

Season greetings and welcome to our second issue of the HFU Chronicle. We are very pleased with the positive feedback received about our first issue. We would like to thank everyone who has sent their contributions.

In this issue we will be looking at:

- Good news stories
- New notices
- December Celebrations

Good News Stories

From the very beginning of the forced replacement from Ukraine to the UK, fleeing from war, I began active professional and social activities in a new place. Pride did not allow me to “sit on benefits”, so I used all my professional and social resources to establish local connections, as well as socio-cultural integration. It was especially important to quickly become an economically active social unit. For this purpose, several professional communities were founded, practical experience was gained in local companies and, as a result, after a year and a half in the UK, I own two companies (Master Goal Ltd and Human Transformation CIC) specializing in integration coaching, business consulting, mental health support, education, and support for people with disabilities. We have several unique projects to support the Ukrainian refugee community, as well as local communities and business entities.

I would like to especially thank the Aston Centre for Growth for the systematic professional support of my businesses, as well as the entire community of Ukrainian entrepreneurs in the West Midlands!



Ruslan Vasyutin in the picture above

Homes for Ukraine Thank You Payments

The Chancellor announced that Homes for Ukraine hosts will continue to receive £500 a month as a ‘thank you’ for their ongoing support for their Ukrainian guests for a third year of sponsorship.

The payment has been extended for a further year to reflect the continued generosity of sponsors in hosting guests from Ukraine over a longer period of time than anyone expected, and to ensure that those wishing to provide ongoing sanctuary can do so as the conflict continues.

Councils will continue to receive £5,900 per person for new Homes for Ukraine arrivals to provide wrap-around-support and deliver statutory services

Housing

The Government is increasing the Local Housing Allowance to cover the 30th percentiles of Local rents. This will help make housing costs more affordable for private renters in receipt of benefits. 1.6 million Low-income households will be better off, with an average gain of £800 in 2024-25. Rates will be raised across Great Britain in April 2024.

£120m is also being made available across the UK, including Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, to help councils with Ukraine and homelessness pressures. Local authorities will be able to use some of this funding to support Ukrainian households who can no longer remain in sponsorship to help access settled accommodation.

Employment Support

Are you looking to get job ready? We have many partners in Birmingham to assist in climbing the labour market. Below is the contact details of our partners:

NORTH BIRMINGHAM 4UKRAINE

Providing:

- ESOL Classes
- Specialist employment support and CV writing
- Well-being support and activities
- Monthly social activities

M: 07917 622 634

W: www.nb4u.co.uk

BOSINIA HERZEGOVINA UK NETWORK

Providing:

- ESOL Classes
- Information, advice and guidance
- Social and celebration events
- Day trips

M: 0121 772 3052

W: www.bosniauknetwork.org

EWA - EASTERN EUROPEAN WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Providing:

- Bespoke employment advice, coaching and CV writing
- Vocational ESOL
- Access to Ukrainian speaking Psychologists
- General information, advice and guidance

M: 0121 740 0824

W: www.ewacic.com

CENTRALA

Providing:

- Advice
- Mental Health Support
- Employment guidance
- Art & Culture
- Move on support

M: 0121 513 0240

W: www.centrala-space.org.uk

STEP UKRAINE PROGRAMME

Providing:

- Virtual 12 week English language and employment programme
- 2.5 hour daily English classes
- CV writing, job applications, interview prep & job search
- Remote and teacher led

M: 0800 319 6089

W: www.worldjewishrelief.org/stepukraine/

MOSELEY FOR UKRAINE

Providing:

- Restart your career project in the UK:
- Develop a career plan
- Create a CV
- Personal support from a HR specialist.
- Translate your Ukrainian diploma/s if necessary.

E: Moseleyforukraine@gmail.com

W: www.moseleyforukraine.org

A Ukrainian Excursion to York by Bus

By NORTH BIRMINGHAM 4 UKRAINE

Setting a unique tone for exploration, a group of Ukrainian adventurers, orchestrated by the NB4U volunteer organization, opted for a scenic bus journey to York. The rhythmic hum of the engine and winding roads provided a backdrop for the group to bond over landscapes, creating connections during the adventure.

