

MAYOR OF LONDON

Minutes of the London Strategic Migration Partnership, 7 December 2017

Chair

Matthew Ryder LSMP Chair; Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement

LSMP members

Doug Flight London Councils
Mulat Haregot Representative, Migrant & Refugee Advisory Panel (MRAP)
Rita Chadha Representative, Migrant & Refugee Advisory Panel (MRAP)

Speakers

Paul Morrison Home Office
Hannah Boylan GLA
Doug Flight London Councils
Peter O'Connell London Councils
Jackie Odunoye London Borough of Redbridge
Phillip Segurola London Borough of Croydon, ALDCS
Grace Ashaye Asylum Seekers Consortium

GLA Officers

Julia Slay Communities and Social Policy
Sarah Mulley Communities and Social Policy
Hannah Boylan Communities and Social Policy
Nicola Marven Communities and Social Policy
Sasha Salmon Communities and Social Policy
Bevin Anandarajah Communities and Social Policy

Apologies

Cllr Sarah Hayward London Councils

1. Welcome & Introduction

- 1.1 Chair, Matthew Ryder welcomed attendees to the meeting and invited all attendees to introduce themselves
- 1.2 Matthew Ryder noted that minutes of the previous meeting are awaiting final approval and will be published online in due course.

2. Grenfell update – undocumented survivors

- 2.1 Matthew Ryder notified the group of the GLA's role liaising with the Home Office on the leave outside the rules policy for undocumented survivors of Grenfell.
- 2.2 Paul Morrison noted that on the back of conversations with the GLA, the deadline for applicants had been extended from 30 November 2017 to 31st January 2018. Paul shared the Home Office's position that due to reducing rates of applications being submitted, in order to extend the deadline, evidence will need to be presented to support an extension. This will be reviewed in mid-January.

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- 2.3 Rita Chadha noted that it's difficult for survivors to access legal advice. Rita proposed a pan-London approach as people affected have been widely dispersed and often are no longer located locally. Rita requested access to Home Office communications plans for MRAP to use in conjunction with evidence from their network to prepare a case for deadline extension. Paul Morrison agreed to this request.
- 2.4 The group discussed the option for an exceptional route to receive applications that were delayed due to mitigating circumstances..
- 2.5 It was noted that some individuals may not have submitted applications due to a lack of trust in the process and fear of enforcement action being taken against them. In particular, concerns were raised about consequences for those who might apply for the scheme in good faith but be refused. The group agreed further clarity was needed in messaging on the ground, and discussed options to improve the assurances that could be offered to potential applicants.
- 2.6 Matthew Ryder requested that MRAP consult further to provide suggestions that Home Office can take forward on the policy.

Action 1: Paul Morrison to share information surrounding Home Office communications plan.

Action 2: Rita Chadha and Mulat Haregot to consult with MRAP members and other specialists to collect feedback on the current process and communications.

Action 3: Matthew Ryder to have a follow-up call with Tyson Hepple in mid-January.

3. Vulnerable EEA+ and Third Country Nationals

3.1 Hannah Boylan provided a summary of the roundtable on EEA+ and third country nationals held on 1st November. Discussion centred around those most at risk of marginalisation from the proposed process or registration post-Brexit, which included Roma EEA+ nationals, children and young people, older people, disabled people, those in precarious work or who have fallen out of work, and those with limited English language proficiency, literacy or administrative confidence. Attendees from the roundtable included borough representatives, members of MRAP and members from London Councils. Organisations such as St Mungo's, Coram Children's Legal Centre, Liberty and Unbound Philanthropy were also represented.

Action: Hannah Boylan to share the report from the roundtable with LSMP members.

Action: Paul Morrison to invite specialists on EU citizens rights and London Councils will invite an individual with knowledge/experience interacting with registrars to the next meeting.

4. No Recourse to Public Funds

- 4.1 Peter O'Connell spoke to a presentation on the initial findings of research conducted by London Councils on the total cost of NRPF cases to local authorities.
- 4.2 Discussion included the fall in caseloads between the 2015/16 and 2016/17 relative to static levels of spending.
- 4.3 Rita Chadha requested greater information on the typology of the cases.

5. Asylum Accommodation

5.1 Jackie Odunoye updated the group on the experiences of boroughs of Asylum Accommodation and the emerging issue of migrant rough sleeping. There is a pattern of Asylum Seekers gaining refugee status and struggling to move-on to mainstream support within the move-on period

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- 5.2 Jackie Odunoye commented that half of all NASS accommodation is contained within five London boroughs, most likely as a result of cheaper private accommodation in these areas and raised concerns around communications between providers and local authorities and the support offered to asylum seekers and newly recognised refugees
- 5.3 Paul Morrison cited pilot working being conducted on support for newly recognised refugees. He will continue discussions with Hannah Gregory to identify pressure points in the system and understand the issues faced by unsupported asylum seekers.

6. Unaccompanied asylum-seeking Children

- 6.1 Grace Ashaye provided an operational update, with data on UASC numbers for London and the role that boroughs play in supporting UASC.
- 6.2 Philip Segurola commented on the situation in Croydon and the disproportionate pressure applied to boroughs with existing facilities for handling UASC, rather than investing in facilities elsewhere. Philip noted that the National Transfer Scheme is perceived as slowing and this is having a detrimental impact on all children involved in the system due to the disruption caused by failed transfers.
- 6.3 Paul Morrison noted that the Home Office will be conducting a funding review for UASC services with the aim of improving the system.

7. AOB

- 7.1 Rita Chadha requested support from LSMP for a task and finish group run by MRAP regarding territorial policing. Matthew Ryder confirmed he was happy with this.
- 7.2 Nicola Marvin discussed progress on the GLA's community sponsorship scheme for the resettlement of Syrian refugees. She proposed connecting community sponsorship groups with the Home Office for them to present their needs for navigating the system. Paul Morrison agreed to this.

Action: Rita Chadha to set up an MRAP led task and finish group on territorial policing, with a view to collecting evidence and reporting back to the LSMP at a future meeting.

Action: Nicola Marvin to facilitate communications between the Home Office and community sponsorship groups.

**** End ****