

Minutes of the Community Sponsorship Council

Wednesday 11th December 2019, 10am-12pm
Westminster Room, Millbank Tower, 21-24 Millbank, London SW1P 4QP

ATTENDEES

Present

Fr Gareth Jones, Refugee Welcome Dagenham (Chair)
Monika Kruesmann, Reset (Secretariat)
Hannah Feldman, Citizens UK
Bob Goldsmith, Muswell Hill Methodist Church

Domenica Pecoraro, Canterbury Welcomes Refugees
Mark Wiggin, Caritas Social Action Network
Lisa Westlake, CHARIS
Simon Cook, King's Arms Project

Apologies

Nick Coke, The Salvation Army

OVERVIEW OF PROCEEDINGS

Community Sponsorship Assembly 2020

Council members discussed possible dates and venues for the 2020 Community Sponsorship Assembly. Venues across the country were suggested, with members agreeing to report back to the Council further details on pricing and availability. It was agreed that the Assembly will be held in the week commencing 29th June 2020, and that a thematic focus on the new UK Resettlement Scheme would be appropriate.

The 'essence' of Community Sponsorship

Reset introduced a short paper seeking to identify specific characteristics of CS which make it unique and which may be said to constitute its 'essence'. Members discussed aspects including beneficiary contact, collective action, practical engagement, and narrative potential.

Housing challenges

Reset shared the findings of preliminary research into housing challenges for CS Groups and families. Council members commented in particular on the role of private landlords, and the difficulty of secondary resettlement away from expensive locations. Reset resources about CS housing can be found [here](#).

Supporting families towards employment.

Lisa Westlake presented on behalf of the South West Network, highlighting the importance of partnership, and of coordinating with other local refugees. Council members were interested in the role of apprenticeships, and of ESOL, in securing positive employment outcomes; and recognised employment as central to successful integration.

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