

# WELCOME

# Dear Ukrainian friend,



I write to welcome you on behalf of the district of South Gloucestershire.

South Gloucestershire has always played its part in helping to support and to resettle people affected by conflict who have come to this country and we are proud to be able to help people like yourselves, forced to flee the war in your homeland of Ukraine.

Because this is such a great place to live, work and visit, I know that our residents and communities will hold out the hand of friendship and welcome to you as do all South Gloucestershire councillors and officers.

This welcome pack provides some facts about South Gloucestershire and information on transport links, places of worship, things to do and the surrounding area, job opportunities and includes a directory of local services.

It supplements the welcome guide provided by the UK government <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk>

For up-to-date information about the council's response to the Ukraine crisis, and links to further government guidance in English, Ukrainian and Russian please visit [www.southglos.gov.uk/ukraine](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/ukraine)

If you have any questions that you can't find the answer to in this guide or on the website or that your hosts or the people supporting you don't know, please email the council directly on

✉ [HomesforUkraine@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:HomesforUkraine@southglos.gov.uk)

and we will do our best to help.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Toby Savage,  
Leader of South Gloucestershire Council

# Facts

## about South Gloucestershire:

South Gloucestershire is a district in the West of England, covering an area of

**536.6 sq km,**

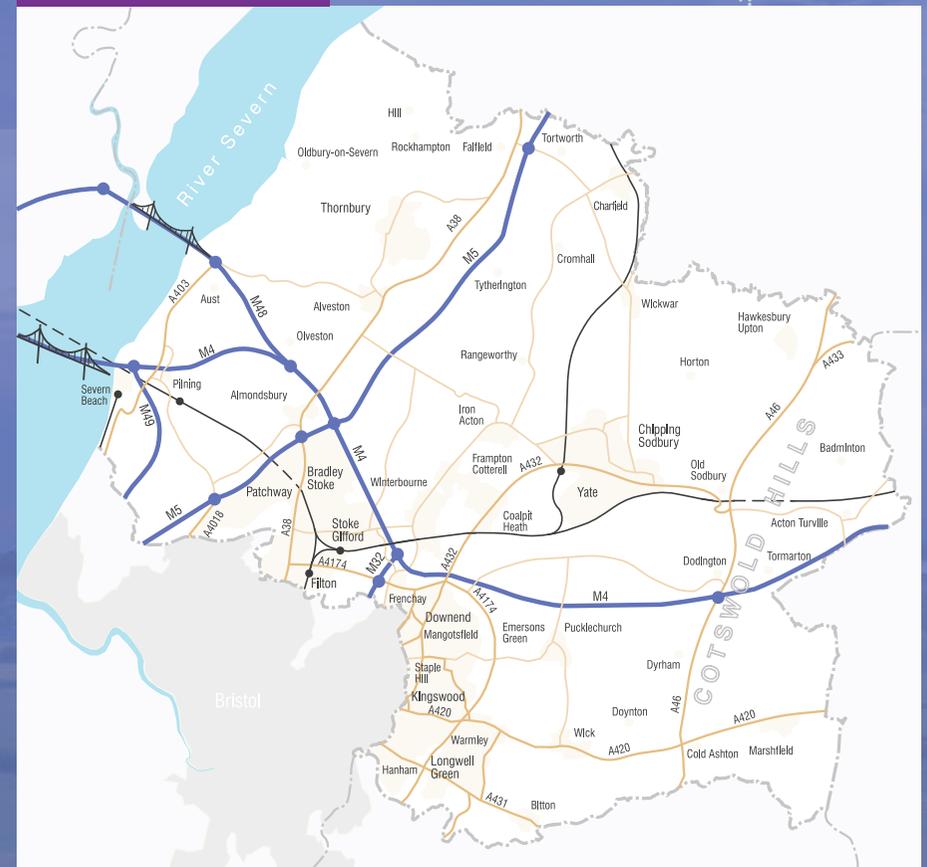
with a population of

**287,800.**

**87%** of the population live in urban areas, largely on the northern edge of the city of Bristol and the towns of Yate and Thornbury.

The remaining **13%** live in the more rural areas of South Gloucestershire. With excellent road and rail links, South Gloucestershire is one of the best connected areas in the country.

## LOCATION



# Transport links



Visit Travel West for local public transport information and leisure walking and cycling routes. <https://travelwest.info>

travelwest+

## BUS & COACH



Many people travel daily on buses in the UK. The bus is a common way to get to work and for leisure activities. When you arrive, the people helping you settle in will find the relevant bus routes from where you live, to the shops, places of interest and worship etc. There are frequent buses into Bristol and in and around the main towns of South Gloucestershire.

