

Community Sponsorship Stakeholder Group Meeting 3: Summary of Proceedings

18th July 2019, 2:00-4:30pm; 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1

The Community Sponsorship Stakeholder Group brings together the experience and expertise of a range of stakeholder perspectives from across society and provides a space for attendees to discuss issues and share ideas. This document provides you with a summary of the third Stakeholder Group meeting.

If you have any questions relating to any of the issues raised here, please contact director@resetuk.org.

OVERVIEW

Attendees:

Gideon Winward, Home Office (Co-Chair)
Phil Arnold, British Red Cross (Co-Chair)
Kate Brown, Reset (Secretariat)
Natasha Chetty, Home Office
Jane Kennedy, Home Office
Bekele Woyecha, Sponsor Refugees
Nadine Daniel, Church of England
Peter Broomfield, COSLA
Louise Gooch, SMP East of England
Katie Jones, SMP North West

Gareth Jones, Refugee Welcome Dagenham
(Community Sponsorship Group), and his colleague
Amy Sheriden
Mallory Carlson, IOM
Phil McCarthy, Caritas
Cathryn Morgan, Ceredigion County Council
Lindsey Gilroy, Aberaid (Community Sponsorship
Group)
Vicky Moller, Croeso Teifi (Community Sponsorship
Group)

Apologies:

John Delahunty, Innisfree Housing Association; Bindu Issac, IOM; Jackie Walder, Scottish Government

PROCEEDINGS

1. Updates from Reset

Reset gave an update on the growth of Community Sponsorship across the UK. There are now active Groups in every region of the UK, including the devolved nations. Reset identified a decrease in the number of quarterly Community Sponsorship applications as an area of concern. Discussion about the reasons for this included the lack of media coverage of refugee issues recently; the inability of Groups to name refugees for resettlement; and uncertainties around the future of the scheme post 2020. Reset spoke to the launch of the Community Sponsorship Assembly and Council; the roll-out of Reset's new application workshops; and the launch of the new Reset website.

2. Updates from the Home Office

The Home Office explained that Community Sponsorship will continue post-2020 but in a slightly different format. The key changes are that refugees resettled via Community Sponsorship will be in addition to the government commitment and that the geographical focus will be broadened beyond the Middle East and North Africa allowing for greater flexibility in how the UK responds to humanitarian crises. The Home Office will be engaging stakeholders over the coming months to seek views on the implementation of the new scheme.

3. Understanding and measuring the impact of Community Sponsorship on Group members and communities

Reset is working with the University of Birmingham to understand the impact of Community Sponsorship on communities and individual Group members. There are two pieces of research being conducted: an in-depth case study in two rural locations, and a survey of Group members looking at what they have learnt over the course of their Community Sponsorship journey.

4. Better engaging Local Authorities (LAs) with Community Sponsorship

Reset identified gaining LA consent in a timely manner as being a barrier currently faced by a number of Groups. Reset acknowledged that there are many examples of positive relationships between LAs and Groups and provided attendees with a draft of a template letter that Reset is preparing to help Groups to work productively with their LAs. Reset is also exploring other means of supporting productive partnerships between LAs and Groups.