

# **RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME**

UK Community Sponsorship Scheme

# Overview of UK's Resettlement Process

## Referral

- Refugee follows established UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) process to be considered for resettlement based on vulnerability criteria
- UNHCR considers requests and refers families to particular countries for resettlement

## Case working

- Resettlement Programme considers families recommended for resettlement in the UK
- Decision is reached to accept or reject referral

## Matching

- Family matched via traditional resettlement model to **local authority or regional area**
- Family matched via new model to **Community sponsor**

## Arrival

- Resettlement Programme complete exit arrangements in conjunction with International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
- Family arrive in UK, met by **local authority representative or Community Sponsor**

# Resettlement Models

VULNERABLE PERSONS RESETTLEMENT SCHEME

VULNERABLE CHILDREN'S RESETTLEMENT SCHEME

Local Authority

- Arranges integration support
- Links into available local services

Community Sponsorship

- Arranges integration support
- Links into available local services through the local authority

# Community Sponsorship

- **Launched** in the UK in July 2016
- Enables **community groups** to be directly involved in supporting the resettlement of vulnerable people fleeing conflict
- Requires a **collaborative effort** between local community, local authority and central government to support and integrate vulnerable resettled families.

# Benefits of Community Sponsorship

- A new approach to welcoming families to resettle in the UK by being supported from within the local area where they will live
- Provides an avenue to harness the willingness and generosity of people to help those in need of assistance
- Brings members of a community together for a worthy cause

# How Community Sponsorship Works

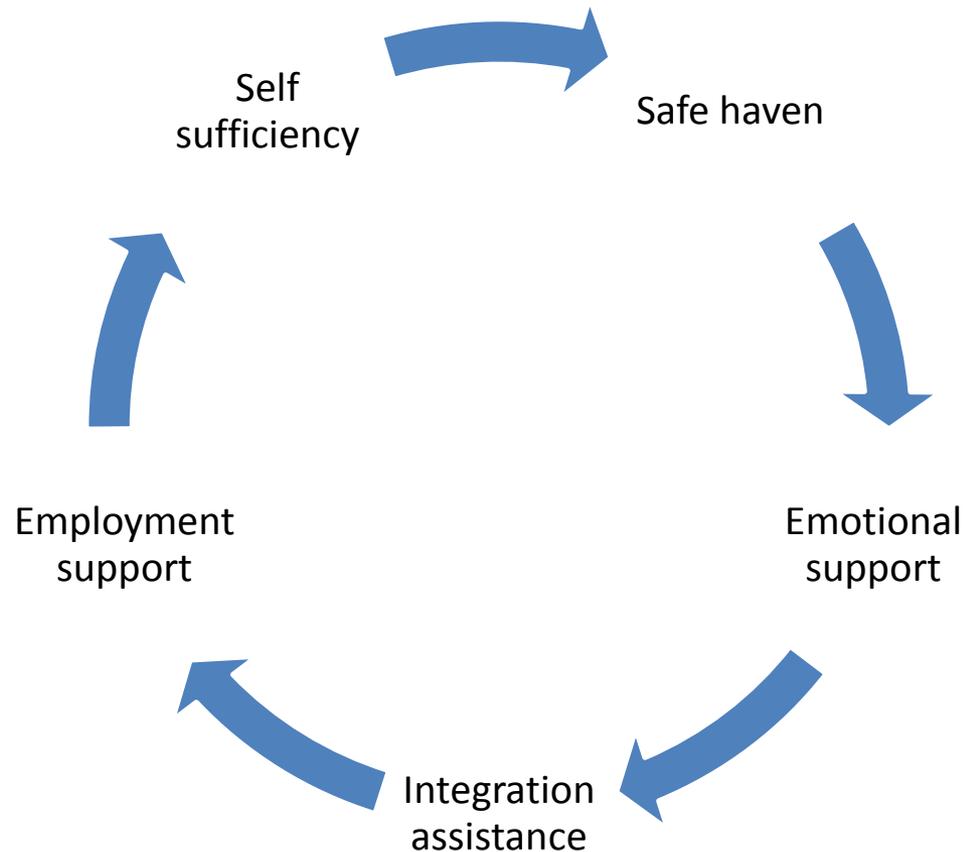


# What Are the Challenges of Resettlement?

**Families selected by UNHCR are those considered to be the most vulnerable**

- Forced to flee conflict most likely having lost homes and separated from loved ones
- Survivors of violence and torture with medical needs, often affecting both physical and mental health
- Face a steep learning curve to settle into a new country including a language barrier

# The Community Sponsor's Role



# What Does a Community Sponsor do?

## Community Sponsors will be responsible for:

- Pre-arrival planning such as making arrangements to meet the family at the airport in the UK;
- **Housing** arrangement for a minimum of **two years**;
- Providing wrap around **integration support** for **one year** facilitating access to medical, social services, education, as well as interpreters and English Language tuition provisions;
- On going assistance and support to encourage progression towards **integration**, employment and eventual **self-sufficiency**.

Community Sponsors may choose to provide support beyond this, according to the needs of the resettled family.

# Who Can Become a Community Sponsor?

The Resettlement Programme will **assess suitability** according to specific criteria.

The approval process is designed to establish that the prospective Sponsor:

- has **sufficient resources** (housing, financial and personnel) to support a resettled family;
- has **a credible plan** for supporting a resettled family, backed by relevant experience; and
- **does not present a risk** to the resettled family.

# What Criteria Must a Community Sponsor Meet?

Sponsoring organisations must have status as either:

- a registered charity with the appropriate Commission/Regulator; or
- a Community Interest Company, registered with Companies House.

