

London Strategic Migration Partnership, June 2018

Chair

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

Attendees

Barbara Drozdowicz – GLA Migrant and Refugee Advisory Panel

Lisa Doyle – GLA Migrant and Refugee Advisory Panel

Rita Chadha – GLA Migrant and Refugee Advisory Panel

Janet Gordon – Smith, Home Office

Steve Kelly, Home Office

Mark Winterburn, London Councils

Jackie Odunoye, London Borough of Redbridge

GLA Staff

Megan Life, Housing

Hannah Boylan, Communities and Social Policy

Sarah Mulley, Communities and Social Policy

Sasha Salmon, Communities and Social Policy

Molly Petter, Communities and Social Policy

Apologies

Melissa Caslake, London Directors of Children's Services

Mulat Haregot, GLA Migrant and Refugee Advisory Panel

1. Welcome and Introductions

1.1 Matthew Ryder welcomed attendees and invited all to introduce themselves

1.2 Minutes from previous meeting were **agreed**.

1.3 Terms of reference for LSMP 2018/19 were **agreed**.

1.4 Hannah Boylan introduced LSMP draft workplan and welcomed members to get in touch to discuss.

Action: Share any comments on LSMP draft workplan with Hannah (**all**)

2. Windrush and the Hostile Environment

2.1 Matthew provided an update on the Mayor's response to Windrush

2.2 Rita Chadha provided an update on MRAP discussions around the Hostile Environment. Discussion included:

- Concerns around Home Office dawn raids
- The welcome suspension of immigration sharing in schools and banks checking immigration status, but there are calls for these commitments to go further
- Conversations with NHS data sharing are ongoing and not yet conclusive

- Clear reporting mechanisms needed for reporting hate crime
- 2.3** Rita updated on MRAP discussions around Windrush. Discussion included:
- Concerns about the level of engagement with voluntary/community groups around Windrush
 - Concerns about the call for evidence, including the lack of more detailed consultation, tight timelines for evidence to be submitted, the need for personal information to be submitted in order to engage
 - The need for NHS, LA's, faith groups and civil society to be engaged on the consultation for the Windrush compensation scheme.
 - The need for timelines to be clarified to give as much certainty as possible to those affected and those working on their behalf
- 2.4** Daniel Hobbs noted that there is a bespoke team set up in the Home Office to deal with Windrush who are aiming to deal with applicants within the set 2-week period
- 2.5** Hannah Boylan provided an update on GLA and Windrush, she noted the Arrival event on 30th July and conversations across the GLA to provide policy responses on the hostile environment
- 2.6** Natasha Plummer updated on this from the point of view of MOPAC, referencing the priorities of the Victims Commissioner for London
- 2.7** Matthew suggested a work stream around Windrush and the hostile environment to be added to the LSMP agenda regularly.

Action: Share MRN's collective response to the Windrush compensation scheme (**Rita**)

Action: Home Office to take the points raised at the LSMP back and keep dialogue open (**Janet Gordon -Smith / Daniel Hobbs**)

3. Refugee Resettlement

- 3.1** Nicola Marven introduced a discussion on refugee resettlement. Discussion included
- Capacity of local authorities to support refugees based on other local pressures including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children, Dispersed Asylum-Seekers, Rough Sleepers, Affordable housing shortages.
 - How to support boroughs in making pledges under the current scheme in operation until 2020
 - How a future system of resettlement could meet local needs to ensure that areas can meet their ambitions to resettle more refugees including tariff funding, health funding, cross-agency coordination and monitoring and evaluation
- 3.2** Lisa noted that post 2020 there is a desire to see the simplification of the multiple pathways to resettlement and to expand resettlement beyond the Syrian conflict to have a bigger global impact. Steve Kelly noted that this is part of the discussion about the scope of resettlement post-2020.
- 3.3** Members agreed that the LSMP would like to feed into what post 2020 might look like, including learning from Nicola's coordination role within London.

- 3.4** Mark Winterburn noted that celebrating borough contributions to resettlement would be well received and a good way to raise the profile of refugee resettlement at a political level.

Action: Discuss options to celebrate refugees being resettled in the capital (**Nicola/Mark**)

4. European Londoners

- 4.1** Hannah Boylan provided an update on GLA work to ensure that European Londoners can access their rights to the Government's proposed Settlement Scheme. This included:
- Portal on London.gov for European Londoners to access information, guidance and support
 - Micro-grant scheme to fund direct outreach with those most at risk of marginalisation
 - A round-table to boroughs on how they can support European residents
- 4.2** Mark Winterburn provided an update on the key issues from the roundtable with London boroughs, he noted:
- A good attendance by boroughs with over half present on the day and many more interested in the outcomes from the meeting
 - Risk of complacency amongst communities, lack of awareness that the scheme will apply to them, and uncertainty about how to act highlighted the need for clear messaging
 - Some European residents will struggle with access to documentation, including those without passports, and those not in formal employment, eg. carers, retirees, young people
 - Local authorities have direct responsibilities for children in care, care leavers, older people with care needs, and those who are destitute and/or sleeping rough.
 - Some boroughs are already being proactive in reaching out to their European residents with information and support.
- 4.3** Hannah raised the risk of people being left without status after the Settlement Scheme closes, and the need for this risk to be proactively and sensitively managed to avoid another Windrush and to ensure that all Europeans can access their rights.

5. Undocumented Survivors of Grenfell

- 5.1** Janet Gordon-Smith provided an update on the issue, which included:
- While the deadline for the policy was 31st January 2018, people who were directly affected by the fire can still come forward and they will be dealt with on a case by case basis. In applications that provide a reasonable explanation for a late application then they may still be eligible for the scheme.
 - Members discussed the Home Office policy around family members, and raised with Home Office the importance of all Core Participants being able to attend the Inquiry

in person, and the need for family members to be recognised in the support that they provide to Core Participants to engage

- The Board invited Home Office back to future meetings to update how survivors have moved through the immigration process over the next 5 years.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Grace Ashaye raised the issue of Local Authority notification of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking children becoming Appeal Rights Exhausted.

6.2 Sarah Mulley raised the recent reports of young Asylum-Seekers in London taking their lives. Members discussed:

- The importance of Thrive London recognises the needs of asylum seekers and refugees
- The value of a thematic discussion on mental health of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children specifically.

Action: Home Office to progress concerns raised by Grace and ensure a resolution is found as quickly as possible (**Home Office / Grace / Mark**)

Action: Convene a working group to take a collaborative approach across local government, NGO's and government departments to discuss mental health of children seeking asylum. (**Hannah**)