

MAYOR OF LONDON

London Strategic Migration Partnership

Minutes of the London Strategic Migration Partnership

10am – 12pm

13 March 2014

City Hall, CR5

Present

MM	Munira Mirza	Deputy Mayor of London (Chair)
RB	Richard Bell	Skills Funding Agency
IA	Iman Achara	MRAP
DW	David Warner	London Funders
SA	Simin Azimi	MRAP
MJ	Matthew Jaffa	London Federation of Small Businesses
ER	Eithne Rynne	LVSC
PT	Paul Tucker	JCP
VL	Val Lowman	BeOnsite
PD	Paul D'Silva	Home Office Immigration Enforcement
LK	Lela Kogbara	NRPF (Islington Council)
ND	Nicola Dandridge	Universities UK
MWR	Maurice Wren	Refugee Council
PC	Philip Clifford	London Councils
MWE	Mike Wells	UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI)

In attendance

OC	Ollie Carlisle	Interventions and Sanctions Directorate , HO
BJ	Balvinder Jutla	Interventions and Sanctions Directorate , HO
DR	Dragana Radavonovic	Work placement from the Serbian government
KM	Kirsten Macfarlane	Home Office UK Visa and Immigration Service
AL	Andrew Lawton	Refugee Council
MF	Mike Forrest	UK Visas and Immigration
HT	Hong Tan	NHS England
TD	Terry Day	GLA
JL	James Lee	GLA
RS	Roudy Shafie	GLA
AM	Amna Mahmoud	GLA

Apology

SW	Stephen Watson	MPS
SD	DSU Stuart Dark	MPS
DF	Doug Flight	London Councils
FB	Fariha Bhatti	MRAP
MW	Judith Smyth	Deputy Director in the Regional AoC team
JD	John Dickie	London First
PW	Paul Wylie	Home Office Immigration Enforcement (HOIE)
PP	Paul Plant	NHS London
LH	Laurie Heselden	SERTUC

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ND

Nicola Dandridge

Universities UK

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting including David Warner the new representative of London Funders and noted apologies

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

2.1. Minutes of the last meeting of 14 November 2013 agreed as an accurate record

2.2. Matters arising from the last meeting:

2.2.1 Page 2 (action 1) - Deputy Mayor, Kit Malthouse, wrote to the then immigration Minister asking for justification for the police registration requirement or its removal. A copy of the letter has been circulated. Reply has not been received yet

2.2.2 Page 3 (action 2 and 3)- the LSMP working group is reporting back under agenda item 5
Page 4 (action 4) - GLA to coordinate input of London stakeholders' into priorities of the Home Office for the next round of EU Migration and Integration Fund

3. Chair's update

3.1. The Chair gave a note of thanks to Kit Malthouse, Deputy Mayor for Business and Enterprise for acting as interim chair.

3.2. **GLA European Integration Fund bid for English language support in schools -**

The GLA has secured £1.5m of funding from the European Integration Fund and match funded with £500,000 from the GLA London School Excellence Fund

The project aims to improve the quality of teaching provision for non-EU pupils in primary and secondary schools and to improve the English of non-EU mothers and their involvement in school

3.3. 10 projects have been allocated funds. The final signing of the grants is expected before announcing the projects

3.4. Members suggested visiting the projects or ask them to present to the LSMP

4. An overview of last year's achievements and priorities for next year

4.1 Roudy Shafie, Principal Policy Officer at the GLA gave an overview of the outcomes & key achievements of the LSMP business plan for 2013/14 and the presented the draft objectives for 2014/15

4.2 Hong Tan informed members about the research they have commissioned on needs assessment in the removal centres with views that the issues are to be integrated into the Clinical Commissioning Groups work. The Office of CCGs London is supportive

4.3 Andrew Lawton gave an update on the Transition Service Statement for newly recognised Refugees. The project is being held back by the lack of engagement and contact person from the newly restructured UKVI asylum team.

4.4 Members comments were an ongoing need for better media representation of refugees and migrants, as well as coordination of English language providers across London.

5. LSMP project to improve compliance on preventing illegal working

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- 5.1. Roudy Shafie summarised the GLA support to the Home Office on this agenda by hosting 2 interactive workshops for SMEs which was hosted by PWC Legal. Employers lack of understanding of status documents was identified as the main barrier to Rights to Work Checks
- 5.2. Andrew Lawton of the Refugee Council reported back on behalf of the working group The LSMP working group which made recommendations on more sustainable ways to support small businesses with carrying out status checks.
- 5.3. Mike Wells responded for the Home Office. He welcomed the report and reiterated that preventing illegal working is an important but complex agenda involving many part of the organisation.

Action1: Mike Wells to pull together relevant Home Office colleagues to meet with the LSMP working group and discuss options in delivery of the recommendations

6. GLA/UKVI SME visa help pilot project: initial findings and recommendations

6.1 Kirsten Mcfarlane from UKVI presented the initial findings of the evaluation of the three month pilot which was launched on 23 September 2013 on the GLA website. The webpage offered extra help for Small and Medium Businesses in navigating Home Office visa sponsorship processes. The pilot was extended by a further month and ended on 28 February 2014

6.2 Km summarised the findings

- Characterisation and targeting of 'SMEs' proved difficult
- Toolkit & Helpline received positively by users & stakeholders. However, the very low level of participation in the customer satisfaction surveys made measurement difficult.
- A clear desire for simple access to UKVI information and contacts was identified
- Much of this feedback supports wider change in UKVI

UKVI will extract those elements which point to further action or refinement of existing activities and develop a plan, subject to agreement with Ministers. The final evaluation will be circulated to members

7 Home Office Immigration Enforcement (HOIE) Sanctions and Intervention Unit

7.1 Ollie Carlisle, Interventions and Sanctions Directorate (I&SD), Immigration Enforcement, HO gave an overview of their work and pointed out that there are opportunities for working in partnership including Local Authorities, NHS, DVLA and Financial Services

8 Update on additional funding for English language training for jobseekers

8.1 Richard Bell, Skills Funding Agency provided an update on additional funding for English language training for jobseekers. It aims to improve the speaking & listening language skills to level 1&2. The training includes the cost of travel & child care

9 MRAP item

9.1 Simin Azimi reported back from MRAP meeting on 29 January 2014 including the positive presentation by Mike Wells, UKVI on engagement agenda

9.2 **MWE** informed members that UKVI has changed their website and invited members to feedback

10 AOB

No other business was raised

Date of next London Strategic Migration Partnership is on 11 July 2014.