# Community Sponsorship in the UK

Communities and Refugees

**Building for Sustainability** 

NEST Symposium: 11 May 2021

#### CS in the UK



- A government programme enabling community groups to welcome refugees into local areas, and help them re-build their lives.
- Established in 2016, there are Groups in all regions and nations of the UK
- Over 100 families have been welcomed, with more applications in process.

"Community Sponsorship is about people with a heart, moved to act, and to see change."

Lisa Westlake, CHARIS Refugees

# What do UK CS Groups do? Communities and

Groups apply to the Home Office, are matched with a refugee family from the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programmes and support them from their arrival in UK. This includes:

- meeting the family at the airport,
- providing a warm welcome and orientation,
- arranging housing for 2 years,
- supporting access to medical and social services,
- organising language tuition,
- support towards employment and self-sufficiency for 1 year

#### What is Reset?



#### The UK's Community Sponsorship Learning Hub

- Training and providing support to groups
- Sharing what works and finding solutions to challenges
- Growing the movement spreading the word, engaging new partners and networks
- Working with the Home Office to refine and develop the Community Sponsorship scheme
- Working with academic partners to evaluate the impact of Community Sponsorship



#### **Towards Sustainability**

How to bring more people into the movement?

How to build a supportive policy landscape?

How to develop and grow the programme?

### Awareness Campaign



# COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP

Communities for refugees



#### Collaboration

- With policy makers in government
- With others across the resettlement and immigration sectors (eg, Families Together Campaign)
- With partners and friends within the Community Sponsorship movement



## Refine and Develop

- Streamline the application and sponsorship process
- Consider ways to adapt and develop the CS model for more situations and cohorts (eg, UASCs)
- Complementary Pathways?



# www.resetuk.org

#communitysponsorship