[www.firstbus.co.uk](http://www.firstbus.co.uk)

[www.nationalexpress.com/en](http://www.nationalexpress.com/en)

## RAIL



Bristol Parkway train station in Stoke Gifford, provides fast links to London, Birmingham, Cardiff and Southampton. There are also smaller rail stations in South Gloucestershire providing good commuter connections. These include Filton Abbey Wood and Yate train stations serving the town and industrial area. People in the UK use the train frequently for work and leisure, although it can be more expensive than taking the bus.

[www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

## ROAD



South Gloucestershire is well served by the national and regional road network. The M4, M5 and M49 motorways run through South Gloucestershire providing easy access by car to London (two hours away), Birmingham (90 minutes), Cardiff in Wales (less than one hour). The M32 gives direct access from the M4 to central Bristol.

## AIR



Bristol Airport offers flights to more than 100 European and international destinations. The UK's major airports, Heathrow and Gatwick, are in London.

[www.bristolairport.co.uk](http://www.bristolairport.co.uk)



# Places of worship

There are a number of places of worship in South Gloucestershire and nearby Bristol and usually there will be a place of worship local to your home. Your host or the people supporting you will be able to advise you of the churches local to you, and we have listed some here:

## Catholic Churches

St Lawrence Church (Chipping Sodbury), St Augustine of Canterbury Church (Downend), St Teresa Catholic Church (Filton), St John Fisher Church (Frenchay), Our Lady of Lourdes and St Bernadette's (Kingswood), Holy Family Church (Patchway), Christ the King (Thornbury), St Paul's Catholic Church (Yate)

## Christian Churches

St Saviours Church (Coalpit Heath), St Stephen's Church (Kingswood), Holy Trinity Church (Kingswood), St Anne's Church (Longwell Green), St Mary's Church (Yate).

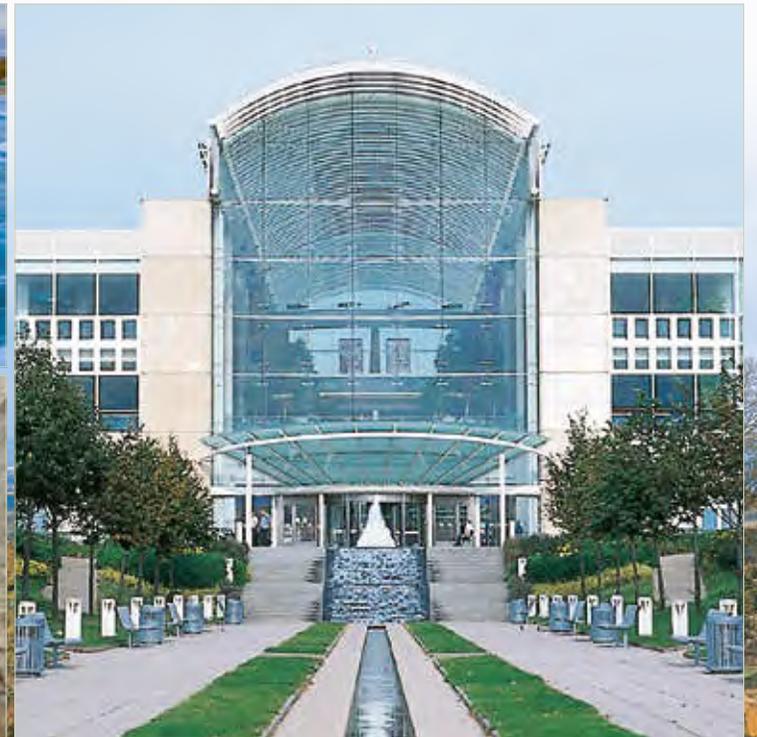
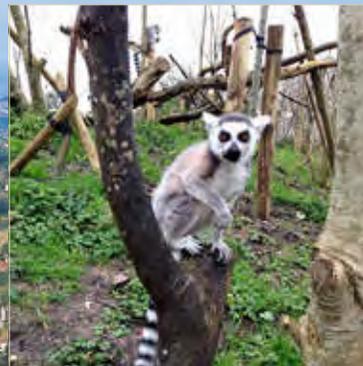
## Other places of worship

The Orthodox Parish of the Holy Trinity (Frenchay), Eastern Orthodox Church of the Nativity of the mother of God (Clifton, Bristol), Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Peter & Saint Paul (St Phillips, Bristol), Eastern Central Mosque (Easton, Bristol), Bristol Central Mosque (Easton, Bristol), Darul Imann Hossenieih Foundation (Eastville, Bristol), Bristol Progressive Synagogue (Easton, Bristol), The Hindu Temple (Redfield, Bristol).

