

## London Strategic Migration Partnership

Minutes of the London Strategic Migration Partnership meeting

5 March 2012  
3-5pm  
City Hall  
CR3

### Present

Chair	Richard Barnes	Deputy Mayor of London
SK	Sharmila Kaduskar	Department of Health
SA	Simin Azimi	MRAP
VL	Val Lowman	BeOnsite
DC	Donna Covey	Refugee Council
RBe	Richard Bell	Skills Funding Agency
HH	Hugh Harris	London first
SD	Sonia Dower	UKBA

### Apologies:

MH	Mubin Haq	Trust for London
JA	Jennette Arnold	MPA
ST	Sindi Tepzda	MRAP
LH	Laurie Heselden	SERTUC
DH	Derek Harvey	JCP
SW	Commander Stephen Watson	MPS

BR	Beryl Randall	Third Sector Alliance
JO	Joseph Oladosu	MRAP
MP	Cllr Marie Pye	London Councils

### GLA:

WL	Wayne Lawley	Deputy Mayor's Office
AC	Amanda Coyle	Assistant Director of Health & Communities
JL	James Lee	Senior Policy Officer, Immigration and Asylum
DW	Dick Williams	Senior Policy Officer, Immigration and Asylum
AM	Amna Mahmoud	Project & Policy Officer, Diversity and Social Policy
SI	Shahi Islam	Policy Officer, Housing

### In attendance

CW	Chris White	JCP London
SS	Somaya Sultani	BeOnsite
SD	Super Intendment Stuart Dark	MPS
TS	Tom Shakhli	Third Sector Alliance
CM	Catherine McLoughlin	London Funders

## 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 13 December 2011 agreed as an accurate record.

2.2 The Chair updated on matters arising:

- **Outstanding Action:** Check with Laurie Heselden and circulate (SERTUC) advice report to LSMP – Advice report circulated
- **ACTION 1:** Circulate names of 5 MRCO Team London grant recipients – Information Circulated
- **ACTION 2:** DW to circulate links to reports as they appear – Links circulated
- **ACTION 3:** LLW action in LE progress report to be amended to 'on track' – Progress report was amended
- **ACTION 4:** DW to find out and provide update publication of the GLA Economics study on the impact of permission to work for asylum seekers and refused asylum seekers.

## 3. Chair's update

**3.1 RB** reported that he opened a seminar on employment support for refugees and migrants accessing the Work Programme. This brought together five prime contractors in London and a number of specialist voluntary sector agencies to share good practice. The main purpose of the seminar was to share good practice and strengthen links between the primes in London and specialist refugee and migrant support agencies.

The primes agreed to follow up on whether a person's nationality, refugee status and English language level could be integrated into their advisors' assessments. One has already confirmed they will be doing so.

GLA is also looking to run a training session in Year 3 on recognising permission to work documentation (e.g. Immigration Status Document for refugees rather than a passport) which will include the primes.

**3.2 RB** reported that he gave the closing address at the health conference, *Meeting the health needs of London's refugee and migrant communities*, which was organised by the GLA on 24 February. It was part of the London Enriched Year 2 work plan. The conference brought together health commissioners, strategists and professionals from across London. The focus was on access to primary health, maternity care and mental health. The keynote speakers were all experts in these three areas – London's Chief Nurse, the former Dean of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Royal College of GP's Clinical Inclusion lead and refugee and migrant health specialists. The conference also attracted an audience of health professionals who were relatively new to refugee and migrant health issues.

- 3.3 RB** informed members that this meeting is the last in 2011/12 financial year. He was pleased that the LSMP has succeeded in achieving positive results across many areas of London Enriched. He thanked all members for their valued contribution. He noted the contribution of the LSMP community development and health link bodies.
- 3.4 RB** informed members that five Migrant and Refugee Community Organisations had been successful in their applications for Team London small grants. Funded projects will increase the impact of their volunteering opportunities in the areas of cutting crime, creating opportunities for young people, improving quality of life through building stronger neighbourhoods and greening London.
- 3.5 RB** reported that the GLA is in the process of negotiating the grant agreement for next financial year. The outcome was not yet agreed, but will have a smaller grant. The GLA is currently planning for the impact of this on both work plan and staffing.

