

Supporting Ukrainian Guests in our Community



Link International is a Charity registered in Conwy, North Wales.

Founded in 2008, with a focus on grassroots community development, innovation and partnerships.

In March 2022, **Haven of Light** joined with **Link Int.** to bring together our experience and expertise, in preparation for the arrival of Ukrainian guests into North Wales.

Haven of Light CIC is a charitable organisation working on issues of modern slavery, human trafficking and exploitation in the UK and internationally. The work is based on over 30 years of aid, education and development in Eastern and South Eastern Europe.

Haven of Light works closely with the European Freedom Network.

Priorities for Link International & Partners

1. Arriving & Settling



Welcoming Ukrainian families into North Wales, to host homes & hotels / welcome centres.

- : website : welcome pack
- : provision of items (clothes, toiletries, toys, etc.)
- : free SIM cards
- : information and access to statutory support services
- : introduction to local hubs and groups

- : social events, day trips,
- : 'drop in' centres,
- : sports, activities for children
- : conversational English
- :

2. Community Action & Support



- Supporting families & hosts,
- Partnering with community groups and volunteers,
- Collaborating with local authorities, statutory agencies & Welsh Govt.

- : access to advice and advocacy
- : safeguarding and well-being
- : training for employment
- : ESOL and formal classes
- : access to schools
- : healthcare / trauma informed care
- : information sharing
- : respite for hosts
- : local authority services
- :

3. Staying connected & Long-term support



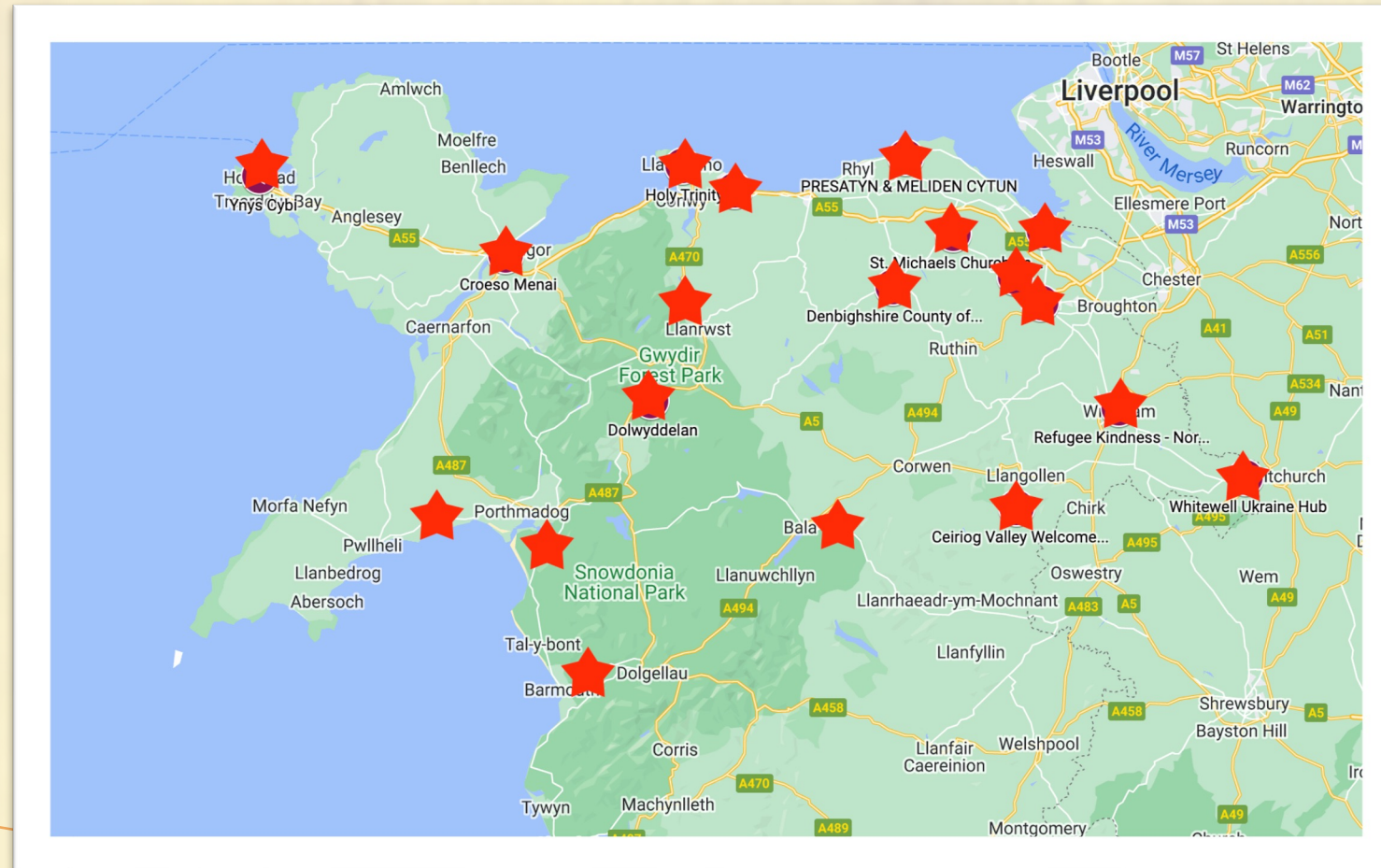
- Reuniting Families,
- Settling & Integration,
- Community Development,
- Building trusted relationships,
- Repatriation,
- Long-term support (3yr,5yr,10yr)
- Partnerships throughout Europe & Ukraine

