Summary of Community Sponsorship Group Constitution

Purpose

Having a formal constitution may appear bureaucratic and unnecessary for a voluntary group, however its purpose outlines its value and importance:

- Your shared goal as a Community Sponsorship Group
- How you operate as a group and manage finances
- Clarifies a group's voluntary capacity and not for profit
- Accountability to conduct yourselves openly and fairly

Summary of Constitution Content

About Our Group

We are local people who formed a Community Sponsorship Group to help an individual or refugee family settle in our community. Our group provides practical support and friendship to the beneficiary(ies) as they start their new life here in Ireland for a period of 18 months.

What We Aim to Achieve

We aim to help an individual or refugee family feel safe, welcome, and able to build a happy, independent life in our community.

How We Support an Individual or Family

- Finding a suitable home.
- Support them in learning English and finding work.
- Help enrol children in local schools.
- Connecting beneficiary(ies) with important local services such as health, transport, and community networks.
- Raise money to support beneficiary(ies) with essential costs such as food, clothing, healthcare, and education.
- Respect their culture while helping them feel part of our society.

Who Can Join a Community Sponsorship Group

Anyone aged 18 or over who lives legally in Ireland and wants to support refugees can join. Members commit to treating everyone with equality, dignity, and respect.

How Decisions Are Made

- We have a committee that manages the group's activities, including the Chairperson, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- Decisions are made democratically, with members voting at regular meetings (with an annual general meeting once a year).
- Members can attend meetings or vote remotely.

Managing Our Finances

- Our funds are only used to directly help the individual or refugee family.
- The Treasurer oversees finances, with checks to ensure responsible spending.
- All financial records are transparent and available to members.
- Big expenses must be approved in writing by more than one committee member.
- No one in the group earns money from this work.

Changing Our Constitution

Our constitution can be changed only if at least 75% of members agree.

If the Community Sponsorship Group Closes

If our group closes, any remaining money goes to a relevant charity.