

**London Strategic Migration Partnership**

Minutes of the London Strategic Migration Partnership meeting

29 November 2012

3-5pm

City Hall

CR3

**Present**

Chair	Munira Mirza	Deputy Mayor of London
SA	Simin Azimi	MRAP
HH	Hugh Harris	London first
VL	Val Lowman	Lend Lease Europe
RB	Richard Bell	Skills Funding Agency

**In attendance**

LD	Liz Davidson	UKBA
SD	Supt Stuart Dark	MPS
TE	Thea Edwards	Department for Communities and Local Government
MH	Matt Harrison	Homeless Link
AL	Andrew Lawton	Refugee Council
CM	Catherine McLoughlin	London Funders
MA	Monica Acheampong	Regional Public Health London
PT	Paul Tucker	JCP

**Apologies:**

MP	Cllr Marie Pye	London Councils
KC	Kate Carr	UKBA
MH	Mubin Haq	London Funders
PP	Paul Plant	NHS London
BR	Beryl Randall	Third Sector Alliance
DH	Derek Harvey	JCP
JO	Joseph Oladosu	MRAP
LH	Laurie Heselden	SERTUC
SW	Stephen Watson	MPS
JS	Judith Smyth	AoC

**GLA:**

TD	Terry Day	GLA
JL	James Lee	Senior Policy Officer, Immigration and Asylum
RS	Roudy Shafie	GLA
NS	Nasra Salah	GLA

## 1. Welcome and apologies

1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and noted apologies.

## 2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

2.1 Minutes of the last meeting of 03 July 2012 agreed as an accurate record.

2.2 The Chair updated on matters arising:

- Action 5 for GLA officers to explore how the GLA baseline of refugees in London could be used: to be reviewed in 2-3 years.
- Action 6 to report back from UKBA on the National Insurance card query: this issue relates to UKBA caseowners applying for National Insurance Numbers. Refugee Council and JCP to assess current process.

## 3. Chair's update

**3.1MM** reported that a round table on student migration was held. There are practical things to do and Mayor wants to reiterate that London is open for business and international students are welcome. The Mayor wrote to Home Secretary suggesting that international students should be taken out of the net migration target and has written to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills suggesting the set up of an Education Exports Commission.

## 4. Progress report on delivery of LSMP business plan 2012/2013

4.1 **JL** will be holding an event with Islington LA, which leads the No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) Network, on 6<sup>th</sup> December. The conference will launch the NRPF Connect database and promote its use to Local Authorities. This forms part of the LSMP's work plan for 2212/13. NRPF CONNECT aims to:

- support local authorities in meeting their statutory duties to provide for certain clients, many of whom will have vulnerabilities either through health or care for children
- save them money through avoiding duplication
- work towards ensuring that supported clients do not wait for years and years for a decision on their immigration case from the UKBA.

4.2 The first Assisted Voluntary Returns awareness raising workshop was held in November and was successful with a number of community organisations attending.

4.3 Workshops planned for MRCOs on Social Enterprise, commissioning and capacity-building.

- 4.4 **RS** Employment Training & Enterprise - Objective 8 is to help UKBA to prevent illegal working. Helps SMEs tackle barriers to employing refugees through a better understanding of permission to work documentation and checks.
- 4.5 Objective 10 – Access to primary health care, removing barriers: **AM** has coordinated a number of successful MRCO training sessions delivered by Project London to support access to primary healthcare.

## **5. Funding for English language projects, Thea Edwards, Department for Communities and Local Government**

5.1 English language, cohesion issues – radical change. New approach that focuses on 5 key themes: Creating an equal society, opportunities for all to strengthen social mobility, creating common ground, responsibility to society, participation and empowerment. Groups focus on from research: areas identified as having the highest English language need; and where the highest numbers of those in DCLG's priority groups are resident. Priority groups are those with the lowest levels of self-reported fluency in English, strongly represented among which are the Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Somali communities, particularly women from these groups.

5.2 Research shows that to reach the priority groups, new ways of approaching language tuition are needed, such as using accessible locations – churches, mosques, temples, schools, community venues. Offering evening classes, same gender sessions, and providing child care. Training volunteers, trainers and mentors.

5.3 Launching a competition in early 2013. 2 stages with a funding pot of up to £6million.

- invite entries setting out innovative ideas for delivering English language learning
  - looking to see how programmes could become sustainable.
  - DCLG supports developing ideas into deliverable project proposals.
- **MM** supported DCLG's approach, and reiterated the Mayor's support for English Language learning.
  - Discussions on how to monitor outcomes of the funding. **RB** suggested linking with SFA family learning provision

## **6. Housing and homelessness initiatives for integration**

6.1 Update on the Mayor's housing role strategy, Simon Cribbens, GLA

The Mayor published his housing strategy in 2010 and a revised strategy will be published in 2013.

- **SA** questioned if they also work with homeless agencies.
- **SC** confirmed that they work with all agencies and support is provided before final decision is made i.e. getting back into work or getting back in touch with family.

6.2 Demonstration of Homeless Link refugee web page, Matt Harrison, Homelessness Link  
Matt Harrison introduced the background to the GLA funded micro-site and demonstrated its functionality. Members felt the website is useful and informative. This was initiated by the LSMP in 2012/13 to address refugees and migrants who are at risk of homelessness or are homeless. The website is [www.homelesslondon.org](http://www.homelesslondon.org). To date the site has had over 20,000 hits.

## **7. Metropolitan Police Service strategy for engaging communities on Operation Nexus, Superintendent Stuart Dark, MPS**

7.1 **SD** explained the aims and objectives of Operation Nexus which is to target criminality. Operation Nexus, designed and delivered by the MPS and UKBA, aims to maximise intelligence, information and worldwide links to improve how we deal with and respond to foreign nationals breaking the law. This operation is not about targeting foreign nationals, or minority communities. It is about ensuring that all criminals (either entering police custody for a criminal offence or upon police databases for serious criminality) regardless of where they are from are treated with the same thoroughness and determination.

**Action 1:** To invite **SD** to MRAP meeting to present on Operation Nexus.

## **8. New UKBA structures and processes for stakeholder engagement and regional strategic migration partnerships, Liz Davidson**

8.1 Brief update on the internal restructure/re-organisation of UKBA, although substantive changes will not be confirmed until early in 2013. Changes will start in April 2013

**Action 2:** Members to feedback to Liz about restructure.

## **9. Items from Mayor's Refugee and Migrant Advisory Panel:**

- a) Update on Criminal Records Bureau ID documentation
- b) Capita contract and removals
- c) Promoting positive images of refugees and migrants

9.1 **SA** – The Criminal Records Bureau update is ongoing and the GLA is drafting a briefing. The revised CRB guidance does not provide for the Immigration Status Document and this will place additional costs and delays onto applications from refugees without a Biometric Residence Permit, e.g work.

**LD:** London/South East 30,000 asylum seekers granted refugee status over the last 7 years.  
9.2 **LD** confirmed that Capita had taken on an existing piece of work and this was restricted to notifying people whose leave to remain had expired and encourage them to leave the United Kingdom voluntarily. Capita does not have enforcement powers, this is UKBA's role.

**TD** highlighted that there needs to be a community liaison with policing by consent in order to maintain community engagement.

**LD** stated UKBA is highly discreet and informed MRAP members how communities can report to or inform UKBA on what is going on.

**Action 3** – To propose an alternative for refugees without a Biometric Residence Permit as part of safeguarding checks.

9.3 London 2012 had positive images of refugees and migrants and this should be built on.

10. AOB

- Date of next meeting to be confirmed.