- : looking to the future needs
- : practical support
- : arrival of family members
- : assisting those who choose to return
- : investing in the future in UK & Ukraine
- :

It is so important to listen to the Ukrainians and support them as to what they want and need

Community Hubs and Partnerships

There are some excellent projects and partnerships established in the 6 counties of North Wales among community, faith and third sector groups.



Feedback and Comments since our August Update

Representatives this evening
are from :

- Conwy
- Gwynedd
- Flintshire
- Wrexham
- Isle of Anglesey
- Denbighshire
- Regionally in North Wales
- Throughout Wales

Activities include :

- Advice and advocacy
- Activities and Social events
- Language Skills
- Distribution of clothes
- Financial and practical
- Youth work, camps
- Parents and toddlers
- Hosts
- Other

Listening to our Ukrainian Guests & those working with them

As in previous meetings we have asked the following questions ...

- What are the highlights of your activities so far?
- What issues and problems have you encountered?
- What plans are you considering for the autumn and winter?
- What are the Ukrainian guests saying that they need and want?

Listening to our Ukrainian Guests & those working with them

First

- What are the Ukrainian guests saying that they need and want?

Listening to our Ukrainian Guests in Wales

This is a very important part of the work we are all doing as we continue to empower and enable families to thrive and become as self-sufficient as possible while they are living in our communities.



“We are uprooted trees suspended above the ground. This is a stressful time for us all and everyone experiences it differently, because trees are different. (Some take root easily, while others need time.)

It takes time and patience on both sides for the tree to take root and bear fruit. One tree needs constant attention and watering, while the other needs only an initial support, so that drop by drop life awakens in it.

It takes patience and tact for the tree to decide to lower the first root to the ground and time for the roots to sprout into the ground.”

“... We all left our country not out of a desire to live somewhere else, but because we needed to save our lives and the lives of our children.

We all left our homes, cars, jobs, businesses and relatives in our country, and a part of our soul remained there. We drove without thinking about where and to whom we were going to and therefore, we were at a loss to where we ended up.

Almost all of us have lost friends or property. We have seen terrible things and participated in terrible events...”

“... I know that many of British people had not thought about what it will be like when strangers move into your house, you just followed your heart and opened your houses.

*I know that everyone had their own thoughts and dreams about how it would be. For some expectations were met, but unfortunately for others, it was not and this came as a surprise. **YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE MORE THAN YOU COULD!***

It is wonderful that the call of your heart has won. But if something didn't go the way you expected, please take your time and don't get discouraged.

Calm down, rest and give us a little more of your patience and we will open our hearts to you in return. But it takes time...”

Highlights

- *Befriending and getting to know the family I am hosting.*
- *Learning about their customs and ways.*
- *Making friends with a Ukrainian husky.*
- *Helping the family to settle into the community, making local friends, taking part in local activities.*
- *Overcoming bureaucratic hurdles, = many!*
- *Registration as host, welcoming a pet dog, medical assessment, dentist reg...*
- *We have organised two collections of kids clothing donations.*
- *We have set up a desk at site in order to signpost refugees to the correct organisations.*
- *We are currently in the process of recruiting an English teacher for the site.*

