

Community Sponsorship Stakeholder Group Meeting - Summary

The second Community Sponsorship Stakeholder Group Meeting was held on Tuesday 2nd April 2019 in Birmingham. The Stakeholder Group meetings provide a space for stakeholders in the Community Sponsorship programme to come together to discuss issues and share ideas with the aim of ensuring that the programme has the greatest positive impact possible. This document provides you with a summary of the meeting. If you have any questions relating to any of the issues raised here, please contact your organisation's representative, or director@resetuk.org.

Attendees:

Gideon Winward, Home Office (Co-Chair)
Phil Arnold, British Red Cross (Co-Chair)
Monika Kruesmann, Reset (Secretariat)
Emmeline Skinner Cassidy, Reset
Isabella Hunter-Fajardo, Connect PA
Florence Woodrow, Connect PA
David Butterworth, Methodist Church
Jenny Phillimore, University of Birmingham
Marisol Reyes Soto, University of Birmingham
Bel Gallup, Home Office

Jane Kennedy, Home Office
Samer Khaled Karob, Hillsong Newham
Bekele Woyecha, Sponsor Refugees
Nadine Daniel, Church of England
Sasha Ali, UNHCR
Joseph Pincott, SMP West Midlands
Judith Freedman, Wimbledon Synagogue Ark Project
Peter Broomfield, COSLA
John Delahunty, Innisfree Housing Association

Apologies:

Gayle Findlay, COSLA
Jackie Walder, Scottish Government
Barbara Phillips, Nantwich Community Sponsorship
Cathryn Morgan, Welsh Government
John Dimmer, London Borough of Merton

Anne Hubbard, Welsh Local Government Association
Max McClellan, UNHCR
Phil McCarthy, CSAN
Anas Tooma, SCAN-UK
Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham

Proceedings:

1. Key updates from Reset and the Home Office

Reset and the Home Office presented some key updates, including that this year Reset will deliver the compulsory training for sponsor groups; Reset is launching a new Application Checking Service, whereby groups can send their applications to Reset for review prior to submitting them to the Home Office; and the Home Office has reduced processing times for applications.

2. University of Birmingham research (Jenny Phillimore & Marisol Reyes Soto)

Jenny Phillimore presented attendees with initial findings of the qualitative, formative research that she and Marisol Reyes Soto have been conducting into Community Sponsorship. Preliminary conclusions point to sponsor groups and resettled families having generally had positive experiences of the Sponsorship process so far, but there are challenges around fundraising, securing housing and the quality of ESOL provision. **If you are interested to hear more of this research, the report will be launched on 4th July at the University of Birmingham. Contact director@resetuk.org to find out more.**

3. Future discussion points

Attendees were asked to decide what issues they felt needed to be discussed at future Stakeholder group meetings. The issues highlighted were the benefits system, the £9000 fundraising target, and the shape of Community Sponsorship post-2020. These issues will be incorporated into the forward agenda. Issues already on the forward agenda are: housing; engaging with Local Authorities; training for empowerment; raising the profile of Community Sponsorship; understanding the impact of Community Sponsorship; and applying the learning from Community Sponsorship to other fields. **If you are a stakeholder in the Community Sponsorship programme (e.g. you are a resettled refugee or a sponsor group member) and you want to let us know about an issue that you think we should be discussing, please email emmeline.skinnercassidy@resetuk.org.**

Next meeting: 18th July