

Minutes of the London Strategic Migration Partnership Board meeting

17 June 2010, 10am –12pm

City Hall, CR 3

Agenda

- 1) Welcome & Introduction
- 2) Last minutes & matters arising
- 3) Chair’s update
- 4) Link body delivery issues for LSMP decisions (if any)
- 5) Feedback from LSMP review
- 6) Evidence base on migration & integration in London
 - 6.1 Presentation of evidence base on migration and integration in London
 - 6.2 Discussion
 - 6.3 Next steps
- 7) New information from members
Diversity Works for London’s role on London Enriched and migrant integration; Arun Batra, Director of Equalities, LDA
- 8) LSMP Business Plan for UKBA Enabling Grant Agreement, to note and comment. (Paper to follow)
- 9) AOB

Present

RB	Richard Barnes	Deputy Mayor of London (chair)
HH	Hugh Harris	London First
KP	Kathy Prior	Southwark, Lambeth and Wandsworth Job Centre Plus
DK	Davinder Kumar	MRAP
SA	Simin Azimi	MRAP
AB	Arun Batra	LDA
NA	Noeleen Adams	Third Sector Alliance
SF	Sharon Flannery	UKBA
MH	Mubin Haq	London Funders
JA	Jennette Arnold	MPA
DC	Donna Covey	Refugee Council
PL	Philippa Langton	Skills Funding Agency
LH	Laurie Heselden	SERTUC (South East Regional TUC)
SG	Shirani Gunawardena	MPA
OP	Olivia Powis	London Regional Committee, National Housing Federation

Apologies:

VL	Val Lowman	LendLease Europe & BeOnSite Bovis LendLease
YT	Yeukai Taruvinga	MRAP
CS	Chris Spencer	Association of London Directors of Children’s Services

ST	Simon Tanner	Regional Public Health Group, NHS London
BP	Belinda Porich	London Regional Committee, National Housing Federation

GLA:

WL	Wayne Lawley	Deputy Mayor’s Office
RS	Roudy Shafie	Senior Policy Officer, Immigration and Asylum

DW
AM

Dick Williams
Amna Mahmoud

Senior Policy Officer, Immigration and Asylum
Project & Policy Officer, Diversity and Social Policy

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted. He welcomed Mubin Haq of the City Parochial Trust who will be representing London Funders on the Board.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

2.1 Minutes of the last meeting 25 March 2010 agreed as an accurate record.

2.2 All matters arising have been addressed.

3. Chair's Update

3.1 The Chair informed members of the continuation of the UKBA enabling grant for the delivery of the London Strategic Migration Partnership until 2012.

3.2 The Chair informed members of the UKBA review on ending the detention of children for immigration purposes and encouraged submissions to the consultation. The review will be completed by Christmas and UKBA assured members that there is a commitment from the Minister of State for Immigration that the consultation is not considering separating children from families.

3.3 The review on ending the detention of children for immigration purposes was strongly welcomed and it was suggested to UKBA to hold a review on the detention of other vulnerable detainees.

4. Link body delivery issues for LSMP decisions

4.1 The Chair drew members' attention to the LSMP link body update circulated for information. He highlighted the specific challenge of mainstreaming the employment & skills link body into the LSEB structure.

4.2 The importance of involving grassroots delivery organisations in LSEB programmes to achieve positive outcomes for 'hard to reach communities' and influence changes in unfair sub-commissioning practices was highlighted.

The partnership agreed that the Chair would meet the Mayoral Advisor on Skills and the LSEB secretariat to discuss a plan for LSEB taking on the LSMP employment and skills link body function, and that Arun Batra of LDA will highlight the work of the LSMP at a presentation on diversity at an upcoming LSEB meeting.

Action 1: Chair to meet with Mayoral Advisor on Skills and LSEB. Officers to progress

Partnership agreed to send local evidence and specific case studies of sub-commissioning mal-practice to the SFA for investigation.

Action 2: GLA officers to follow up.

4.3 Members were invited to the LSMP Community Safety link body meeting at the Metropolitan Police Authority's Equality and Diversity Sub Committee meeting on the 22nd July 2010 from 10 am to 12 pm

Action 3: Invitation to be circulated by MPA officer.

