

Sapphire Independent Housing Homes for Ukraine

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Sapphire Independent Housing is committed to supporting the government's Homes for Ukraine scheme¹, which allows individuals, charities, community groups and businesses in the UK to bring Ukrainians to safety – including those with no family ties to the UK.
- 1.2. This policy sets out how Sapphire will consider residents' requests to become a sponsor and host guests as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

2. Sapphire residents becoming sponsors

- 2.1. The government advises that, to become a sponsor, you must have a spare room available for at least six months and consent from your landlord. The home must be fit for people to live in and suitable for the number of people to be accommodated.
- 2.2. At the time of publishing this policy, we have understood from local authority and housing sector trade body consultation, that the 'spare room' should be a spare bedroom, and that the scheme is not appropriate for one-bedroom homes, even if a resident intends to sleep in their living room in order to provide their bedroom.
- 2.3. This means Sapphire will only consider requests from our residents with at least two-bedrooms in their home, and where approving the request would still mean there is a communal living space outside of the guest(s) bedroom (e.g. a dining room if the living room is to be converted into a private bedroom).

3. Psychologically Informed Environments and Trauma Informed Care

- 3.1. While Sapphire will not be directly providing support to any guests that may be hosted in our homes, we recognise the trauma that guests will be experiencing, and have a duty of care to them when considering any requests to become sponsors.
- 3.2. This means that we will be considering factors we believe may impact a guest's recovery, which will include but not limited be to, repairs and maintenance issues, anti-social behaviour and/or unacceptable conduct towards others. We will take the wider environment into account, and not just the potential sponsor's home.

4. Complaints / Appeal

- 4.1. As this policy has been informed by local authority consultation, Sapphire will not consider any complaints about this or our decisions via our complaints procedure.
- 4.2. Residents can appeal a decision not to provide consent, and we will respond within 10 working days of the appeal date. Any decision following an appeal will be final.

5. Policy review

- 5.1. This policy has been approved by the Executive Management Team, who may make changes subject to further announcements and/or clarifications regarding the scheme.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions#homes-for-ukraine-scheme>