

Winchester City Councillor Report

April 2022

1. Homes for Ukraine

Hampshire County Council is working with Winchester City Council, as well as key local partners such as the NHS and Hampshire Constabulary, to prepare for the provision of immediate support and assistance to Ukrainians arriving in Hampshire under the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme.

The position is developing rapidly and remains fluid. Several key areas of activity are currently being prioritised:

- a process for home visits is being put in place; individual sponsors will be contacted by the County Council regarding these, as soon as they have been formally notified by Government of an impending arrival
- a process is also being set up to allow sponsors to receive a 'thank you' payment of £350 per month direct to their bank accounts.
- DBS checks 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. These will commence as part of the home visit process and will be undertaken by HCC.
- guest families will be assisted with school admissions so that formal education can continue as soon as possible; queries about school places can be directed to https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/contacts_places
- the County Council's adult social care team is liaising with NHS representatives regarding how support will be provided. GP support and the provision of crisis mental health assistance is a key consideration.

A dedicated 'Support For Ukraine' webpage (www.hants.gov.uk/ukraine) has been set up and is being regularly updated with the latest information, together with signposting to updates from central Government.

2. Winchester Area SuperHomes

With climate change very much in the news and utility bills rising steeply, residents may be interested in a scheme launched by Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC), called Winchester Area SuperHomes; this will provide homeowners with tailored, independent advice on how they can retrofit their properties to reduce their carbon emissions. (Please note that I am HCC's representative on WinACC.)

WinACC is looking to provide 150 homeowners across Winchester District with detailed Whole House Retrofit Plans which cover areas such as insulation, solar panels and heat pumps. They are offering subsidies for homeowners on low and mid incomes and providing advice on available grants. Retrofitting means changing a property so that it uses less energy and has lower carbon heating.