

Devon stands with Ukraine

Devon's local authorities are supporting local residents who want to provide sanctuary to the Ukrainian refugees who have been forced to flee their homes.

A new website now hosts the latest guidance and information as it becomes available.

[Visit devon.gov.uk/supporting-ukraine](https://devon.gov.uk/supporting-ukraine) for further information

We are now receiving the latest information from the government on the Devon sponsors who have registered, and are carrying out DBS checks on the sponsor families. And Devon's district authorities are using a common approach to assess each sponsor's accommodation, which will help better assess any potential safeguarding risks.

This initial phase of the Homes for Ukraine scheme is designed to supplement the Ukraine Family Visa for people in the UK to support friends and colleagues. We are now seeing several hundred people in Devon being matched and, following permission to travel, we will start to see those families arrive in Devon.

As you will appreciate the situation is evolving quickly, with updated guidance coming through from government daily, but all Team Devon partners are working together to develop a rapid response.

Anyone who is interested in offering accommodation can register their interest via the government website Homes for Ukraine – Local Sponsorship Scheme for Ukraine. The link also contains some frequently asked questions (FAQs) for would-be accommodation providers (sponsors).

Those wishing to offer donations on the ground are advised to make financial contributions, particularly to the **Disasters Emergency Committee**.

Everything you need to know about the spring booster in Devon

Spring COVID-19 booster jabs have started to be offered to people in Devon at greatest risk of COVID-19 infection, many of whom had their first booster six months ago. The groups eligible for the spring booster are:

- people aged 75 years and older
- residents in a care home for older adults
- people aged 12 years old and over who have a weakened immune system

The best time to have the spring booster is around six months after the previous booster, although the minimum interval is three months. You can find your nearest walk-in clinic on the NHS site finder website or book an appointment via the National Booking System.

Check visitor arrangements at hospitals and care homes

Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases in Devon some hospitals and care homes have taken the difficult decision to restrict visitors in order to protect vulnerable patients, residents and staff.

If you are planning to visit someone in hospital or in a care home, please ring ahead or check their website to find out about visitor arrangements.

Holiday food support continues for Easter

Supermarket vouchers worth £570,000 have been sent to families of 19,000 children in Devon to help them buy food over the upcoming Easter holidays.

This comes from the government's one-off 'household support fund', which was given to councils to distribute. Over the last year £4.7 million has provided nearly 140,000 supermarket vouchers for families who qualify for free school meals; so their children don't go hungry over the school holidays.

20mph Scheme Applications

Nick Colton advises me that 71 Parishes across the County have applied to be part of the 20mph trial. In the main, these are communities where currently the speed limit is 30mph and they are requesting a change across each respective village. With Cabinet having earmarked £100k for the trial, it is fair to say that many will be disappointed.

The next step in the process is that Officers will need to sift through the application and duly prioritise them against a set of criteria.