

A partnership of organisations, including Essex County Council (ECC), are working to provide immediate support and assistance as the first Ukrainians arrive in Essex under the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme.

The [Homes for Ukraine](#) scheme invites residents to apply to sponsor a named Ukrainian and their immediate family to come over to the UK, as long as they can provide accommodation for at least six months.

Essex County Council is working with partners, including district councils, to provide support to those arriving under the scheme, both in the short and longer term.

The County Council will be on hand to support the safeguarding needs of arrivals, including providing social care support for adults and children as well as assistance to meet children's educational needs.

ECC will be carrying out DBS checks, which are required of all sponsors under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, as well as enhanced DBS checks for hosts who will have Ukrainian children staying with them.

The requirements also set out that accommodation must be suitable and district council partners will conduct the relevant housing checks.

The Government is providing funding of £10,500 per person to councils to enable them to provide support to families.

As ECC is the education authority in Essex, it will also receive additional funding from the Government to support the provision of education for Ukrainian children and young adults who will be staying in Essex.

Partners will be on hand to support any further needs of Ukrainian arrivals, as these emerge. The British Red Cross, Essex Welfare Service and voluntary and community sector groups will help provide this support.

Over the weekend the first Ukrainians arrived into Essex via Stansted Airport.

ECC and partners including the British Red Cross, Border Force, Stansted Airport, Uttlesford District Council and the NHS have set up a hub, providing meet and greet assistance and immediate humanitarian support.

The hub will act as an initial reception for arrivals and offer things like translation and interpretation services as well as emotional support, thanks to the British Red Cross.

The hub is also available to those arriving into Essex via the Ukraine Family scheme.

Cllr Kevin Bentley, Leader of Essex County Council, said: "Essex has quickly mobilised and working closely with our district council colleagues and other partners we are ready to help as many refugees as we possibly can.

"This is a humanitarian crisis on a scale that many of us have not seen before in our lives and the County Council is going to put its shoulder to the wheel to do all we can to help people fleeing from this dreadful war.

"The generosity of our residents in contributing to humanitarian aid efforts has been astonishing and we know people in Essex will have also generously signed up to the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme, offering their own homes to those seeking safety in the UK.

"Our job, along with our partners in national and local government, the NHS, and the voluntary sector, is to ensure those who arrive into Essex have all the support they need, both as soon as they arrive and for as long as they are in this county. We will work together to make sure this is the case."

Cllr Peter Schwier | Deputy Cabinet Member to the Leader / Climate Czar

Hedingham Division, Essex County Council

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