# Things to do and the surrounding area

There is lots to do in South Gloucestershire. We have a large shopping centre and leisure area at Cribbs Causeway, a number of historic market towns such as Thornbury, Chipping Sodbury and Marshfield, some great leisure attractions such as Wild Place Project, Planet Ice and The Wave and beautiful countryside to explore, It's a lovely place to be!

Bristol is the biggest nearby city with lots to see and do and all public transport will link you to Bristol. We are also a short train journey away from Bath, Gloucester and Swindon.



# Local services

Your host or the people helping you to settle into your home, will be on hand to help you get to know your area better.



They will help you find where you can buy food - there are a number of small and larger supermarkets here in South Gloucestershire.



They will help you register with a doctor so you can access free NHS health services. There are two main hospitals local to South Gloucestershire - Southmead Hospital and the Bristol Royal Infirmary. There is also the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children.



They will be able to advise you on how you can access your own transport and what you need to do should you want to buy a bicycle or car.



They will help you enrol your children in local schools and access classes to learn English yourself if you need to.



They will help you to access financial support such as Universal Credit and any other benefits you might be eligible for.



They will help you to access your local job centre and arrange appointments with a job coach to help you find local employment.



And, if you need any additional support to help you with your day-to-day life, the people supporting you will be able to point you in the right direction.

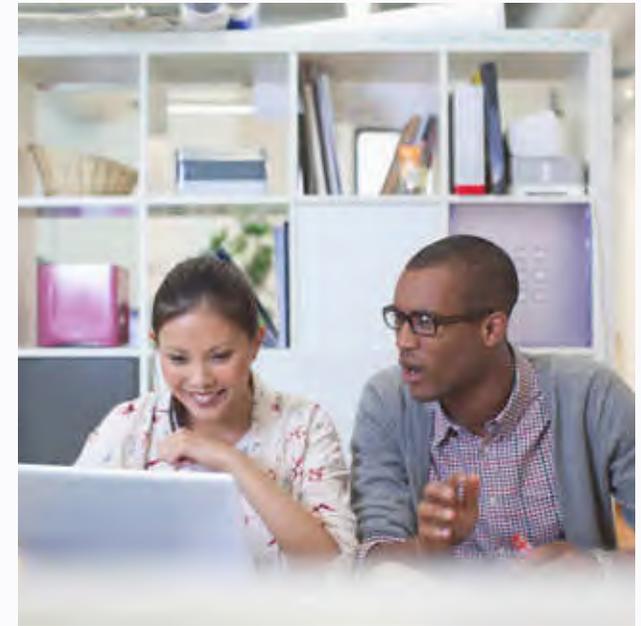


# Job Opportunities

There are lots of job opportunities within South Gloucestershire when you are ready to think about employment. The area has some really large, well-known companies located here such as Airbus, GKN Aerospace, Rolls Royce, Hewlett Packard and Royal Mail as well as lots of smaller companies. There are jobs in every sector including design and manufacturing, construction, computing, healthcare, retail, telecommunications and many more.

We also have a number of jobs in South Gloucestershire Council that might suit you, from jobs in social care to jobs in schools – you can search all our job opportunities here:

 [Careers | South Gloucestershire Council \(southglos.gov.uk\)](#)



# Services to help you:

We have put together a list of support services that you may find useful or need to access whilst living here in South Gloucestershire:

SERVICE NAME	DESCRIPTION	WEBSITE
Aid Box Community	Provides practical support to refugees with groups and also clothing or other items.	<a href="http://www.aidboxcommunity.co.uk">www.aidboxcommunity.co.uk</a>
Ashley Community Housing	Provides training and volunteering opportunities for refugees	<a href="http://www.ach.org.uk">www.ach.org.uk</a>
Borderlands	Provides support to refugees through a mixture of classes and mentoring	<a href="http://www.borderlands.uk.com">www.borderlands.uk.com</a>
Breastfeeding Support Service	The service is available for all families wishing for support to breastfeed their babies, this can be through weekly clinics or group support.	<a href="http://www.breastfeedingsouthglos.co.uk/about-uscontact.html">www.breastfeedingsouthglos.co.uk/about-uscontact.html</a>
Bristol Refugee Rights	Provides support to refugees through classes and advice	<a href="http://www.bristolrefugeerights.org">www.bristolrefugeerights.org</a>
Community Learning Team	Offers courses throughout the year for adults to access	Community learning and skills service   South Gloucestershire ( <a href="http://southglos.gov.uk">southglos.gov.uk</a> )
Community support groups in South Gloucestershire	A community support directory of organisations in South Gloucestershire that you may want to talk to	Get help and support   BETA - South Gloucestershire Council ( <a href="http://southglos.gov.uk">southglos.gov.uk</a> )

