

SPONSOR REFUGEES

COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP 101

How to become a community sponsor

TESTIMONIES

“As one of the first community sponsors in the UK, I can confirm that the experience has been completely transformative for my community. It has brought together different elements in our community in extraordinary ways. Whatever we have given has been returned ten-fold by the most remarkable, inspirational and resilient family I have ever met.”

Major Nick Coke, Raynes Park
Community Church in South West London

“We have no hesitation in the capacity of the community to be able to welcome refugee families to a place of sanctuary and safety.”

Olwen Thomas, the Croeso Abergwaun
Community Sponsorship group in West Wales

“It is giving grassroots, ordinary people responsibility for the entire journey that a refugee family goes on from the time they land at an airport in Britain through to them being completely resettled, integrated and happy.”

Sean Ryan, led the first ever Community
Sponsorship of refugees in the UK

YOU ARE WELCOME

You are about to embark on an incredible journey of sponsoring a refugee family and helping them resettle in the UK.

There are many milestones in the process, from applying to the Home Office and local councils to securing a house and raising money (£9,000 to be exact), and all of them are necessary steps to ensure a great start to the family's new life.

In this booklet, you will get a much clearer idea of what Community Sponsorship actually means and how you get from where you currently are to that day at the airport where you can finally welcome the family.

Importantly, Sponsor Refugees is there every step of the way to support and guide you when necessary.

We look forward to joining you on this life-transforming journey!



What is Community Sponsorship?

Community Sponsorship gives community groups the opportunity to resettle a refugee family in their local neighbourhood and to support them to build a new life in the UK.



United Kingdom



It's a community effort

Sponsoring a family changes not only the life of the resettled family but transforms the whole community.

We urge you to put great effort into establishing a strong core group which can prepare the wider community for their new neighbours.

That being said, it does not matter if you are an established group or you simply wish to make a difference in the world with your friends, colleagues or neighbours.



#RefugeesWelcome

THE SPONSORSHIP JOURNEY



Form a core group and find volunteers to help



Prepare and submit applications to your local council and the Home Office



Fundraise a minimum of £9,000



Secure a house for at least 2 years



Welcome a refugee family to your neighbourhood

6 months - 1 year



Show them around the local neighbourhood



Help them sign up for benefits, doctors, dentists etc.



Enrol the children in a local school



Assist with ESOL classes and general language skills



Enjoy the incredible times ahead

1 year

1. **Building a strong group**

Building a resilient core group is one of the first steps in the Community Sponsorship journey. We recommend you spend some time strengthening bonds and coming up with rules, mechanisms, and guidelines for how you will go about sponsorship.

2. **Preparing your applications**

Preparing your applications for the local council and the Home Office can be a challenging process. Fortunately, we have an online portal that will take you through every step.

3. **Fundraising**

Although £9,000 can sound like a lot of money, most groups have found this step to be much easier than one might think. We recommend you come up with fundraising events that involve the wider community.

4. **Securing a house**

You will need to find a landlord who accepts LHA rates and can offer tenancy of min. 2 years. The difficulty of finding one varies but it's never impossible. Depending on the size of the property, you will be matched with a family who fit.

5. **Welcome the family**

Prepare some colourful banners and meet the family at the airport and bring them to their new home.

6. **Show them around the neighbourhood**

Take out time to familiarise the family with their new home and identify all relevant amenities such as places of worship, supermarkets, bus routes etc.

7. **Help them sign up for services**

In the first weeks and months, you will need to help the family sign up for Universal Credit, visit the GP and dentist, open up bank accounts, etc.

8. **Ensure the children are in school**

Prior to the family's arrival, you will have found a school and secured a place. Now you need to make sure that they attend and are looked after.

9. **Assist with learning English**

Assist with English classes and conversation practice. All adults in the family must attend 8 hours of ESOL classes a week whether with a volunteer or at a local college.

10. **Enjoy the incredible times ahead**

Watch the family become one with your community. After 12 months of resettlement support, you will officially have reached the end of the sponsorship agreement.

