



### ***Shropshire Supports Refugees – second half of August 2024 update***

*Shropshire Supports Refugees (SSR) continues to support Ukrainians in Shropshire, using all acquired knowledge and skills.*

#### **Key Points**

SSR plans, creates, improves, and runs numerous projects, including but not limited to ESOL, employability, housing, information support, events & activities. All of them are vital in their ways, and the SSR team always receive incredible feedback from Ukrainians. SSR Support Hub in Shrewsbury town centre, where Ukrainians can access help and support, became, as they say, "home" for them.

#### **Place of Welcome**

SSR Support Hub has also become a "Place of Welcome". Places of Welcome are all about bringing people together for friendly conversations and then seeing what the community themselves would like to do within that time.

The Hub is now a friendly place of welcome to anyone who is feeling lonely or isolated, regardless of age, race, gender or other, so they can engage in friendly and supportive conversation with our service users, visitors, staff & volunteers.

#### **Ukraine Independence Day**

This holiday has a special meaning for all Ukrainians. It's the day that has a sacred place in the hearts of every Ukrainian, and SSR was honoured to celebrate Ukraine Independence Day with Ukrainians and the public in the Hub and honour those who gave their lives for the freedom and future of Ukraine. 24th August was a very emotional day and SSR celebrated it in an incredible atmosphere, with homemade dishes, delicious sweets, tea and coffee.

#### **Activities & BeWILDerwood Trip**

The second half of August was eventful for Ukrainians in Shropshire. Besides daily support, SSR hosted numerous activities for adults & children within the second half of August, among them, for example, there were Yoga for Kids, Talk & Create, Doodle a Plant Pot, and Art & Crafts Workshop.

Shropshire Supports Refugees has conducted several surveys, and one of them was regarding the day trip by coach. Based on Ukrainian choice, SSR organised a BeWILDerwood Trip on the 19th August for 42 Ukrainians. The trip has brought a lot of incredible emotions for both parents and their children, as well as a lot of nice feedback.

**Free sessions**

Ukrainians still have the opportunity to receive expert advice and counselling on psychological and emotional support, free statements of comparability, free entry to Attingham Park, free legal support from a Ukrainian lawyer, free Swedish massage sessions from a certified Ukrainian massage therapist, and free tickets to visit charming private gardens throughout Shropshire.

**ESOL classes**

SSR has presented new timetables for English classes at the Shrewsbury Hub and online, which start again on the 3rd September. SSR looks forward to seeing old students, as well as lots of new learners too for a new Class 1 group for beginners on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Everyone is welcome. If you are not registered with the SSR English programme and want to join, please get in touch with the SSR Team.

*SSR has a lot of ideas, plans, and is already working on new projects which will be presented shortly.*