraine 'Sponsor Guidance' which can be found [online](#), outlines important information and things to think about before signing up to the scheme.

- If you are interested in becoming a host but would like to know more, or don't know where to start, call our Fenland Homes for Ukraine support officer Tom Walczak for an informal chat on 01354 622302 or email: twalczak@fenland.gov.uk

Leader of Fenland District Council, Cllr Chris Boden, said: "The generosity shown so far by Fenland hosts, opening their homes to those fleeing the war in Ukraine, has been extremely heartening, and we offer them our sincere thanks for offering their guests such a warm welcome to our district.

"But, with the war showing no sign of ending, we urgently need more hosts to help those seeking safety from their homeland. We recognise that hosting someone in your home for six months is a huge commitment, so it's not to be undertaken lightly, but there is a lot of help and support at hand. We would urge anyone who may be able to offer temporary accommodation to get in touch."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

For media enquiries, please contact the Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226 or email: communications@fenland.gov.uk