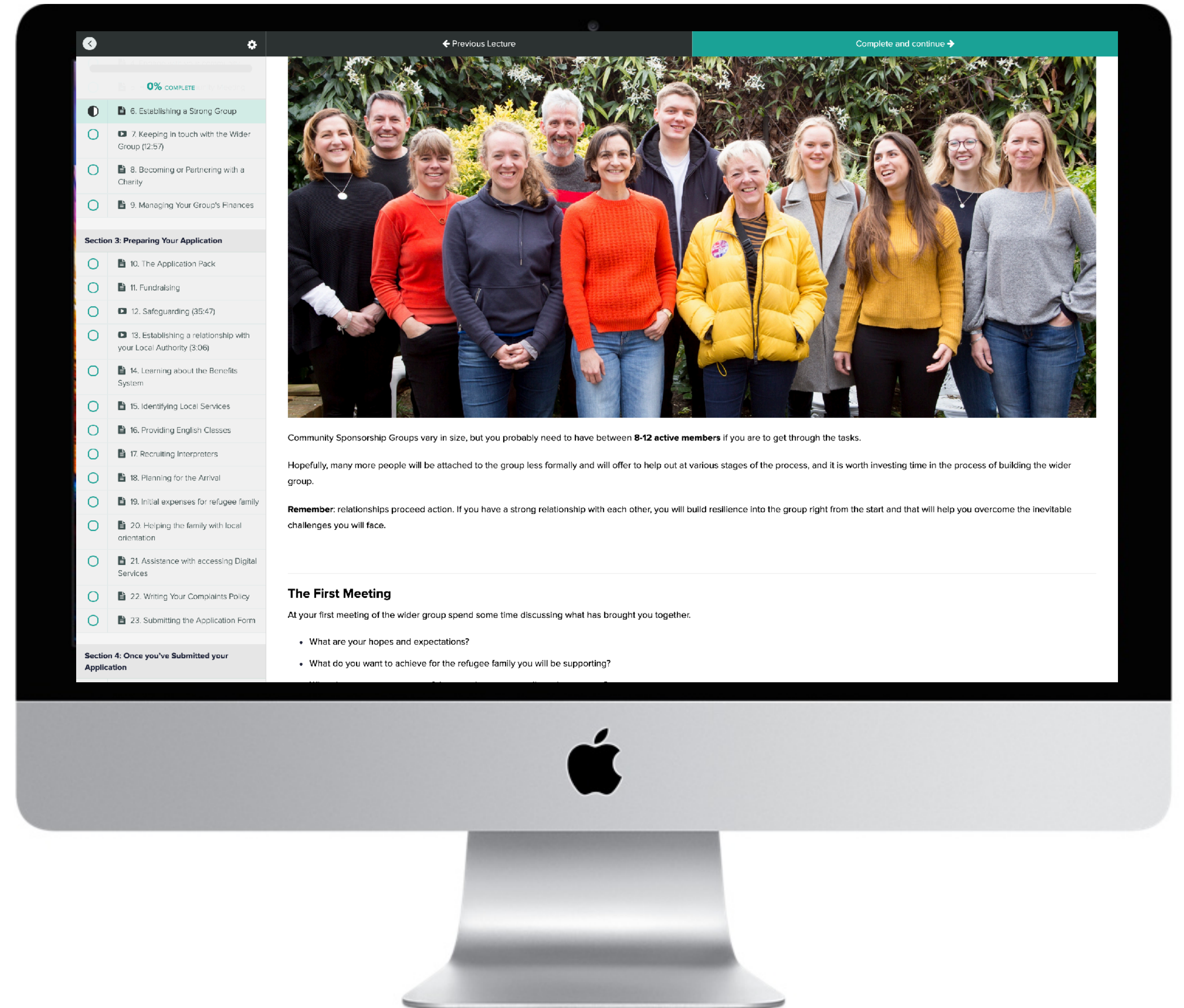
THE PORTAL

Sponsorship Made Simple

To help you and your group navigate this somewhat cumbersome process, we have built an easy-to-use online portal that will take you step by step from A-Z of Community Sponsorship.

It makes tasks easy to manage, responsibilities easy to distribute, and gives you access to all the information, resources and contacts you need to get your application through in record time.

There is no limit to how many group members can access the portal and we are at your service to answer any questions or requests whenever you need it.



CONTACT

Email

communitysponsorship@citizensuk.org

Website

<https://www.sponsorrefugees.org/>

Let's be social!



@sponsorrefugee



@sponsorrefugee



@Sponsor Refugees



@Sponsor Refugees

136 Cavell Street
London E1 2JA