# Sponsoring Organisations Must Have:

- **Experience**, or be working in partnership with people or organisations with experience in working with refugees or supporting vulnerable people
- **Funding** available of at least £9,000.
- Suitable and sustainable **accommodation** for a resettled family, and that it will be available for a resettled family to use for a minimum of two years.
- The written **consent** of the local authority in which they wish to operate.
- Robust **safeguarding** policy and procedures in place to ensure the suitability and good character of the people providing support for a resettled family.

# What Will the Resettlement Programme Do?

- Consider applications from community groups seeking approval to become community sponsors.
- Ensure that security checks are carried out on all individuals to be resettled in the UK.
- Arrange for the resettled family's visa and travel to the UK, and their Biometric Residence Permit on arrival.
- Work with the Sponsor and local authority to agree the allocation of a suitable family (note that sponsors are not able to identify or select a specific individual or group to sponsor).
- Arrange for the agreed family to arrive in the UK. The date of arrival will be agreed with the Community Sponsor.

# How Will Applications Be Assessed?

The Resettlement Programme will:

- Assess the **evidence** provided to ensure **resettlement plan and safeguarding provisions** are of a suitably high standard;
- Conduct **security checks** on the organisation and the lead Sponsor to verify suitability;
- Conduct **pre-approval visits** to meet the Sponsor and members of the community group, test credibility and detail of evidence provided and view the accommodation.

# What Support Is There for Sponsors After Approval?

The Resettlement Programme will:

- Invite Sponsors to attend an induction event on sponsorship prior to the arrival of their family
- Join the Sponsor and community group as they meet the family at the airport for the first time
- Conduct regular monitoring visits to both the Sponsor and the family for the duration of the sponsoring arrangement

# What is The Role of the Local Authority?

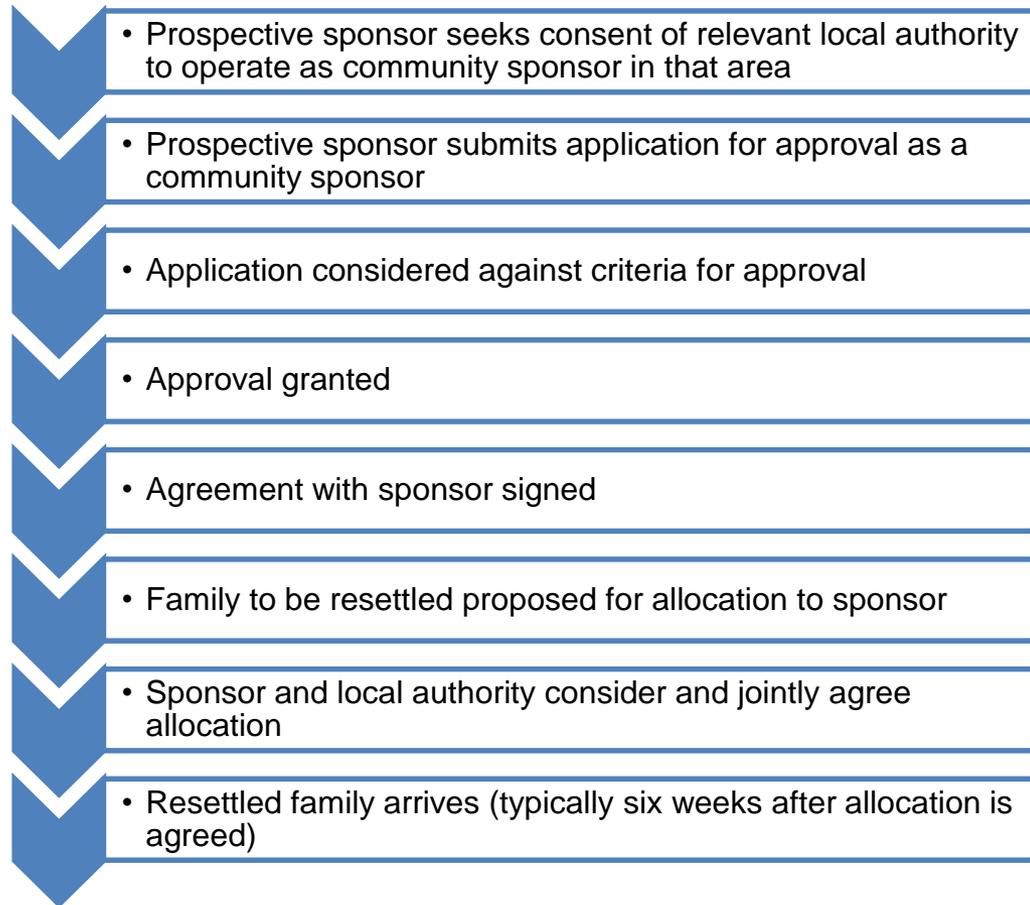
The local authority plays a key role throughout the application process and beyond

Prior to submitting an application, the local authority must give **consent** to a community group to operate as a Community Sponsor in that area

# What Might a Local Authority Consider ?

- Suitability of a particular community group to act as sponsor
- Capacity issues such as size, make up and requirements of a potential resettled family (location, school places)
- Specific health, medical and social care requirements
- Specific local issues relating to resettlement (danger of isolation or known local tensions)

# Summary - Approval Process



# Views from Community Sponsors

“The full community sponsorship scheme presents churches and other civil society groups with the opportunity to provide sanctuary to those fleeing war-torn places”

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby

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

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

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

# How to apply for approval as a community sponsor

Guidance for prospective sponsors covering the application process and an application forms and a sample agreement can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-full-community-sponsorship>

Further information on community sponsorship can be obtained by email from:

[communitysponsorship@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:communitysponsorship@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)