SERVICE NAME	DESCRIPTION	WEBSITE
Community Support Helpline – Southern Brooks	Can link you to food banks or other community services that you may need.	<a href="http://www.southernbrooks.org.uk">www.southernbrooks.org.uk</a>
Covid-19 Vaccination Information	Age 12+. You do not have to be registered with a GP, have an NHS number or be documented in order to have a Covid-19 vaccination. If you are in this position, please attend a walk-in clinic or contact a GP to book your vaccination, explaining your situation. Further details of clinics and how to book an appointment for a vaccination can be found on the website.	<a href="http://www.bnnsghalthiertogether.org.uk/book-your-vaccine/">www.bnnsghalthiertogether.org.uk/book-your-vaccine/</a>
Find your local GP	You will need to register with your local General Practitioner Service to access other National Health Services.	<a href="http://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-gp">www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-gp</a>
Free School Meals	are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.	School meals   South Gloucestershire Council ( <a href="http://southglos.gov.uk">southglos.gov.uk</a> )
Groundworks – Impact Bristol	Provides support to refugees through classes and advice	<a href="http://www.groundwork.org.uk/projects/impact-bristol/">www.groundwork.org.uk/projects/impact-bristol/</a>
Health visiting	Support for new mothers' antenatally until child starts schools. Support and information about becoming a parent, the emotional wellbeing of your family and the health and development of your child, until he or she starts school	<a href="http://www.cchp.nhs.uk/cchp/explore-cchp/health-visiting/health-visiting-south-gloucestershire-0">www.cchp.nhs.uk/cchp/explore-cchp/health-visiting/health-visiting-south-gloucestershire-0</a>
Healthy Start	Get help to buy food and milk (Healthy Start) and free vitamins.	<a href="http://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply/">www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply/</a>
Job Centres	Provide help with applying for benefits and searching for employment	<a href="http://www.find-your-nearest-jobcentre.dwp.gov.uk">www.find-your-nearest-jobcentre.dwp.gov.uk</a>
Mind You South Gloucestershire	Supporting young adults and children with mental health support.	Mind you   A mental health and emotional wellbeing hub for young people in South Gloucestershire ( <a href="http://southglos.gov.uk">southglos.gov.uk</a> )

SERVICE NAME	DESCRIPTION	WEBSITE
One You South Gloucestershire	Virtual support if you are looking to improve your physical health.	Home   One You South Gloucestershire ( <a href="https://southglos.gov.uk">southglos.gov.uk</a> )
Refugee Women of Bristol	Provides support to refugees through classes and advice to women only	<a href="http://www.refugeewomenofbristol.org">www.refugeewomenofbristol.org</a>
SARI	Link for support with issues individuals/families may experience and can provide support to them.	<a href="http://www.saricharity.org.uk/">www.saricharity.org.uk/</a>
School Health Nursing	This service is available to all children and young people living or at school/college in South Gloucestershire between the ages of 5-19 years School Health Nurses work with children, young people and families to: provide health information, in both groups and individually / Identify health promotion and health improvement initiatives, together with the child's school / Liaise and make referrals to other professionals. They offer advice and support around; emotional health, healthy eating, healthy relationships, dental health, drugs, alcohol and smoking, physical health concerns, LGBTQ+, sleep, continence.	<a href="http://www.cchp.nhs.uk/cchp/explore-cchp/school-health-nursing/bristol-south-gloucestershire">www.cchp.nhs.uk/cchp/explore-cchp/school-health-nursing/bristol-south-gloucestershire</a>
SGS College	Offers education courses for free for refugees	<a href="http://www.sgscol.ac.uk">www.sgscol.ac.uk</a>
The Haven Health Centre	Can provide health assessments to recently arrived refugees and make onward referrals to other	<a href="http://www.sirona-cic.org.uk/nhsservices/services/the-haven/">www.sirona-cic.org.uk/nhsservices/services/the-haven/</a>
Welfare Grant Scheme	You can apply for funding to use for your specific needs	Welfare Grant Scheme   BETA - South Gloucestershire Council ( <a href="https://southglos.gov.uk">southglos.gov.uk</a> )

