

# St Monica's Refugee Sponsorship Group

## Action Update June 2016

*"...Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." John 3*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GROUP ESTABLISHED</b></p> <p>The St Monica's Refugee Sponsorship Group has been Established, with 40+ volunteers offering 20+ skills and services.</p> <p>Our Core Group features five teams, each with its own leader, providing support across five specialist areas.</p> <p>Caritas Salford will support and indemnify the parish at all times as our 'Lead Sponsor'.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MET WITH GOVERNMENT</b></p> <p>The Group has met with the Home Office on three occasions.</p>  <p>The Group has submitted a detailed 63-page Resettlement Plan. The Home Office considers us the best prepared Sponsor in the UK. We hope to be welcoming a refugee family by September.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MET WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES</b></p> <p>The Group has met with Kate Green MP, Trafford Council and the NW Strategic Migration Partnership. All have been impressed by our plans to house and resettle a refugee family in Flixton. Trafford Council has agreed in principle to support our pilot, including with regard to school places and healthcare.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FUNDS RAISED</b></p> <p>A magnificent effort from parishioners and friends of St Monica's School and Parish, with nearly £9,000 raised and almost £400 in Standing Orders pledged. Fund raising activities include sponsored silence, sponsored bike ride to Blackpool, sleep-overs and an 80's night Disco. Many more activities are planned!!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HOME FOUND</b></p> <p>Working with St Vincent's Housing Association:</p>  <p>An offer has been accepted on the purchase of a suitable family home in Flixton. Donations of furniture, kitchen appliances, clothing and bedding are being stored locally free of charge.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUPPORT IN PLACE</b></p> <p>Our detailed planning and preparation has involved meetings and discussion with Caritas Salford, Trafford LEA, GPs, dental surgeries, local Colleges, Job Centre Plus, mental health Providers, banks, Arabic Interpreters, the local mosque, Syrian community groups And many other bodies. We will have the benefit Of all their support and expertise.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WHAT NEXT?</b></p> <p>We are now awaiting Home Office approval of our Pilot Sponsorship application. The process has been Instructive, and we will continue learning from experience. We hope to establish a successful model, and become a lead in supporting other parishes to become Community Sponsors in the future.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WANT TO GET INVOLVED?</b></p> <p>Come to the next Group Meeting. See the Parish Newsletter for details. Keep updated of the Group's Action Via the Parish website:</p> <p><a href="http://www.stmonicasflixton.com/refugee-crisis">http://www.stmonicasflixton.com/refugee-crisis</a>. Donate and Gift Aid your contributions, (envelopes available at the back of church).</p>	