In York, history unfolded at the Jorvik Viking Centre, and the narrow streets of the Shambles became a backdrop for shared moments. The National Railway Museum showcased the evolution of transportation, with the bus travellers appreciating the diversity of locomotives and carriages.

A visit to the iconic York Minster, with its towering presence and centuries of history, left the group in awe, adding a spiritual and architectural dimension to their cultural experience.

Evenings in York were spent in local pubs, where the Ukrainian group shared cultural insights, creating lasting memories.

At the end of our journey we commemorated Holodomor Memorial Day in Ukraine. On this day people traditionally light candles at 4pm so as the clock bells of York Minster struck four we lit candles and places them on the cathedral steps, we then sang the Ukrainian National Anthem and held a minutes silence in remembrance.

For more information please go to www.nb4u.co.uk



Ukraine support

Ivanna is married to Petro in the military and initially wished to remain in Ukraine to see her husband when he had leave from the front. However, as the war dragged on and she noted her daughter's increasing trauma when the air raid sirens went off and they were required to go into the cellar, she decided on applying for a UK visa.

Moved by the invasion of Ukraine and feeling they had space in their home and could help, Colin and Lucy signed up to host a Ukrainian family. In early September this year they headed to Manchester airport to pick up Ivanna and her 4-year-old child Veronika.

RMC was awarded the Birmingham City Council's Homes for Ukraine contract in August, which resulted in this match being one of our first hosts and guests to support. Natalia, our Ukrainian Family Support Worker, was on hand to assist with the orientation arrangements. Colin states:

"The support early on, to get started, was really important. Natalia could also be a voice for Ivanna, whose English was initially almost non-existent."

Both hosts and guest commented on the helpful guidance from RMC on house rules and how useful it was to set boundaries at the outset. Ivanna was a little concerned about how rigid these 'rules' would be but commented that the tone of her hosts' letter

was friendly and there has been flexibility as they had established a house-share. Significantly both parties have been respectful and accommodating of each other. Veronika was affectionately described as "a little rocket fizzing round the house" bringing energy into the home. Ivanna, on the other hand, is keen to ensure that her daughter is not too clingy and demanding.

RMC recognises the generosity of many hosts and people in the community. Our caseworker has been on hand to support the newly arrived family, but Colin and Lucy have also played a valuable role. Within 2 weeks of arrival Veronika was able to start school. Members of the Parent Teacher Association supplied a school uniform and other necessities.

Both hosts and Natalia enthused about the progress that Ivanna has made in learning English. She is clearly motivated and has taken advantage of opportunities in the local area. North Birmingham for Ukraine provides ESOL twice a week and an English teacher gives additional informal tuition, subsidised thoughtfully by the hosts.

When asked about challenges, Lucy and Colin acknowledged that communication has sometimes been difficult (google translate is not always accurate) and occasionally there is a clash over timings in cooking or washing. However, they appreciate Ivanna's openness to new experiences. Discovering Chinese and Indian food (not common in Ukraine) has been a hit, and Ivanna is now volunteering at a charity shop and striving to find work.

Ivanna, in turn, talked of the challenge of everything being "new and different". She marvelled though on how quickly she and her daughter had adapted to their new environment. She is grateful for the support of RMC and her hosts and that they are safe and settled.



NOTICE BOARD



**Ukrainian Cultural Evening**
Family and Friends

6th December, 2023
7pm - 9pm

639-641 Stratford Road, Birmingham, B11 4AE
Info: maria@bosniauknetwork.org



CEE UP!
Event

The Christmas Moon Cat
16.12.2023
10.30

SAT, 16 DEC AT 10:30
The Christmas Moon Cat - FREE book event for children | meet the authors !

Items needed for Ukrainians: posted by Simone Schehtman

Hello everyone - I've got a growing list of needs from Ukrainians who have recently moved into their own accommodation.

If anyone has any of these items, please can you let me know (by WhatsApp with photo or via birminghamforukraine@gmail.com)?

Our little team of merry helpers will come collect from you or the guests may do so directly if they can.

