

Para	Remark	Source	Response Required
1.2	It is likely that a large family will be matched to the four bed property and will then be subject to the Benefit Cap. The group need to provide reassurance on how they will manage should the family receive less Housing Benefit than the rent charged for the period of the tenancy. (Noted that the church will make donation to make up shortfall, but is this sustainable?)	PT / KH	<p>The Home Office have confirmed that they would be able to identify an extended family e.g. a family with at least one adult child alongside younger children or a family with one or more grandparents or adult sibling in order to mitigate against the benefit cap. As adults can claim in their own right. This has already been done with Croeso Arberth (another community sponsorship supported by Citizens UK) and CP has spoken directly to the relevant Home Office staff who have confirmed this would be possible to replicate in Penarth (see Appendix 1). CP will also be encouraging one or more of the adults to gain employment of more than 16 hours a week. CP is confident that they will be able to identify part-time work opportunities for adults able to work.</p> <p>NB. It is Croeso Penarth that will make up any shortfall, not the church.</p>

1.7	<p>1. DHP's are awarded subject to a financial assessment, and are therefore discretionary.</p> <p>How does the CS Group propose to meet any shortfall resulting from reduced Housing Benefit and Discretionary Housing Payments? And is this sustainable for the period of the tenancy?</p> <p>What is meant by 'alternative funding'?</p>	<p>PT</p> <p>EM</p>	<p>CP would also apply for short term Discretionary Housing Payment but understand that this is only a Stop Gap. If there is still a shortfall in regards of payment of the rent then CP will fundraise in order to make the necessary payments. Fund raising by CP has been very successful – we have already raised over £15,000 for this project and in addition we have offers of additional monthly donations from numerous individuals specifically to address any monthly shortfall. Therefore, CP considers that this is sustainable for the period of the tenancy. Please note that is Croeso Penarth, not the Church, which will be making up this shortfall.</p> <p>By alternative funding we mean fundraising and monthly donations as specified above.</p>
1.8	<p>Has there been any opposition from other residents to the resettlement plan? What has been the feedback from the wider community?</p>	EM	<p>There is widespread support for the Croeso Penarth initiative. Our fundraising events over the last year have engaged over 600 people</p>

		<p>and demonstrated huge community support for this project. Local businesses have supplied funding or publicised our events, including; The Paget Rooms, Lily the Florist, Thompson Butchers, Hamptons, Griffin Book Shop, Ann Morgan Jewellery, No socks again. Artisans Corner, Frangoulis, Umpa Lumpa Sweet shop, PenarthTimes, Lush's, Ocho Lounge, Fauvette, Sainsburys, Polka Dot D'or. In addition to this all the local churches have been supportive in fundraising and reaching out for volunteers. Churches include: All Saints, St Augustines, Tabernacle, Salvation Army, The Methodist Churches, Stanwell Road Baptist Church, St Joseph Roman Catholic Church, The Quakers.</p> <p>On top of this there have been dozens of individuals and other groups who have supported us practically in the preparation of the application and Resettlement Plan – it has been a true</p>
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			<p>community effort.</p> <p>We have checked with the local police and councillors to gain their support and identify if there are any issues in the local area, and none have been reported.</p> <p>We are not aware of any resistance from local residents. Should this be brought to our attention we have been offered training from Citizens UK and Sponsor Refugees in how to deal with this appropriately, based on experience in six other Community Sponsorship schemes.</p>
1.9	Electrical items will need to be PAT tested. Who will carry this out?	EM	All electrical items will be PAT tested by a qualified electrician.
1.11	<p>1. Is the person referred to licensed to be a letting agent with Rent Smart Wales?</p> <p>2. A landlord must be registered with Rent Smart Wales – is this person registered as a Letting Agent as that will also be required – see above comment</p>	<p>PT</p> <p>PT</p>	<p>Yes, one of our lead co-ordinators is licensed to be a letting agent with Rent Smart Wales. The landlord The Church in Wales Property Department is registered as a landlord with Rent Smart Wales.</p>

