

**London Strategic Migration Partnership**

Minutes of the London Strategic Migration Partnership meeting

13 December 2011

3-5pm

City Hall

CR1

**Present**

|       |                   |                        |
|-------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Chair | Richard Barnes    | Deputy Mayor of London |
| SK    | Sharmila Kaduskar | Department of Health   |
| SA    | Simin Azimi       | MRAP                   |
| VL    | Val Lowman        | BeOnsite               |
| BR    | Beryl Randal      | Third Sector Alliance  |
| DC    | Donna Covey       | Refugee Council        |
| JO    | Joseph Oladosu    | MRAP                   |

**Apologies:**

|     |                             |                       |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| RBe | Richard Bell                | Skills Funding Agency |
| HH  | Hugh Harris                 | London first          |
| MH  | Mubin Haq                   | Trust for London      |
| JA  | Jennette Arnold             | MPA                   |
| ST  | Sindi Tepzda                | MRAP                  |
| LH  | Laurie Heselden             | SERTUC                |
| DH  | Derek Harvey                | JCP                   |
| SF  | Sharon Flannery             | UKBA                  |
| SW  | Commander Stephen<br>Watson | MPS                   |

**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**

|    |                                 |                               |
|----|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| HP | Heather Petch                   | Housing Action Charity (hact) |
| SR | Sujit Ray                       | JCP                           |
| SD | Super Intendment Stuart<br>Dark | MPS                           |
| SR | Sujit Ray                       | Jobcentre Plus                |

**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 28 September 2011 agreed as an accurate record.

2.2 The Chair updated on matters arising:

**Action 1:** Lynne Barams (MPA) update circulated to LSMP

**Action 2:** Check with Laurie Heselden and circulate (SERTUC) advice report to LSMP

### **3. Chair's update**

**3.1 RB** reported that he had opened an event to promote the Child Trafficking Toolkit at City Hall in November. The event was held in partnership with the London Safeguarding Children's Board, with the aim of promoting the use of their toolkit to support social workers, teachers, police, health workers and other professionals who may come into contact with suspected victims of child trafficking. The event was well-received and brought together all 33 London boroughs.

**3.2 RB** reported that he had recently visited China. The key issue raised by Chinese business and students was UK immigration policy. There is widespread confusion and a need for clear messaging that the UK, and London, is still open for business and welcoming international students.

**3.3 RB** was pleased to inform 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. This part of the Mayor's volunteering initiative for all Londoners.

### **ACTION 1: circulate names of 5 MRCO grant recipients**

**3.4 RB** opened the Brighter Futures event on 28 September which launched a report on the experiences of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASCs) and proposed an award for social workers. The report showed the initiative and energy of UASCs in London and their desire to work constructively with service providers and improve support to UASCs in care. RB commended the content and structure of the event in engaging UASCs.

**3.5 RB** met with Sir Andrew Green, Migration Watch and discussed issues relating to migration.

### **4. Housing for migrants and refugees**

Presentation by Heather Petch (hact associate) on behalf of the Housing and Migration Network.

Network membership included (see slides) and took a neutral view of migration while examining the impacts on housing and neighbourhoods. The network is publishing 3 reports on its work.

Key findings of the network included:

- the need to include migrants in planning as current datasets are not helpful
- strong civic leadership is a key to managing the impact of migration on housing
- Funding cuts will fall disproportionately on some migrants
- More self-help initiatives are needed in the current funding environment – new ways of thinking are required
- Better information, advice and guidance is needed for some migrants and refugees

- Large scale hostels might be the best solution for some migrants

Specific recommendations for refugees included:

- pre-asylum decision orientation was needed for better integration
- continuity of support from asylum seeker to refugee status was needed
- housing expectations must be realistic – not all refugees will get social housing
- LA decisions on priority need are often overturned for refugees
- 2008 DCLG study found that 1 in 10 homeless households included asylum seekers and the figure was higher in London – but these households had fewer social problems

Other recommendations included:

- DCLG funding is still available for targeted homelessness prevention
- Better coordination is needed
- Existing regulation OK but needs to be enforced – may be a resource issue for LAs
- Lettings agencies should be targeted to improve access for migrants
- Social landlords could do more to support integration

Discussion raised the following issues:

- Issue of rogue landlords, including the use of ‘beds in sheds’ exploiting migrants; Borough of Newham is initiating a register for all landlords in the borough with multiple occupancy dwellings; Mayor’s revised draft housing strategy is out for consultation until 6 March 2012 and includes plans for a new London Rental Standard to accredit 100,000 private landlords by 2016
- Whether self-help would work; one possibility for bringing more empty homes into use with £10 million allocated to working with communities, but self-help won’t meet all needs
- New local allocations strategies need to be robust enough to identify needs

