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HM Government



Community Sponsorship Scheme

Would you like to be able to help a refugee family rebuild their lives in the UK?

“We have discovered that there are people in the community who have all sorts of skills to contribute”

Natasha de Chroustchoff,
Fishguard Sponsorship Group
Member, Fishguard, Wales

“We have a responsibility to step up and say we are going to welcome those refugees into our community and give them a new life and a future”

Russell Rook,
Founder, For Refugees



Any community group, coming together, can make it happen. Just the power of people”

Sinead Simmons, St Monica’s Sponsorship Group Member, Manchester England

“The thing about the Community Sponsorship Group is that it starts from the grass roots”

Maggie Stringer, Fishguard Community Sponsor, Fishguard, Wales

What is Community Sponsorship?

Community Sponsorship is an opportunity for you to help a refugee family build a home and stable life in the UK. Community sponsors can be formed from a wide range of groups with a desire to help refugees, including faith groups, local charities and community businesses.

Why sponsorship?

Moving to a new environment can be an unsettling experience, especially for those who have been forced to flee their homes. Community Sponsorship is a way for the whole of civil society to be directly involved in helping refugees settle in the UK, providing emotional and practical support. Being a sponsor can also bring enormous benefit to the local community, through harnessing the generosity of local people, and creating new bonds between different local groups to bring positive changes to people’s lives.

Your Opportunity

The Community Sponsor group supports the empowerment of refugee families to become self-sufficient members of their new community by:

- meeting the family at the airport
- befriending the family and helping them to settle in the UK
- supporting the family to learn English
- helping them to find work
- making sure the family can access medical and social services.

Through the sponsorship scheme communities across the UK are already seeing how welcoming a refugee family into their local area can transform lives.

Can you be a Community Sponsor?

Acting as a community sponsor to a resettled family is hugely rewarding, but it is also a large responsibility. To make sure that you are prepared to resettle a family, your group will need to create a clear plan for how you will resettle and integrate the family into a safe and supportive environment. This will involve:

- showing that your group has experience working with vulnerable people
- showing you can safeguard the family
- finding suitable housing
- getting the permission of your Local Authority
- demonstrating that your group has funds available to respond to any needs not covered by the benefits your family will receive.

In addition, your group will either need to be, or be partnered with, a registered charity or community interest company (you can even set up a new charity for your group).

Working towards meeting these requirements is absolutely achievable with effort, motivation and goodwill.

If you are interested in finding out more information about becoming a Community Sponsor you can see a video about the scheme here: <https://goo.gl/RE1AsB> and find out how to apply here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-full-community-sponsorship>

If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact us: communitysponsorship@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

By welcoming a refugee family into your community, you can make a real difference.