



# UKRAINE – Briefing Sheet #1 for Wesley

## From the Wesley coordinating group

### April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022

#### HOSTING GUESTS

- Please register online with the government [Homes for Ukraine](#) scheme. However, this service will not match you to guests, so we recommend that you also register with a charity like [RESET](#) or [Sanctuary](#) who will help with matching.
- Data is now coming through from central government to CW&C about matched sponsors in the county. Officers have started making contact with hosts and will begin visits and DBS checks soon. CW&C are asking for any local unmatched sponsors to communicate their interest to the council via [refugeesupport@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:refugeesupport@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)
- There are problems with visa applications and, although there is guidance in Ukrainian and Russian, the application has to be made in English – sponsors can help with this.
- Tragically, some unaccompanied children have already gone missing. There are delays for children without passports as records need to be obtained to prevent child trafficking.

#### DONATING

- We know that Wesley folk are generous givers! The charities on the ground are now appealing for **financial not material donations**. Sorting through and storing huge volumes of donated clothes, toys etc is taking up their resources.
- We are suggesting that a local fund be established to help families with flights and with all sorts of costs during their early weeks in the UK. CW&C are receptive to this, so watch this space. For now, please give to the **DEC charities** online or on 0370 60 60 900. [SHARE](#) in Chester also have an online appeal (search “ShareAid Chester”) that you might consider.

#### SUPPORTING GUESTS

- When guests arrive, they will need a great deal of practical support as well befriending, social connections and orientation. We have suggested to CW&C that a properly structured scheme for **volunteer buddies/supporters** be established. This would hopefully take the pressure off hosts, ensure a consistent approach and encourage more people to get involved. *Watch this space for news on this.*
- Wesley has a longstanding **Ukrainian contact**, Lana Carling, who brought her children to the creche and volunteered with us. Lana lives in Chester and we are in touch with her. She in turn is in touch both with other Ukrainians in the area and with people in Ukraine considering fleeing the violence. CW&C is keen to build links with local Ukrainians who could help welcome and support guests, so we have offered this connection. The idea of Wesley being one possible community meeting place for guests and local Ukrainians has been mooted.

## OTHER DEVELOPMENTS and CONNECTIONS

- We have already made contact through phone calls, emails and meetings with a wide range of local people and organisations including the following, but please get in touch if you are able to connect us to other people or into wider networks:
  - The Methodist Connexion
  - Chester Cathedral
  - Link Up churches
  - Chester City of Sanctuary
  - Key local authority members and officers
  - ShareAid Chester
  - Chris Matheson MP for Chester
  - Cheshire West Voluntary Action
- **Finding jobs** for guests will be really important. We are exploring our own business / employment contacts as members of the coordinating group, but please get in touch with us if you have your own contacts or ideas. All the better if you can pursue these yourself and keep us in the loop.

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COORDINATING GROUP

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If you are interested in joining us, please let us know!