

**London Strategic Migration Partnership**

Minutes of the London Strategic Migration Partnership Board meeting

27 September 2010, 10am –12pm

City Hall, CR 2

**Present**

RB	Richard Barnes	Deputy Mayor of London (chair)
HH	Hugh Harris	London First
KP	Kathy Prior	Job Centre Plus
DK	Davinder Kumar	MRAP
SA	Simin Azimi	MRAP
AK	Phil Barron	LDA
NA	Noeleen Adams	Third Sector Alliance
SF	Sharon Flannery	UKBA
MH	Mubin Haq	London Funders
DP	Dino Patel	London Regional Committee, National Housing Federation
JE	Jonathan Ellis	Refugee Council
PP	Paul Plant	NHS London
HO	Helen O'Brien	UKBA
SC	Steve Crow	Skills Funding Agency

**Apologies:**

CS	Chris Spencer	Association of Directors of Children's Services
LH	Laurie Heselden,	SERTUC
MP	Cllr Marie Pye	London Councils
VL	Val Lowman	BeOnsite
YT	Yeukai Taruvinga	MRAP
ST	Simon Tanner	Regional Public Health Group, NHS London
BP	Belinda Porich	London Regional Committee, National Housing Federation
AB	Arun Batra	LDA
JA	Jennette Arnold	MPA
DC	Donna Covey	Refugee Council
	Philippa Langton	Skills Funding Agency

**GLA:**

WL	Wayne Lawley	Deputy Mayor's Office
TD	Terry Day	Manger, Diversity & Social Policy
RS	Roudy Shafie	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

**1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

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 17 June 2010 agreed as an accurate record.

2.2 Matters arising have been addresses, except for the Chair's meeting with the LSEB Mayoral Advisor Pam Chesters, which is deferred until new skills policy was clearer.

### **3. Chair's Update**

3.1 Chair reported back on two key meetings. The first with UKBA about the work of the LSMP. They agreed to meet regularly to discuss the on going development of LSMP as a joint priority for UKBA and GLA. The second, with Darra Singh, Chief Executive, and Patrick Hughes, London Director, of Job Centre Plus, to discuss new DWP proposals on employment support and how these can best meet the needs of refugees and eligible migrants.

3.2 Members were informed of the publication online of the GLA commissioned report of an Evidence Base on Migration & Integration in London, and of the Mayor's responses to the UKBA and Migration Advisory Committee consultations on limits to non-EU economic migration.

3.3 The Chair also submitted a joint response with Pam Chesters, Mayoral Advisor on Health and Youth Opportunities, to the UKBA review on ending the detention of children. Members were informed of a pilot to implement the new policy already on the way in London with the Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. Members suggested that cooperation with returns and removals required a legal process that clients felt delivered a fair hearing, with legal advice was a key factor.

3.4 The Chair informed members that he will be meeting Damien Green, the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration, to discuss refugee integration.

**Action 1:** UKBA to present at December LSMP on propose limits to non-EU economic migration

**Action 2:** GLA to facilitate a meeting between UKBA London and LMSP members concerned about legal advice available to asylum seekers

### **4 London Enriched and LSMP ESOL action plan progress reports and link body delivery issues**

4.1 Report on the delivery of London Enriched actions, the Link Bodies and on progress report of the 6-month ESOL action plan was circulated for information.

4.2 Key points raised in discussion about the 6 month ESOL action plan were:

- The local authority based process for identifying ESOL needs which has now been abandoned was good, but implementation was rushed and the process too prescriptive
- More investment is needed in ESOL for integration as well as for work
- BIS is currently reviewing ESOL policy and the Skills Funding Agency with LSEB and LSMP has offered to meet with 10 largest ESOL providers after the CSR
- The Skills Funding Agency also need to talk to providers for hard to reach groups

### **5. Presentation of the refugee baseline survey**

5.1 GLA commissioned IPSOS MORI in January 2010 to carry out a survey of 1,000 refugees in London to establish a baseline for integration and measure the

impact of *London Enriched*. Funding permitting, the exercise will be repeated in 2 years to measure progress.

5.2 Andrew Cleary Associate Director, Social Research Institute, Ipsos MORI, presented the key findings from the baseline survey, followed by questions and comments from the board. Key points made in the discussion were:

- The findings of the report were limited by only being able to capture the views of refugees who spoke at least some English as interpreters were not used and the sample reflects the refugee population in London but is not strictly representative due to lack of data to model the sampling on
- It was acknowledged that although there were limitations the survey is useful in building a picture of integration. Some findings were surprising and required further investigation
- a suitable narrative with which to present the findings should be developed

## **6. London Enriched Year 2 Priorities Framework**

6.2 The Mayor, in partnership with the UKBA, LSMP and MRAP agreed that in the second year *London Enriched* would deliver not only for refugees but also for other migrants in need of support to integrate. The remit of the strategy will also expand to respond to new areas of immigration policy that have a strong impact on London, including asylum, regularisation and non-EU economic migration.

6.3 Members were asked to agree the suggested priorities, and to participate in the finalisation of the objectives and actions for endorsement at the December LSMP meeting. **Members agreed the priorities**

6.4 Three suggestions were made for additional objectives in year 2: lobbying for provision of more basic level of ESOL, running a pilot on right to work for destitute asylum seekers in a London borough, joint working with MPS

## **7. UKBA asylum review**

7.1 The Coalition Government priorities for the Home Office include a review of asylum decision making. Members were informed that this work is now underway and is known as the Asylum Improvement Project. The GLA will be engaging with this process to ensure it addresses the particular needs of London.

**Action 3:** UKBA to present at December LSMP on the Terms of Reference of the Asylum Improvement Project and opportunities to input into it

## **8. New information from members - RIES services in London**

8.1 Jonathan Ellis, Director of Policy and Development, Refugee Council presented on the RIES services in London. Members were invited to contact the Refugee Council directly about any follow up queries.

## **9. AOB**

9.1 Health policy briefing circulated for members' information.

**Action 4:** Paul Plant, Deputy Director, Regional Public Health Group, to present proposed changes in the Health White Paper and what the likely impacts are on refugees and migrants in London to LSMP.