## **ACTION 2: DW to circulate links to Network reports as they appear**

### **5. Roundtable on impact of housing policy changes on migrants and refugees**

DW presented the findings of the roundtable on housing policy changes held in December. The roundtable heard presentations on key housing policy changes and GLA monitoring of the impact of housing benefit changes. Policy changes included:

- Devolution of Homes and Community Agency functions to Mayor
- Allocations and tenancy reform
- Welfare reform
- Private rented sector improvement
- Pan-London mobility
- Measures to tackle rough sleeping
- Empty Homes initiatives

GLA will be looking at new Census data and would like to explore how voluntary and community groups could contribute data to improve information on experiences of migrants and refugees.

Roundtable cited following as having the most impact on migrants and refugees:

- Changes to benefits
- Changes to allocations and tenure
- Extension of right to buy

- Empty Homes initiatives
- Issues of housing access related to asylum and immigration status
- Effective monitoring of impact

Discussion raised the following points:

- Housing benefit changes will impact from 2013 with the introduction of Universal Credit. GLA to use 2011 Census data to assess HB impact.
- Directors of Public Health will be moving to Local Authorities. Opportunity to link housing and health more directly.
- Suggestion to look at how Equality Impact Assessments, Housing Impact Assessments and Joint Strategic Needs Assessments can be used to identify migrant and refugee needs and plan services.
- Whether this discussion would have an impact on the Year 3 plan; **RB** responded that it would and the challenge would be to deliver results.

## **6. Draft Year 3 Implementation Plan, *London Enriched***

**JL** presented the draft objectives and, where relevant, actions for Year 3. Objectives covered the 7 London Enriched themes along with cross cutting themes. **JL** explained that a process of stakeholder consultation and presentation of a revised draft would follow this to the next MRAP and LSMP meetings.

### **English language**

#### **Employment and Skills**

Monitoring the performance of Work Programme Primes should be included.

**JL** noted that this was already in under 'monitoring pre-employment support' but welcomed further suggestions for achievable actions.

#### **Housing**

Only two objectives but this is an important issue.

**DW** noted that findings of the housing roundtable and LSMP housing discussion still needed to be incorporated and objectives needed to be achievable.

#### **Health**

**RB** reported that he had chaired a meeting of the Mental Health Forum that morning and will link up the two sets of work on groups not getting access to services.

**AC** London Health and Improvement Board includes mental health within its remit. **AC** also asked if the DoH's Regional Public Health Group will continue.

**SK** confirmed that it would.

**DC** noted that Maternity Action will be publishing a report on asylum seeking and refugee women and maternity care.

**AC** reported that DoH guidance is expected on where responsibility for TB prevention sits – nationally or locally. It might be more of a pan-London issue.

**SA** is on Hackney's Health and Social Care Forum which could be replicated by other communities in different London boroughs.

**SD** noted that mental health is an issue within emerging communities that affects the police's work.

### **Children and Young People**

**AC** suggested issues around trafficking and community cohesion should be built into Team London 2012 outcomes. Also highlighted the relevance for the Metropolitan Police Service and Mayor's Education Inquiry.

**DC** noted the Refugee Council's Children's Panel is celebrating its 18th anniversary in 2012 and good to include in *LE* work, particularly around the distinct issues unaccompanied asylum seeking children face when turning 18.

**AC** noted the relevance of the Mayor's peer mentoring scheme.

### **Community Development**

Previous objective on funding for MRCOs not included.

### **8. MRAP matters for LSMP consideration** (agenda altered to ensure MRAP feedback)

**SA** fed back MRAP's interest in having clearer information on progress and achievements made under *LE*.

### **7. Year 2 Progress report**

**DW** updated members on key aspects of *LE*'s progress from September to December 2011.

**RB** asked that the action on LLW be amended from 'slipping' to 'on track'.

### **ACTION 3: LLW action in LE progress report to be amended to 'on track'**

**DC** asked about publication of the GLA Economics study on the impact of permission to work for asylum seekers and refused asylum seekers.

### **ACTION 4: DW to find out and provide update.**

### **8. AOB**

**JL** provided update from RBe that the discretion granted to SFA funded providers to include co-funded learners within full fee remission, where the training is to support getting employment, is to be maintained for 2012/13 academic year. JL also noted that this was the primary objective of RB's meeting with the Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning in October where the Deputy Mayor highlighted the particular importance for London.