5. Feedback from LSMP review

5.1 Roudy Shafie, Senior Policy Officer at GLA, presented the key findings of the LSMP review:

- More focus on progress on London Enriched
- Less presentations at meetings, but continue support members with information
- More responsive to relevant current policy changes, particularly in light of change in government
- More awareness of the role and limitations to the remit of each member's organisation, agencies or department.
- More advanced notice of decisions.
- Stronger links with the London Skills and Employment boards

5.2 The Chair invited comments and the key points made included:

- Presentations are appropriate to allow cross-intelligence from the agencies of the Board's members. These should be circulated in advance to enhance discussion.
- MRAP are recommending that the Mayor promote more positive media messages about the contribution of migrants and refugees via a communication strategy on this issue.
- LSMP members should champion different areas of migration work to promote the positive contribution of refugees and migrants.
- MRAP's views must be taken into consideration in the work of LSMP

The partnership agreed the recommendations made by the LSMP review, subject to the comments above

Action 4: GLA officers to implement

Action 5: Members to submit by August 18th (or later if necessary) written briefings on public policy changes in their area of work as agreed

Action 6: GLA officers with Sharon Flannery, UKBA, to prepare a paper on migration cap for next meeting with input from and other members who have evidence.

6. Evidence Base on migration & integration in London

6.1 The Chair invited Sarah Spencer, Ben Gidley and Hiranthi Jayawaweera of Centre on Migration, Policy and Society, University of Oxford (COMPAS) to present the findings of the evidence base for migrant integration in London (slides attached).

6.2 The Chair invited questions and comments. Key points made included:

- Need for consistent statistical breakdown, eg Africa as a continent does not reveal difference between regions.
- The need to statistically distinguish between migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

- Attention to be paid to underemployment, especially in relation to transfer of overseas qualification and access to professional ESOL.
- Concerns about the ability to draw robust evidence based on the difficulties with the data available; but members agreed that it remained robust enough to inform priorities and public policy.

Partnership agreed that the finding from the research should inform the Regional Skills Priority Statement being drafted by LDA.

Action 7: GLA officers to coordinate with LDA and LSEB to incorporate the findings into the regional skills and employment report.

Members agreed the proposed next step of signing off a priorities framework at the LSMP meeting on 14 September 2010, which will form the basis of the *London Enriched* year 2 implementation plan.

Action 8: GLA officers to send members final report and draft priorities framework for input by 14 August 2010.

Action 9: GLA officers to send SF the LSE report commissioned by the GLA 'Economic impact on the London and UK Economy of an earned regularisation of irregular migrants to the UK'.

7. New information from members

7.1 AB presented the 'Diversity Works for London' programme. DWfL will contribute to the delivery of London Enriched action 3.3.4 by adding information to the site on employing refugees and budget permitting organise an event with employers.

8. LSMP Business Plan for UKBA Enabling Grant Agreement

8.1 Dick Williams, GLA Senior Policy Officer, reported that an extension of the LSMP Enabling Grant from 1 Oct 2010 to 31 Mar 2012 had been signed and the LSMP Business Plan for 1 Apr 2010 to 31 Mar 2011 had been agreed subject to final approval of agreed amendments by UKBA.

9. AOB

9.1 The Chair informed members of his correspondence with the Rt Hon Ken Clarke, Secretary of State for Justice, State raising his concerns about the risk of closure of Refugee and Migrant Justice and general issues of legal aid, but within a week RMJ had gone into administration.

9.2 MRAP issues for LSMP consideration were raised on:

- The 50% reduction in this year's grants from the Migrant Impact Fund (MIF).
- The restriction on driving licences for asylum seekers.
- The requirement of the spouses of migrants to learn English before they could join their partners in the UK.

UKBA agreed to provide further information on the three issues raised and on e-borders.

Action 10: UKBA officers to follow up.

9.3 The Refugee Council welcomed the GLA's ongoing financial support of Refugee Week and invited members to join a march on Sunday at 1:30 in support of protection. Members were also invited to attend a Refugee Week service on Sunday 6:30 at Westminster Cathedral organised by Citizens for Sanctuary.