



Dumfries &

Galloway

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SOCIAL WORK UKRAINIAN SUPPORT TEAM

UPDATES



**WE HAVE SUPPORT AVAILABLE
TO HELP UKRAINIAN GUESTS**

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WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR FOR 2023.

The Social Work Ukrainian Support Team would like to extend a warm welcome to all Hosts throughout Dumfries and Galloway.

The Team has been busy undertaking checks, matching Hosts with guests, working with vulnerable groups, and delivering Hosting events and providing activity groups over the Christmas holidays to children who are living in our Welcome Hubs within Dumfries and Galloway.

The Hosting Christmas Event in Newton Stewart was organised by our very own Kirstie Kennedy, Social Work Assistant, who covers Dumfries and the West of the region.

Kirstie said: "On Friday 9 December 2022, the Social Work Ukrainian Support Team held an event in Newton Stewart and welcomed hosts throughout the West of Dumfries & Galloway. This created an opportunity for hosts that were already hosting or waiting on a match to come together and discuss the journey they are on supporting our Ukrainian guests. It allowed the Social Work team the opportunity to bring hosts new information as well as respond to questions. The night was full of conversation and great food, and the Social Work Ukrainian Support Team would like to thank all who attended."

Thanks go to Kirstie and the Team for a great night, and look out for the regular monthly support groups starting soon in your area.



SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Activity groups for children and young people who are living within the Welcome Hubs throughout Dumfries and Galloway took place through the school holidays.

Shania Walls, Social Work Assistant, organised the groups over ten days - well done Shania!

The groups provided activities for young pre-school and school age children who were accompanied by a adult. During the school Christmas holiday period between the 26 December 2022 and 9 January 2023, the Social Work Ukrainian Support team ran activities from the Oasis Centre in Dumfries. Children and young people, up to the age of 18 years from all four Welcome Hubs within Dumfries and Galloway, were invited to attend along with a responsible adult.

The aim was for the children and young people to be able to engage and explore the local area and what is on offer for them, and to build friendships with other peers in the other hubs. One of the key reasons for providing these activities was that we recognised that the holiday period could become a period of frustration for the children and parents within the hotels. The limited resources in the hotel rooms to make food added additional pressure. Staff provided those attending the groups with a healthy snack.

Shania said: "All the days were attended by groups of children and young people. The children spent their time exploring the different activities within the Oasis Centre including the gaming room, music room, crafts room, and the main area that has pool tables and air hockey."

