**Homes for Ukraine Housing Options**

The Government have announced a new Ukrainian support package, as part of this Homes for Ukraine hosts will receive £500 per month as a ‘thank you’ for ongoing support after Ukrainian’s first year of sponsorship. We hope that this announcement will relieve any worry that hosts and guests may have regarding the scheme ending in the near future.

We understand that in some cases hosts are not able to continue with their sponsoring agreement beyond the initial 6-month period. In these cases, we urge you to contact your allocated Resettlement Officer (RO) at your earliest convenience to inform them. In the first instance, we do encourage individuals to seek accommodation themselves or with the support of their host. If you are unable to do this, come across any issues or have any questions your RO can help.

## **What are your housing options if your original sponsorship comes to an end?**

**Rematch**

Rematching is the term used when a new sponsor is required for Ukrainians who have already arrived in the UK. This route is available for any guests who are no longer able to continue living with their original host. Rematching is perfect for those who plan to return to the Ukraine or do not have the funds available to move into standalone accommodation. Guests are advised to seek a rematch themselves in the first instance, either via social networking or through a recognised provider. [Click here](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/recognised-providers-organisations-who-can-help-guests-from-ukraine-find-sponsors-in-the-uk) to see list of voluntary and community sector organisations running schemes which provide help and support rematching.

If a guest is unsuccessful in finding a rematch themselves, they should inform their RO. The local authority can then check their bank of potential sponsors who have registered their interest to join the scheme.

Once a guest has found a suitable rematch sponsor, they need to let their RO know as soon as possible. The local authority must carry out relevant checks (accommodation, DBS, welfare) before a guest or guest family can move into the property.

**Social Housing**

Social homes have rents pegged to local incomes and provide an affordable and secure housing option for people across the county. All social housing in the county is advertised through Northumberland Homefinder, [click here](file:///C:/Users/kathryn.denton/Downloads/Northumberland%20Homefinder.pdf) to find more information on this.

There is no way to predict how long it will take to find social housing, as there is a high demand for a limited number of properties, and allocations are made on a priority basis of need. You can get a good idea of how many properties are normally available by looking at Northumberland Homefinder each week – you do not need to be registered to look.

The majority of social housing is situated in the southeast of Northumberland; applicants are encouraged to widen their area search if they wish improve their chances of being housed.

Social housing is unfurnished and in most cases the property will have no flooring and will be undecorated. Paint packs may be provided if they are required.

**Private Rented Accommodation**

Private rented accommodation is provided by an individual landlord rather than a council or housing association. Tenants will be expected to pay market prices. Landlords will have to complete tenant checks which can include credit checks, references, guarantors and bonds. Understandably it may be difficult for guests to pass these checks, but Northumberland County Council do offer a Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme (RDGS) to support individuals to find affordable and suitable private accommodation. To find out more information about the RDGS [click here.](https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Housing/Private%20sector%20team/RDG-Tenant-leaflet-Oct-22.pdf)

The private sector is a better route for people who want to live in a particular area, it can also be a quicker option to find accommodation. Private housing is more likely to be decorated and already have flooring, occasionally properties may come part or fully furnished.

Whatever decision you make about your housing options your RO is there to help and support you.