#### **4. London Enriched End of year report**

##### 4.1 Dick Williams gave an overview of this year's achievements

Discussion raised the following issues:

- The GLA can do more to ensure that migrant and refugee communities are involved in Team London and benefit from its grant programmes.
- No update on ESF funding.

#### **5. Update from BIS/SFA on ESOL**

5.1 **RBe** updated members on BIS/SFA position on ESOL that providers will continue to have the discretion to cover the fees of a wider range of learners in 2012/13 academic year. The influence of the Statutory Deputy Mayor's meeting in October 2011 with the Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning on maintaining the discretion was recognised. However, the focus of SFA funding remains on getting people into jobs and only those on Jobseekers Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance (Work Related Activity Group) are automatically eligible for full funding. He also informed members that in-work ESOL funding was discontinued.

5.2 **JL** updated members that the discretion will particularly benefit ESOL learners in London and that was the first point of discussion when **RB** met with the Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, John Hayes, in October 2011.

5.3 **JL** also informed members that the GLA has commissioned the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion to produce an analysis of English language support for refugee and migrant jobseekers in London. This will highlight good practice in SFA funded English language courses that supports people into work. It will also show how this develops at a local level with relationships between key stakeholders (e.g. Jobcentre Plus, local SFA providers, Work Programme providers, voluntary sector, employers, and local authorities).

#### **6. Feasibility study on English language models – NIACE findings**

6.1 **RB** informed members that the GLA commissioned a feasibility study on innovative models of ESOL provision and funding for excluded communities. In carrying out this study, NIACE will identify 3 models of provision and assess the feasibility of funding for each one. The aim is to identify alternative funding sources and deliver better ESOL provision for those excluded from SFA-funded ESOL.

6.2 Madeline presented the findings

6.3 Members made the following comments:

- Cut in funding for in-work ESOL affects low paid employees
- The effectiveness and purpose of referring learners to short courses by JCP was questioned as learners will be sent back by colleges, which cannot deliver short courses
- It was noted that 80% of learner were women for various reasons
- Some areas of London have high demands for ESOL
- Home teaching not recommended due to quality and personal safety concerns
- There are many home tutor schemes in London
- There is pressure on employers to pay for ESOL, eg for dinner ladies for health and safety reasons
- Finding should be checked against demographic breakdown of migrants, eg by gender, etc, and against SFA figures
- High proportion of women learners in some communities stay at home and do not learn English

## **7. Year 3 planning: draft objectives and actions**

7.1 Terry Day presented Year 3 Priorities. She highlighted that there was over a 50% reduction in the UKBA grant to GLA 2012/13, a loss of one post. GLA applied the

Following criteria were used to identify priorities:

- Impact of achievements to date
- Key partner involvement
- Deliverability of objectives in year 3
- Wider GLA and UKBA priorities

7.2 As a result the following five workstreams were identified as priorities for next year:

- Asylum and immigration
- ESOL
- Employment and skills
- Health
- Community Development

7.3 The following three workstreams have been discontinued:

- Housing
- Children and Young people
- Community Safety

7.4 Discussion raised the following issues:

- ESOL priority also includes provision for asylum seekers
- A query about whether the LSMP could still influence the discontinued areas  
**TD** said that the LSMP could request other GLA teams to attend on other issues.
- Need to be clear what aspect of community development is meant – have moved from past emphasis on civil society and volunteering to capacity building  
**TD** responded that the community development objective was about ensuring MRCOs benefited from infrastructure support – the GLA can influence this.
- Mental health issues need to be picked up as they affect access to services

## **8. AOB**

- **CM** asked about the GLA position regarding legal aid changes.

- **DW** reported that **MH** requested the GLA to circulate a report on the London Advice Watch which Trust for London undertook with Legal Action Group and launched in January 2012.

**Action 1:** Circulate Trust for London report to members

The Chair responded that the GLA is not currently trying to influence the Legal Aid Bill.