

**Children's Services**

**Alison Jeffery**

Director of Children's Services

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## **Parents and Carers**

27 April 2022

Dear Families

### **Ukraine Crisis: how East Sussex is helping**

We are all acutely aware of the situation in Ukraine and how it is impacting on families, including many across East Sussex.

School staff have, and will continue to, discuss the situation with sensitivity when talking to pupils. This includes those children from Russia who live in the UK and are part of our community here in East Sussex.

School places will be provided for refugees who settle in East Sussex, and we are working with schools to ensure that we meet the needs of all our children as they settle into their new schools. We will use our normal processes to ensure that all children are able to be placed within a reasonable distance of their accommodation.

Many of you have responded with donations, support or by offering to open up your homes to refugees. Thank you to everyone who is doing what they can.

These acts of kindness really help as Ukrainians have often fled with few possessions. Many will be traumatised by the war, and all have been through an ordeal.

Our county already has a proud record of helping people forced to flee wars, but this is the largest challenge we have had to rise to. Please bear with us as we work together to provide the checks, living arrangements, school places, support and welcome that new arrivals will need.

In turn, we know all communities in East Sussex will want to welcome and support refugees as they have done in the past.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Alison Jeffery'.

Alison Jeffery  
Director of Children's Services