Thanks for helping:

- Kitchen cupboard unit
- Coffee table
- Shelves
- Table for the kitchen
- Sofa bed
- Blankets (singles & doubles)
- Dryer
- Armchairs
- Refrigerator
- Computer desks
- Small wardrobe
- Bunk bed
- Smart TV
- Dishwasher
- Table lamps
- Rack
- Single mattress
- Dining chairs
- Floor lamp
- Microwave
- Crockery & Cutlery



**rmc**
refugee and migrant centre

Invite you join us for our 


**Christmas Sports Day 2023**



Merry Christmas

VENUE: THE PERFORMANCE HUB GORWAY RD, WALSALL, WS1 3BD (LIGHT REFRESHMENT WILL BE SERVED)

DATE: 20TH DEC 2023

GAME TIME: 12:00-4:00PM

PLEASE ARRIVE PROMPTLY, NO LATER THAN 11:00AM

Your journey with the Learning Disabilities Enablement Team:



Our team is made up of occupational therapists (OT), enablement assistants and enablement officers.

An OT will:

- Contact you and arrange to meet you to talk to you about what you want/need to do more independently at home or when outside in your local community
- Talk to you about how you can work together to achieve your goals
- Design a step by step plan with you to achieve your goals
- See if you need equipment or home adaptations to make you safe
- and any further support you may need



Who will come to visit me?

An Occupational therapist (OT) will visit you at your home to talk to you about enablement and what it means to you.

An OT is a person who listens to what you want to achieve and empowers you to reach your goals. OTs work with people across all age groups to do the things they want to do and need to do in their lives.

An OT will ask you how you are managing your daily tasks and will work with you to be as independent as you can be.

This could mean giving you tips on how to make tasks easier or giving you equipment or adaptations around your home.



The Enablement Team will:

- Introduce you to a weekly enablement assistant, who is the same person each week who will work with you on your goals for up to 6 months
- Each week your enablement assistant will visit you at home normally at the same time and day, to work on your goals using your step by step plan

Some examples of the goals we work on:



Cookery skills



Money management/ budgeting



Personal care/ Dressing yourself



Laundry/Cleaning



Shopping and more....

What is the Learning Disability Enablement Team?

We are a team of enthusiastic people who teach daily living skills to people in their own homes and outside, we provide a weekly service, to visit you at home and work on tasks you need and want to do. Our team is made up of occupational therapists (OTs), enablement assistants and enablement officers



Your visiting OTs

If you have any questions please contact:

OTLDEnquiries@birminghamcitycouncil.onmicrosoft.com

Steps to self empowerment:

We realise that everyone is at different steps to feeling empowered, but working together we will support you through your journey.



If you have any questions please contact:

OTLDEnquiries@birminghamcitycouncil.onmicrosoft.com



Learning Disabilities Enablement Service



Empowering you to live your life to its fullest by supporting your health and wellbeing.

STEP Ukraine

English Language and Employment Programme

We are proud to be working in partnership with STEP Ukraine - an intensive, virtual, 12-week English language and employment programme for Ukrainians in the UK.

STEP Ukraine is designed to help Ukrainians living in the UK find meaningful employment and improve their English. Funded by the UK Government, STEP Ukraine is delivered by World Jewish Relief and the British Council and is completely free for all participants.

If you, or anyone you know, might be interested, find out more and apply today: www.worldjewishrelief.org/stepukraine or call our freephone on 0800 319 6089.

Scan here

World Jewish Relief | BRITISH COUNCIL | UK Government

STEP Ukraine

English Language and Employment Programme

"STEP Ukraine helped my English alot. My employment advisor Iryna was always really there for me and supported me every step of the way."

Natalia, STEP Ukraine participant

STEP Ukraine provides free English language and job search support to Ukrainians living in the UK. Apply today at: www.worldjewishrelief.org/stepukraine or by calling our freephone on 0800 319 6089.

Scan here

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Scan here

World Jewish Relief | BRITISH COUNCIL | UK Government

Below: Look out on information on activities around Birmingham being sent out separately every week.

