

Scenarios

Below are two scenarios based on real life incidents (names have been changed) showing how community sponsorship groups supported families in dealing with the school regarding bullying:

Scenario 1

Karim, a 10 year old refugee child from Iraq, was resettled in the UK with his family under Community Sponsorship. The family was resettled in a small rural village in England and when Karim started his primary school, he was the only non-white child in the school. Karim found it hard to make friends as he couldn't speak much English and after a few weeks he started to be picked on by other children; they called him names and excluded him from games in the playground.

Karim's parents were very upset about what was happening and raised their concerns about the bullying with the Community Sponsorship group who suspected that the bullying Karim was experiencing might be racially motivated. With the help of their group, Karim's parents recorded what had happened, wrote a letter to the school and arranged a meeting with the Head Teacher. Although the school recognised the bullying, the parents and the group felt that the school were not dealing with it effectively and were concerned that the racially motivated aspect of the behaviour was not being taken seriously. The group supported Karim's parents to follow the schools' complaints procedure and contacted Stop Hate UK for advice.

Scenario 2

Alia, a 15 year old refugee child from Syria, was resettled in the UK with a family under Community Sponsorship. Halfway through her first year in a new UK secondary school, her parents were asked to come in to talk to the school about some aggressive behaviour that Alia had been displaying towards her classmates. The school deemed her behaviour to be bullying.

The parents informed the Community Sponsorship group who advised them to speak to Alia to find out what had been happening. When talking with Alia it became clear that she was



struggling with the change in school culture, and from being uprooted from her home country, but it also transpired that she was lashing out in retaliation for being bullied herself. The school had not picked up on this and the group helped the parents to record what had happened and explain the situation to the school so that it could be addressed, and helped Alia access better support from the school.