

# CD News

News, Updates, Information, and Sharing Success in Our Communities

## Support for Ukrainian Welcome

As the situation develops in Ukraine, the Council have been working behind the scenes to ensure refugees coming to the area are safe and settled in our communities. The Council already has an established refugee process but with a different system created in this situation and further guidance now being issued from UK and Scottish Government, work has been developed and scaled up across the Council.



All information is being published on the [Council website](#) including frequently asked questions and links to guidance and support for both refugees and sponsors. Updates will be posted when available.

### Support

Many offers of support have been received from communities in recent weeks but as you will realise, the evolving situation has meant uncertainty about what would be needed.

A network of third sector organisations is coming together to ensure that the all refugees are well resourced to enable them to thrive and develop whilst in Scotland. The level and type of support is still being assessed but see further pages on community partners taking part and how you can help them.

### Refugee Support

Drop-in sessions for Ukrainians who have already arrived in Stirling under the Homes for Ukraine scheme are being arranged.

The events will help Ukrainians:

- Access local services
- With Universal Credit claims
- With enrolling children in schools and nurseries
- With English language support
- Find out information on a wide range of key supports.

For more information on these sessions including times and dates, please visit the [Council website](#).

### Useful Links

- [Stirling Council - Ukraine](#) includes FAQs and links
- [UK Government Homes for Ukraine Scheme](#)
- [Scottish Government Warm Scots Welcome](#)
- [Scottish Refugee Council](#)  
Free helpline 0808 196 7274
- [British Red Cross](#) - Help for Ukrainian nationals
- [Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain](#)



### Dnipro Children

As you may be aware, Stirling Council has recently welcomed 50 Ukrainian children and young people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine.

The children, accompanied by chaperones arrived here aided by the charity Dnipro Kids and are staying in the Callander area before moving to more permanent accommodation in Edinburgh.

Although the charity provided welcome boxes for the children with essentials, Stirling Council would like to take this opportunity to thank the local organisations who also provided specific donations at short notice. The generosity of communities is amazing and much appreciated.



The children and young people are now taking time to adjust to their new environment and enjoy the peace and beauty of the setting.

You can read the full [news story](#) on the children coming to Stirling on the Council website. To make a donation to Dnipro Kids visit their [website](#).

# Support from Local Community Partners

## Babes in the Wood

Babes in the Wood was established in Stirling in early 2018 and is a social enterprise based within STEP in Springkerse.



BITW work without reliance on grant funding, by operating a preloved shop where the public can access high quality, low cost children's goods.

They also work in partnership with NHS health visitors, Social Workers, Woman's Aid, HomeStart & Forth Valley Welcome to alleviate the effects of poverty for families with children under 16. This is done by accepting donations from the general public before sorting them into packs of support which are delivered free of charge to those who need them, by their referring professional.

As part of the partnership approach to supporting Ukraine, BITW have already been able to provide essentials to the Dnipro Children and are now pledging their time, experience and resources to provide for any children who are now arriving to seek refuge within the Stirling Council area.

### How you can help

If you would like to support children & families facing hardship -

You can make a financial donation to Babes in the Wood to provide a support package - or buy specific items which they require to complete a support package. Call the number below for more details.

You can also donate your unwanted children's toys, clothes & equipment directly to

Babes in the Wood  
Unit 32-33 STEP, Players Road, Stirling FK7 7RP  
Tel: 01786 849216

*Open hours* Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat 10-4.

Any donations which are surplus to requirements will be used in the general pool to provide for local families or to safeguard the project via the Babes in the Wood community shop.

To find out more about Babes in the Wood and their work, [visit their website](#).



## Forth Valley Welcome

Forth Valley Welcome is a small local charity that supports refugees that have been resettled in Stirling and Clackmannanshire.

They do a number of things:

- Placing befrienders with households to help with English Language practice, orientate them to the area, explain letters coming to the home and generally be a welcoming and friendly face
- Run conversation cafes and 'Snack and Chat' events to help with English practice
- Source additional material needs as and when needed e.g. coats, boots, bedding, toys, small electrical items etc
- Give small grants to help with activities that support integration and/or routes to employment

The organisation has 3 part-time members of staff and around 85 volunteers. They currently support people from Syria, Sudan, South Sudan, Afghanistan and, more recently, Ukraine.

### How you can help

If you would like to help, you can donate money or sign up for the supporters newsletter. You can do this via their [website](#).

They are not currently recruiting volunteers but hope to do so soon – if you'd like to be added to the waiting list of people who are interested in volunteering, [please email](#)



## Ukraine Support Schemes

### Sponsor Schemes

The [UK Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme](#) allows individuals in the UK to act as a sponsor and match with people displaced from Ukraine. Scottish Super Sponsor Scheme which is also known as the [Warm Scots Welcome' Programme](#) removes the need for people from Ukraine to be matched with a Sponsor prior to being given permission to travel to the UK.

The Schemes is being rolled out in phases:

- Individual members of the public can sponsor someone from Ukraine who meets the eligibility criteria.
- In Scotland, Sponsors can be matched with a Ukrainian individual or family via the Scottish Government's Super Sponsor Scheme.
- In later phases, organisations and community groups will be able to sponsor multiple guests.



### Sponsors

You can record your interest in being a sponsor via the [UK Government portal](#) for both schemes.

Sponsors are required to provide suitable accommodation for a minimum of 6 months and should support and help people from Ukraine to adapt to life in Scotland. All sponsors and adults in their household will be subject to disclosure checks and home visits will be undertaken by an officer or contractor instructed by their Local Authority, in order to assess the suitability of the accommodation offered.

For some tips and advice on getting your home ready, check out this [downloadable guide](#) from the No Accommodation Network.

For more information about what a sponsor's responsibility is and what checks will be made, please visit our [FAQs on the Council website](#).

### Scottish Refugee Council

The Scottish Refugee Council is holding regular online information sessions for people affected by the Ukraine conflict who have recently arrived in Scotland and for relatives who are welcoming their family from Ukraine.

The ['Ukraine Family Scheme: Your Rights'](#) will be run by our experienced advisers, and will give people an introduction to their rights and information on how to access essential services such as housing and health.

To find out more and book on the sessions [visit their website](#).



### Charities Appeals

Still the most affective way to help is to donate to the charities who have launched appeals to help people in Ukraine. You can find out more and donate by following the links below.

[British Red Cross](#)

[Unicef](#) (UN's children's charity)

[Save the Children](#)

[Action Against Hunger](#)

[CARE International UK](#)

[International Rescue Committee](#)

[World Vision](#)

Please research the charities that you are considering for any type of donation to ensure you know where and how donations will be used.

Unfortunately there are criminals who seek to exploit the kindness of others. Be aware of scams in the form of unsolicited emails and texts.

You can report scams direct to Police Scotland and find out more at [ConsumerAdvice.Scot](#)

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