WEEK COMMENCING
4th December

CLAYTON'S CHRONICLE

ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

SUPPORT PROVIDED FOR INDIVIDUALS AGED 18-49 WITH DISABILITIES

ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW WITH DISABILITIES IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE? WE PROVIDE SUPPORT IN VARIOUS AREAS:

- DEVELOPING BASIC FOOD HYGIENE SKILLS
- ASSISTING WITH BUDGETING
- HELPING IN FINDING VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES OR EMPLOYMENT
- TEACHING BASIC MEAL PREPARATION & COOKING SKILLS

FOR REFERRALS & FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT US

DROP-IN COFFEE MORNINGS EVERY THURSDAY'S 10.30AM-11.30AM

Office: 0121-792-5442
Mobile/whatsapp: 07847661022
info@daaruljannah.co.uk
@daaruljannahservices
www.daaruljannah.co.uk

Opening Times: 10:00AM - 4:00PM Monday-Friday
Address: 861 Stratford Road Birmingham B28 8BH

FUNDING AVAILABLE

DO YOU HAVE AN ENTERPRISE IDEA THAT WILL HELP YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES?

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL'S TRANSITIONS AND PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD SERVICE (TAPS) ALONG WITH COMMUNITY CATALYSTS ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING BETTER LIFE OPPORTUNITIES, CHOICES AND EXPERIENCES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 14-30 YEARS OLD WHO HAVE A RANGE OF ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS, DIAGNOSED OR UNDIAGNOSED.

WE WANT TO SUPPORT YOUR ENTERPRISE IDEA BY GIVING YOU FUNDING OF UP TO £500 TO HELP GROW OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. THIS INCLUDES ENTERPRISES THAT ARE ALREADY ESTABLISHED.

PLEASE CONTACT: SABER.GHAFOOR@COMMUNITYCATALYSTS.CO.UK FOR AN APPLICATION FORM OR FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Birmingham City Council
Transitions & Preparation For Adulthood Service

Support people with learning disabilities or autism

We can help you to set up as a self-employed provider in the community.

FREE

Find out more
Saber Ghafoor
Birmingham
Community Catalyst
saber.ghafoor@communitycatalysts.co.uk
07776 596 395
facebook.com/CommCatsBrum

Funded by Birmingham City Council and run by Community Catalysts
communitycatalysts®

Transitions & Preparation For Adulthood Service

Building resilience and independence through direction, guidance and empowerment

OFFICIAL

Dates for your calendar - December

St Nicholas Day - 6th December

St. Nicholas Day, which is celebrated on the 6th of December, is the most anticipated holiday for Ukrainian children. It's no wonder, as St. Nikolas is considered to be the patron saint of kids. This holiday has deep roots in Ukrainian culture and has been celebrated since the 11th century and the times of Kievan Rus.

Children write letters to St. Nikolas and expect for a miracle. On the night before the holiday, every child waits for gifts, which St. Nicholas will put under the pillow. Children, who behaved well, receive sweets, cookies, gingerbread, some small presents. But the naughty kids should be prepared to find a twig under the pillow.

St. Nicholas Day is also beloved by adults. People wish each other all the best and visit relatives. This holiday also starts winter celebrations and preparation for the New Year and Christmas festivities.



Christmas Day - 25th December

During December everyone is gearing up for Christmas day. An annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ observed on December 25th celebrated among billions of people around the world.

Popular modern customs of the holiday include gift giving, completing an Advent calendar or Advent wreath, an exchange of Christmas cards, church services, and the display of various Christmas decorations.

Many activities take part during Christmas, children will do plays retelling the story of Jesus's birth also known as the Nativity. Christian church services at Christmas include carol singing and some start Christmas day with a midnight communion service known as a midnight mass.

Christmas dinners are also an important part of the celebrations. Families and friends will share food together, eating traditional foods, such as turkey, mince pies and Christmas puddings.



You Said We Did

Thank you for everyone who shared feedback on our first issue of the **HFU Chronicle**.

The biggest takeaway was guests wanting to know more about all of the holidays we celebrate in the UK. Therefore, we will be adding this into our Welcome packs.

WHATS NEXT...?

We would like to continue sharing any feedback, so please do not hesitate in writing to ukraineb@rmcentre.org.uk with 'feedback' as the heading. We really want to know any suggestions you have in improving services or anything you think could be done differently. This will then, with your permission of course, be featured in a 'you said we did' section in future issues of the HFU Chronicle.

We would be very grateful if you can send us anything: for example, events you hold, a good news story, even classified for the January issue to ukraineb@rmcentre.org.uk FAO Sandra. Deadline for any submissions will be by close of play Friday 5th January 2024.
