



# **SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL**

# **SHARE NETWORK CONFERENCE**

**21 – 22 OCTOBER 2013**





# SHEFFIELD THE CITY

- Fourth largest city in the UK
- Population of 550,000 and growing
- 2001 became a dispersal city for asylum seekers
- 2004 first UK city to participate in Gateway Protection Programme
- 2007 became first UK City of Sanctuary



# THE SHARE DELEGATIONS

- October 2012 – 6 delegates from Germany
- February 2013 – 12 multi national media delegates
- March 2013 – 16 delegates from Sweden
- April 2013 – 7 delegates from Germany
- May 2013 – 6 delegates from Finland
- June 2013 – 9 delegates from the Czech republic
- July 2013 – 10 from Austria and Poland
- September 2013 – 10 from Belgium and Netherlands and 7 from France





# THE SHARE PROGRAMME

- Two day programme for each visit
- Day one morning involved presentations from Gateway Partners in Sheffield, including local authority, Health and Education, and presentations from the visiting delegates.
- Day one afternoon included visits to schools, health clinic, conversation clubs, drop in sessions, Northern Refugee Centre advice service, properties, City of Sanctuary etc.
- Evening civic reception in Town Hall



# THE SHARE PROGRAMME

- Second day involved visits to other Gateway programmes and partnerships in the UK, namely Hull, Bradford and North West cities.
- Local authorities, Refugee Council, Refugee Action and Horton Housing Association were all involved in planning and running these visits.
- Day one afternoon and day two activities were tailored to meet the specified requirements of the delegates



# PLANNING FOR VISITS

- Worked with ICMC to understand any specific activities or organisations delegates wanted including in the visits
- Developed a bespoke programme for afternoon of first day and second day, with all involved in presentations on first morning and civic reception
- Learning from earlier visits helped shape later visits



# BENEFITS FOR SHEFFIELD

- Opportunity to share our learning and promote the benefits of partnership working.
- Some landlords were directly involved in some of the visits, chance to understand more about refugee resettlement
- Gave some smaller VCF organisations the opportunity to promote the work they do with refugees



# LEARNING FROM THE VISITS

- That it is important for countries and cities to do resettlement in a way that suits them, no one ‘right’ model
- The Save Me campaign is an excellent model of supporting refugees and communities on the ground
- Specific employment projects achieve results
- Provision of housing isn’t just a challenge in Sheffield



# THOUGHTS FOR THE FUTURE

- Would be great if UK increased the quota to 1000 refugees p/a
- Important to keep up dialogue between cities and share knowledge and experience, both what works well and what doesn't.
- Sheffield keen to be involved in any discussions about the future of the SHARE programme