

# Minutes of the Community Sponsorship Council

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 10am-12pm  
Zoom call

## ATTENDEES

### ***Present (Council members)***

Fr Gareth Jones, Refugee Welcome Dagenham  
(Chair)

Monika Kruesmann, Reset (Secretariat)

Hannah Feldman, Citizens UK

Neil Jameson, Citizens UK

Bob Goldsmith, Muswell Hill Methodist Church

Domenica Pecoraro, Canterbury Welcomes  
Refugees

Mark Wiggin, Caritas Social Action Network

Lisa Westlake, CHARIS

Nick Coke, Salvation Army

Emmeline Skinner Cassidy, Reset

### ***Apologies (Council members)***

Simon Cook, King's Arms Project

### ***Present (non-members)***

Jane Kennedy, Home Office

Giulio Di Blasi, GRSI

## OVERVIEW OF PROCEEDINGS

### ***Community Sponsorship (CS) Assembly 2020***

In-person CS Assembly to be cancelled due to Covid-19. Further discussions on this topic to take place between Council members.

### ***Sustaining CS during the Covid-19 outbreak***

All members expressed desire to work collaboratively to keep the CS movement going. The Council's 2 main concerns were: how to support Groups to support refugee families; and how Groups can be enabled to support the national Covid-19 response. Reset, Sponsor Refugees and CHARIS will be organising Zoom calls to enable CS Groups to share learning. They will coordinate efforts so that the calls complement one another. Reset will continue to reach out to Groups, paying particular attention to Groups that have recently welcomed families. Reset will also engage the Lead Sponsor Network to: identify Groups with a high proportion of vulnerable volunteers; and to consult Lead Sponsors on how to engage with the national Covid-19 response.

### ***Sustaining CS after the Covid-19 outbreak***

Council members noted the likelihood of a period of significant economic difficulty following the Covid-19 crisis and that this represents a risk to Community Sponsorship. All Council members agreed to look for and publicise stories from across the UK that can highlight the benefits of welcoming refugees. Ideally these stories will be linked to the Covid-19 outbreak.

### ***Council membership***

Gareth Jones (Chair) proposed that Council membership be extended until such time as elections for new members can safely take place. The Council unanimously agreed and Reset will draft an amendment to the Council's Terms of Reference.

***If you have any questions about these minutes, please contact the Chair of the Council, Fr Gareth Jones: [refugeecoordinator@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:refugeecoordinator@chelmsford.anglican.org)***