

SHROPSHIRE SUPPORTS REFUGEES



IMPACT REPORT

JUL 2024-SEP 2024



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Shropshire Supports Refugees (SSR) does not stop at what it has achieved and spares no effort to support Ukrainians throughout Shropshire in various ways, using all acquired knowledge and skills. SSR works 6 days per week & overtime to reach more people in different parts of Shropshire. Friday afternoons are staff development, so the SSR team can expand their knowledge and improve their skills to make the support even more efficient.

SSR greeted this July by collaborating with The Sea Change Trust and started the 'Talk & Create' project, a series of art workshops at the Hub for 16-25 y.o. to foster community connection and personal growth.

We not only provide information on free webinars and workshops but also host them. Our charity hosted & ran various workshops in July, among them, for example, were a two-hour Syrian Cooking Workshop at the Hub, an online advice session with the Ukrainian translation 'Fuel Poverty Workshop' in collaboration with the National Energy Action, 3 sessions of 'Talk & Create' workshops, and a 'Doodle Workshop' for children & adults at the Hub.

In addition to the events & activities above, we also organised two sessions of 'Yoga for Kids' & a 'Shropshire Hills Bus Tour'.

Our charity ran numerous projects in July, within them, for example, 'Talented Ukrainians' project created by SSR to help Ukrainians create/expand their client base, develop their own business, and popularise their skills and abilities in Shropshire.

Also, SSR hosted 2 monthly 'Cancer Champions' meetings to raise awareness and improve knowledge & skills regarding the very important topic of cancer. Additionally, SSR provided an interpreter to eliminate the language barrier and distributed leaflets to raise awareness among all the Hub visitors.

Within the third quarter of 2024, SSR conducted several surveys and now SSR is working towards implementing plans, based on the need and Ukrainian choice. SSR always listens to Ukrainians about what they want & need and is always ready to consider any ideas and suggestions from Ukrainians themselves to make their integration even smoother.

SSR didn't stop helping Ukrainians to learn English even during the summer holidays and even after a very intensive ESOL year, SSR opened two new English classes: 'Walk and Talk' and the 'English Café'.

Besides organising and hosting events, we created a selection of kids' summer clubs and all summer events happening in and around Shrewsbury, so that Ukrainians could plan their summer and their children's holidays.



SSR Support Hub has also become a 'Place of Welcome' – 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.

August was eventful for Ukrainians in Shropshire. Besides daily support, SSR hosted numerous activities for adults & children, among them, for example, there were 3 sessions of 'Yoga for Kids', 2 art classes, 2 sessions of 'Talk & Create', a 'BeWILDerwood Trip' for 42 Ukrainians, and 'Doodle a Plant Pot', 'Art & Crafts Workshop' and 'Djembe Drumming Workshop' in collaboration with The Hive.

All these events and activities that SSR runs not only take pressure off local services but also help Ukrainians rebuild their lives, discover their talents & 'find themselves', empowers them, and contributes to the well-being, sense of belonging & community cohesion. All the activities & events were extremely popular among Ukrainians and the charity received nice feedback.

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. This holiday has a special meaning for all Ukrainians and SSR was it was a very emotional day and SSR celebrated it in an incredible atmosphere, with homemade dishes, delicious sweets, tea and coffee.

Our team have also presented new timetables for English classes, which started again on the 3rd September. The SSR has not only English classes by native speakers but also professional Ukrainian teachers as well as different classes online & at the Hub.

September was also eventful: Ukrainians visited Attingham Park & charming private gardens (Preen Manor & Beam Cottage) with free tickets from SSR and took part in 2 sessions 'Yoga for Kids' & 2 sessions of art workshops at the Hub. Also, SSR held 'International Food Day' in the Hub on 26/09/24. We were honoured to have a visit from the High Sheriff of Shropshire, Brian Welti JP, who was treated to Ukrainian, Persian and Syrian food cooked by people who use the Hub. In addition to the above, a free yoga session for Ukrainian women was held in the Hub with a certified Ukrainian trainer.

SSR is delighted & proud to be selected by the government to support vulnerable people with the transition to the UK's new digital eVisa system! SSR will offer free drop-in sessions and practical support to those who require help to update their physical document to an eVisa throughout Shropshire.

Our charity will continue its support through the coming months with the new eVisa project, which allows the SSR Team to develop & improve new skills & knowledge, which has only further enhanced the support SSR offers to the Ukrainian community.

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 with a total experience of more than 11 years in jurisprudence, free Swedish massage sessions from a certified Ukrainian massage therapist, and free tickets to visit charming private gardens throughout Shropshire.

SSR continues to collaborate with different organisations to support Ukrainians, run informative and practical information-sharing sessions, create and update cloud-based guides with a lot of useful information, run & host housing & employment sessions, create a calendar of activities for Ukrainians, run Ukrainian WhatsApp groups, and much more. SSR is working hard to reach as many Ukrainians as possible throughout Shropshire, make services as accessible as possible, expand the range of activities and much more. Our team continues improving & implementing knowledge and skills to support existing and newly arrived Ukrainians. SSR has a lot of ideas, plans, and is already working on new projects which will be presented during the fourth quarter of 2024.



Ukrainians received tickets to Open Gardens in Shropshire

60

Ukrainians participate in 'Talented Ukrainians' project

38

Ukrainian members of the employment WhatsApp group

135

People attended housing appointments

61

Number of recruited volunteers Hub Greeters

6

Therapy sessions at the Hub

54

Ukrainian visits to the Community Hub per month

800+

People attending events & activities at the Hub

262

ENIC Statement of Comparability issued

7

Hours of English lessons delivered at the Hub per month

96



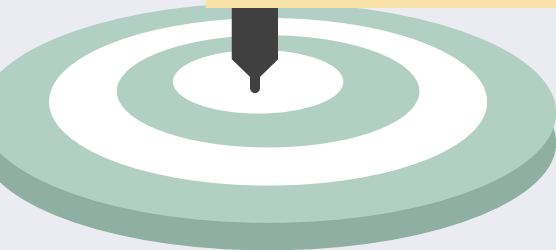
OUR GOALS FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

Support Ukrainians to update their physical document to an eVisa throughout Shropshire

Collaborate with Shropshire Council in Resettlement Community's Activities Project to reach more people across Shropshire

Develop further our funding strategy to maximise our outreach

Maintain delivery of service and improve it across all the projects run by SSR



THANK YOU

to all our donors, partner organisations and volunteers.



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