Highlights

- *People getting jobs after our Job Fair;*
- *Providing English Conversation classes for different levels.*
- *Helping with housing options for moving on plans.*
- *Connecting to many other charities that are wanting to reach out to communities and families that may not know of our services.*
- *We are embarking on a social programme based in Llandudno, including days out/trips and shortly a Ukrainian Centre in Llandudno on Sundays operated by Ukrainians.*
- *Meeting and building relationships with Ukrainians in the area.*
- *Support with mental health.*

Issues, Problems and Concerns

- *I was the first host in the County and neither the LA nor Welsh Government were aware I was already hosting. The process of visa application and issue was relatively quick and the family I host were here two weeks later. When I approached the DWP and LA there were a lot of problems and in some instances I had to inform the authorities of the decisions the UK government had made.*
- *Too many hurdles. Our family speaks v good english, and is very open to adapt. The NHS and dental system seems to struggle so much and support was very disjointed!*
- *Lack of resources specifically pertaining to Ukrainian families.*
- *The language barrier.*

Issues, Problems and Concerns

- *Public transport for those in remote locations is a barrier to independence, getting to work and also getting primary school kids to school.*
- *Uncertainty*
- *Lack of connections*
- *Communication. Some have given email addresses others have given phone numbers. Contact has to be made with individuals every time.*
- *Travel issues - some live a long way and can't easily get to Colwyn Bay by public transport or if there are no trains due to a rail strike.*
- *Very little contact/information*

Plans for Autumn and Winter

- *Continuing with supplying clothes.*
- *Hope to organise a tea and cake afternoon in September*
- *I am currently looking for a host for another friend of my friend so that will be my main plan in coming months. As for the family I host, the 17 year old will start 6th form, that is the only major change we will be actioning.*
- *I worry about the different status of people seeking refugees in Wales. this led to confusion for hosts and sanctuary seekers.*
- *We need to listen more what people need. How do we change perception of general public ?*
- *To have English classes be available for the Ukrainians.*

Plans for Autumn and Winter

- *Possibly bringing groups out for walks in the National Park*
- *Winter Warm clothing pop up boutique*
- *Continuing to share the services we offer and ensure all the information we provide is accessible to all translating all languages.*
- *English Club on Friday mornings in Colwyn Bay. This will be an opportunity for anyone who is learning English to come along for tea or coffee and practice speaking informally with native speakers.*
- *Continue to offer social events if requested by our Ukrainian guests in North Wales*

Updated and Comments

Tim Hall : Director of Link-International

Dave Jolly : Resettlement Officer Flintshire

Please indicate by raising your hand if you would like to share for 5 mins

Please give your name, organisation and county, and your specific focus of support



	Number of visa applications	Number of visas issued	Number of arrivals in the UK
Conwy	137	120	100
Denbighshire	122	101	88
Flintshire	135	119	85
Gwynedd	212	202	157
Isle of Anglesey	83	78	67
Wrexham	145	127	107
TOTAL	834	747	604
ALL WALES: Sponsored by individuals	3,847	3,500	2,720
ALL WALES: Sponsored by the Welsh Government	4,912	4,547	2,620
ALL WALES: TOTAL	8,759	8,047	5,340

As at
30th
August

THEME: REDUCING BARRIERS

- DBS
- Language
- Integration
- Jobs

ВР-000234874
МІНІСТЕРСТВО ВНУТРІШНІХ
СПРАВ УКРАЇНИ
Департамент інформатизації

Перевірка достовірності
ПОВНИЙ

ВИТЯГ
з інформаційно-аналітичної системи "Облік відомостей про притягнення
особи до кримінальної відповідальності та наявності судимості"

Виданий про те, що громадянин(ка) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] кримінальної відповідальності не притягується, незважаючи на
непогашеної судимості не має та в розшуку не перебуває.

Витяг надано для ОФОРМЛЕННЯ НА РОБОТУ

Директор Департаменту
ІНФОРМАТИЗАЦІЇ
ДОВІДОК

Олександр МИХАЙЛОВ

Ukraine DBS
Application Case
Study



ReAct Plus



If you're unemployed you could be eligible to receive tailored support to get you into employment in the shortest time possible.





EVERY REFUGEE CHILD FLOURISHING

Tuesday, 20 September 2022 16:00 (BST)

Every Refugee Child Flourishing

Sep 20

Every Refugee Child Flourishing

by [Sanctuary Foundation](#)

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Updated and Comments

Dave Jolly : Resettlement Officer Flintshire

Please indicate by raising your hand if you would like to share for 5 mins

*Please give your name, organisation and county, and
your specific focus of support*





Contact cymru@link-international.org
www.link-international.org/Ukraine

