

London Strategic Migration Partnership

Minutes of the London Strategic Migration Partnership meeting

3 July 2012

9 -11am

City Hall

CR3

Present

MM	Munira Mirza (Chair)	Deputy Mayor of London
BR	Beryll Randall	Third Sector Alliance
SA	Simin Azimi	MRAP
DH	Derek Harvey	JCP
DC	Donna Covey	Refugee Council
HH	Hugh Harris	London First
JO	Joseph Oladosu	MRAP
MH	Mubin Haq	Trust for London
JS	Judith Smyth	Regional Association of Colleges

Apologies:

LH	Laurie Heselden	SERTUC
KC	Kate Carr	UK Border Agency
SW	Commander Stephen Watson	MPS
ST	Sindi Tepzda	MRAP
VL	Val Lowman	BeOnesite
PP	Paul Plant	NHS London
MP	Cllr Marie Pye	London Councils
RB	Richard Bell	SFA

GLA:

TD	Terry Day	Diversity &Social Policy
JL	James Lee	Immigration and Asylum
RS	Roudy Shafie	Immigration and Asylum
AM	Amna Mahmoud	Immigration and Asylum
NS	Nasra Salah	Diversity &Social Policy

In attendance

TR	Tim Riley	CESI
PL	Pippa Lane	CESI
LD	Liz Davidson	UKBA

1. Welcome and apologies

1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and confirmed that she will chair the LSMP and noted apologies.

1.2 **MM** commended Richard Barnes, the previous chair for his dedication to the group

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

2.1 Minutes of the last meeting of 05 March 2012 were agreed as an accurate record

2.2 matters arising: The report on the London Advice Watch which Trust for London undertook with Legal Action Group and launched in January 2012 was circulated to members

3. Chair's update

3.1 **MM** reported that the Mayor's priorities for this Mayoralty are economic growth and job creation, young people, transport and greening London.

3.2 **MM** updated on the education enquiry and its expansion to look at the reasons for migrants' competitive advantages in some sectors, which he mentioned in his Daily Telegraph article in May. The Chair indicated that the article has been incorrectly interpreted by some and suggested it be circulated again to the group. **SA** highlighted Don Flynn's analysis of the article on the Guardian website and suggested it also be circulated.

3.3 Members noted that unemployment is also high among young Londoners from refugees and migrant backgrounds. Chair noted this as an important point.

Action 1: Mayor's Daily Telegraph article and Don Flynn's comment piece to be circulated to LSMP members for accuracy.

4. Creating English language learning opportunities - feasibility study

4.1 **JL** reported on the identified NIACE models to meet the specific needs of refugee and migrant learners in London, particularly those who have been adversely affected by Skills Funding Agency changes for 2011.

- School-based provision for adults with low levels of English language and literacy
- Using technology to support English language learning
- Volunteer-led English language learning for social integration

4.2. **MM** welcomed the three models and their viability in the current climate. She indicated that there are English classes for parents already attached to the Mayor's academies.

4.3 members made the following comments:

- Using technology may not meet the needs of all learners
- Emphasis on the quality for volunteer-led model including the challenges of Criminal Records Bureau checks (CRB), training and monitoring

- Many supplementary schools run English language classes for adults but face pressures in having to pay to use the public buildings such as state schools.
- Accessibility still an issue
- The needs of higher level learners to be considered (e.g. for professional requalification)
- Creating practical opportunities for the learners to practise the acquired skills
- An information portal for London on access to language training would be beneficial
- The strategic lead of the GLA on ESOL was appreciated

MM noted the comments but clarified that the GLA does not have powers for resourcing ESOL. The GLA however would continue to share best practice (such as parent classes in the academies) and look at opportunities in its other programmes such as Team London

The board agreed the report recommendations.

5. English language and routes to employment analysis

5.1 Tim Riley and Pippa Lane from CESI presented the findings of the GLA-commissioned analysis on SFA funded English language provision for jobseekers in London.

5.2 **MM** noted the importance of improving communication between service providers and teaching institutions to increase good practice.

5.3 Members made the following comments:

- The practice of moving learners to colleges half-way through their training courses with voluntary providers was seen as damaging to learning outcomes
- **DH** commented that if learners needed long courses they would be referred onto Training Allowances. Unlike JCP, Work Programme could retain client for up to a year. He added that JCP signpost learners to voluntary organisations but doesn't directly refers them.
- The need for in-work ESOL was highlighted
- There is a need for condensed courses
- A query was raised with regards to measuring success and whether a baseline could be obtained.

Action 2: DH to discuss report and its recommendations at the next JCP district managers and SFA forum.

Action 3: GLA officers to set up a workshop to promote best practice of joint working at local level between JCP, colleges, other ESOL providers.

Action 4: MM to send a copy of the reports to the Minister of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning and Minister for Employment.

Action 5: GLA officers to explore how the GLA baseline of refugees in London could be used

6. Report back on LSMP project for assisting new refugees to access mainstream services: *Transition Services for New refugees in London*

6.1 TD presented the progress of the *Transition Services for New refugees in London* project. UKBA, Jobcentre Plus, London's Sub-Regional Housing Partnerships, the Refugee Council and Clearel Ltd. (the provider of UKBA funded accommodation for asylum-seekers in London) produced a statement of multi-agency services for people making the transition from asylum-seeker to refugee to ensure that refugees have good access to relevant services, through improved coordination, information and signposting.

6.3 Members made the following comments:

- the lead responsibility for providing National Insurance cards is still unclear
- An annual review to keep information up to date should be carried out

TD clarified that the GLA has no plans to monitor or update the project because of the reduced resources but considered an annual review. She also added that MRAP could feedback.

TD suggested that **LD** and **BR** to feedback to the National Working Group.

The document was endorsed.

Action 6: **LD** to report back from UKBA on the National Insurance card query

7. Report back on LSMP project to improve asylum decision making: *Right First Time*

7.1 RS Presented the outcome of the project which produced a number of practical suggestions for improving communication on asylum claims. The report was sent to UKBA for action. The contribution of both Asylum aid and UKBA staff were noted.

LD informed members that UKBA welcomed the report and is seeking to implement the recommendations where appropriate. UKBA are meeting with the GLA and Asylum Aid on the 27th July to feedback on how they will implement the recommendations. .

LD also informed members of the re-structuring within the UKBA which would be implemented from September to March 2012.

Action 7: **LD** to provide details of the new structure for circulation as soon as available and give an update on UKBA stakeholder engagement on regional partnerships at the next meeting.

8. Year 3 Business Plan – item for information

TD brought the attention of the members to the LSMP business plan for 2012/13

9. Items from Mayor's Refugee and Migrant Advisory Panel: List of accepted ID documents for CRB checks

9.1 SA reported that some refugees or migrants may not have the full documentations required by the CRB on their new list of admissible documentation.

Action 8: LD to provide a list of possible documents that could be added to CRB check, and the Mayor to write to Theresa May, Home Secretary and Minister for Women and Equalities to consider these documents

10. AOB

- Richard Bell emailed SFA endorsement of the English language and routes to employment analysis Report.

Next meeting 29 November 2012, 3pm to 5pm at City Hall, CR 3