

Bank Account

Opening a bank account will be one of the priorities for your guest(s) in the first few days of arrival. You can scope out local banks in your area before they arrive and then you will be able to present some options for them to decide which is best for them. When you research it is worth finding out which documents they require as it varies from bank to bank and this may narrow some options for your guest(s).

They will usually need to provide one identity document (e.g. Passport, **Biometric Residence Permit**, Benefits Letter from DWP, Home Office Travel Document) and two forms of proof of address (usually this might be a council tax bill or utility bill), but with them staying as guests in your house it is going to need some thought as to what address ID documents they will be able to provide.

If there are problems with their identity documents being accepted then it is worth asking if there is a helpline that you can use to get more information. It may be worth opening a basic bank account rather than a current account as they can be easier to open. There are also a number of digital banks that could be considered.

When they have made a decision you can help them to make an appointment with the manager or senior member of staff to open the account. You will need to go with them to the appointment to support them. The application may be online and will be in English and so they will need help in completing it.