

Minutes of the London Strategic Migration Partnership, March 2018

Chair

Matthew Ryder LSMP Chair; Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement

Attendees

Mark Winterburn, London Councils

Rita Chadha Representative, Migrant & Refugee Advisory Panel (MRAP)

Anne-Marie Pickup, Home Office

Claire Laizans, ILPA

Sarah Lyall, Communities and Social Policy

Sarah Mulley, Communities and Social Policy

Hannah Boylan, Communities and Social Policy

Giuliana Tucker, Communities and Social Policy

Vivienne Avery, GLA Intelligence

Anita Hurrell, Citizenship and Integration Initiative

Apologies

Cllr Sarah Hayward London Councils

Paul Morrison Home Office

Mulat Haregot, Representative, Migrant & Refugee Advisory Panel (MRAP)

1. Welcome & Introduction

1.1 Chair, Matthew Ryder welcomed attendees to the meeting and invited all attendees to introduce themselves

1.2 Matthew Ryder noted that minutes of the previous meeting are awaiting final approval and will be published online in due course.

2. Home office Update

2.1 Anne-Marie Pickup provided an update on resettlement, noting the Home Office immigration statistics were published the previous week and showed that the UK resettled over 10,000 refugees since September 2017.

2.2 Anne-Marie provided an update specifically on community sponsorship. Noting that the number of refugees resettled through the community sponsorship programme have not yet been announced by the Home Office, but that approximately 9 organisations in London are community sponsors. Anne-Marie noted that the UK is seen as a leader on resettlement of refugees.

2.3 Anne-Marie welcomed the LSMP's support in discussing how boroughs can continue to be ambitious in their resettlement aims

2.4 Matthew requested data to identify existing refugee and asylum pressures on local authorities that could inform this discussion

2.5 Anne-Marie noted that response to the UASC Funding review is still underway. London is hosting a large proportion of UASC.

2.6 Matthew noted that many in London would want to see more refugees resettled and asked about the challenges in unlocking greater funding, access to affordable accommodation, and the impact of the benefit cap.

Action – Add resettlement in London to next LSMP agenda and invite Nicola Marven to speak, to discuss pledges and the other asylum and refugee related pressures on local authorities, and the post-2020 resettlement system

3. Accommodation and Support contracts

- 3.1 Anne-Marie updated the partnership that a new contract is being put out to tender for Asylum Accommodation and Support provision.
- 3.2 Members discussed the move-on period and integration support that is offered to asylum seekers and refugees.

4. SI Strategy

- 4.1 Sarah Lyall summarised the Mayor’s soon to be published social integration strategy, highlighting its relevance to LSMP’s work. Sarah explained that the strategy presents a new definition for social integration which is not just about ethnicity and immigration status but goes beyond that to look at age and class amongst other things.
- 4.2 Sarah also noted that an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy will be launched later this year
- 4.3 Anita Hurrell introduced the Citizenship and Integration Initiative (CII) and their focus on young Londoners accessing their citizenship rights.
- 4.4 Hannah presented new ESOL Plus programme for which applications open shortly. The first year of the programme will target ESOL for those in employment, and those with childcare responsibilities.
- 4.5 Members discussed the importance of migrants and refugees being able to access their legal rights and the place based focus of work on regeneration and sport.

Action: Provide a link between GLA and the central government Integration team to discuss both integration strategies

5. European Londoners

- 5.1 Claire Laizans from ILPA presented research on European Londoners who are at risk of marginalisation post-Brexit. She highlighted:
 - 5.1.1 Those who might be ineligible, primarily third country nationals reliant on EU Treaty Rights such as Zambrano carers
 - 5.1.2 Those who can’t evidence their rights, particularly people who don’t have documents such as retirees, carers, victims of domestic violence.
 - 5.1.3 Those who won’t apply – reports of people being unsure about whether and when they have to apply, people scared to apply or who mistrust the government.
- 5.2 In addition to these three categories there will be people who face barriers to applying including language barriers, lack of administrative capacity or digital exclusion.
- 5.3 Mark Winterburn updated that London Councils were working in partnership with the GLA to deliver an event for London boroughs to share information and best practice on local authorities supporting European residents. This event would also raise gaps in funding for local authorities to undertake proactive work.

Action – Progress update at the next meeting on European Londoners work

6. Demography and data – Vivienne Avery

6.1 Vivienne Avery provided an update on the most recent immigration statistics, including data on migrant rough sleepers. Members discussed the lags in data and the availability of London specific data, the classification of EEA, EU, and EU other used in different data sets.

7. Grenfell Update

- 7.1 The LSMP would invite representatives from Home Office to future meetings to discuss undocumented survivors of Grenfell and to monitor how survivors move through the immigration system in future years, recognising the concerns of stakeholders about how this process would work.
- 7.2 Matthew provided an update on his contact with the Home Office, and requested an update on visas for family members who are supporting survivors of the fire and who may be designated as core participants to the inquiry
- 7.3 Members discussed the risk that there were survivors who feared coming forward due to the risk of enforcement action being taken, and what assurances could be made to those who come forward to the policy in good faith and meet the spirit but not necessarily the letter of the policy.
- 7.4 Members discussed any ongoing immigration application fees that were applicable for survivors or their families that could limit their access to support.

8. AOB

Action – Mark Winterburn will circulate an update on London Council's NRPF work.