1.14	<p>1. This seems harsh to impose on someone in what will be their own home. Will they be evicted if they smoke in the property?</p> <p>2. Will the group report any serious health and safety incidents to the Home Office within 24 hours, as a 'case of interest'?</p>	<p>PT</p> <p>EM</p>	<p>1. The no smoking policy mentioned in this section refers to the UK legislation on no smoking in public places etc. The family will be permitted to smoke in the house.</p> <p>2. We contacted the Home Office to clarify this request. The Home Office do not require us to report serious health and safety issues regarding the property. However, they do require us to report incidents relating to health and safety of one or more of the resettled family. We are in receipt of their guidance on developing a procedure for reporting sensitive issues. See Appendix 1.</p>
2.11	The grocery pack should be available in advance of the family's arrival.	EM	We confirm a grocery pack will be available in advance of the family's arrival
2.12	How and who in the Group will provide household budgeting advice?	EM	One of our volunteers is a former tax inspector and experienced in finance, the benefits system and budgeting, and will

			<p>provide face to face training and support for the family, alongside the First Friends Group. In addition the First Friends Group will create a suggested written budgeting plan for the family prior to arrival. This will be updated on a regular basis when costs change.</p> <p>This is an area in which the buddy family can provide support.</p>
3.2	<p>The school admission process can happen in partnership with the local authority.</p> <p>It would be helpful for applications to be made before the children arrive to ensure there are school places available, especially as school places are extremely limited in the Penarth cluster.</p>	MC	<p>The local authority will be present with us at the matching panel and involved in selecting the family, so this should resolve this issue. Once the make up of the family is known and the ages of the children we shall make an application for school places to the Authority in advance of their arrival.</p> <p>We are aware that places may be limited.</p>
3.26	<p>How are the group able to offer education support in terms of in class support to develop English language acquisition?</p>	MC	<p>The Home Office provides financial support direct to the local authority to provide LSA support in schools. In addition CP have amongst their Team</p>

			ESOL trained people and volunteers experienced in supporting children in school with English as a foreign language and who are willing to provide on a volunteer basis extra support in school. This might also mitigate against any lack of MEAG funding in the future.
3.3	<p>The process is to contact the LA if the LA is in charge of schools' admissions.</p> <p>When schools are in charge of their own admissions then it is helpful to contact the schools directly.</p> <p>The way forward would be to contact the LA in the first instance.</p>	MC	<p>Yes we understand this and will follow this procedure</p> <p>We have already been in contact with the schools that handle their own admissions and advised them that this family will be arriving. We confirm that we shall contact the LA in the first instance.</p>
3.4	<p>Families in this programme do not get special dispensation in terms of admissions.</p> <p>If the catchment school is full, then there is a need for partnership working with the admissions team.</p>	MC	Yes we understand this.
3.6	<p>With the exception of Faith Schools, all school applications must be made through the Local Authority Admissions Team (AT). The availability of school places changes frequently, so there is no guarantee that the identified spaces will be available once the application has been approved by the HO. It is suggested that an up-to-date assessment is carried out once the application has been approved by the AT, and this information is used to match an appropriate case referral.</p>	TD	This is fine by Croeso Penarth.
2.3	<p><b>Further issue raised in the meeting</b></p> <p>A concern was raised about publicity and media and the level of engagement with the local authority around that.</p>		A wide-ranging discussion was had about this, in which the Council expressed concerns

		<p>about community cohesion and safeguarding in the context of media work. Citizens/Croeso expressed the importance of civil society leadership of community sponsorship, of the need to be able to share positive stories, and the rigorous protocol with the Home Office.</p> <p>It was agreed that we would start from the baseline that it was a good idea for refugee families to be able to share their stories if they wished, and that the Croeso groups, Citizens and the Councils would proactively seek out opportunities to do this within the framework and protocol permitted by the Home Office. We would do this prior to making a formal proposal to the Home Office, allowing for any concerns re safeguarding etc to be factored in well in advance. Jonathan Cox, as Lead Sponsor, will lead on media work for the Croeso groups, and all enquiries will be run through him in the first instance.</p>
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