

Minutes of the London Strategic Migration Partnership Board meeting

24 September 2009
City Hall

Present:

Board members

RB	Richard Barnes	Deputy Mayor of London (chair)
HH	Hugh Harris	London First
MR	Mike Reed	Deputy Director, Migration Policy, Department of Communities and Local Government
LH	Laurie Heselden	SERTUC (South East Regional TUC)
NA	Noeleen Adams	Third Sector Alliance
KP	Kathy Prior	Job Centre Plus
DK	Davinder Kumar	MRAP
SA	Simin Azimi	MRAP
SF	Sharon Flannery	UKBA
AB	Arun Batra	LDA
FS	Fiona Stone	GOL for Chris Hayes
AP	Cll Anjana Patel	London Councils for Cllr Merrick Cockell
JE	Jonathan Ellis	Refugee Council for Donna Covey
AS	Dr Aditi Shah	Shadowing Simon Tanner
PL	Philippa Langton	LSC

Apologies:

AW	Alan Wood	Association of London Directors of Children Services
MC	Cllr Merrick Cockell	Chair, London Councils
BP	Belinda Porich	London Regional Committee, National Housing Federation
CH	Chris Hayes	GOL
DC	Donna Covey	Refugee Council
YT	Yeukai Taruvinga	MRAP
OT	Owen Tudor	Trades Union Congress
VL	Val Lowman	Lend Lease Europe & BeOnsite Bovis Lend Lease Limited

GLA:

WL	Wayne Lawley	Deputy Mayor's Office
MD	Muge Dindjer	Joint Acting Head of Social Inclusion and Health
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

Minutes

Agenda items' discussion

Actions

1. Welcome and introduction

1.1 **RB** welcomed the Board members to the meeting and welcomed the new members.

1.2 **RB** noted the apologies.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

2.1 Roundtable on ESOL to be held on 2nd November at City Hall.

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

3. Chair's Update

RB updated the members on the following items:

3.1 The Refugee Integration Strategy has now been completed with input from all the delivery partners. The launch will be held at City Hall and LSMP members will be invited.

3.2 The Mayor's Equality Framework: Equal Life Chances for All was launched last month. Copies were distributed.

3.3 The Mayor's draft Health Inequalities Strategy for London (HIS) was launched today. It will be available on the website for consultation. The consultation deadline is January 2010. RB encouraged the members to participate. <http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/priorities/health/health-strategy.jsp>

3.4 **ST** Introduced the HIS which he had been closely involved in developing, highlighted some of the existing inequalities in London, both geographical and within communities and encouraged Board members to respond to the consultation.

4. Discussion on measuring the impact of the Mayor's Refugee Integration Strategy

RB introduced RS, to present the topic. (Presentation attached). Roudy highlighted that:

4.1 the GLA put great emphasis on measuring the impact of the Mayor's policies and interventions in order to make a real difference to Londoners and ensure value for money.

4.2 there are challenges around information and resources to carry out this piece of work.

4.3 the Board members can work together to get a robust framework for measuring the impact on the lives of London's migrant communities

4.4 Recommendations

1. That the board notes and approves the proposed commissioning framework (appendix 1) for a Baseline Survey to measure the impact of London Enriched: the Mayor's strategy for refugee integration and indicates any contribution they can make.
2. That board members consider the attached indicators/KPIs for their relevant thematic area objectives (appendix 2) and in relation to the commissioned draft indicators (appendix 3), and indicate any data available to measure them.

4.5 Comments

FS – GOL have expertise in data and are willing to help.

MR – Suggested contacting Sarah Swash of UKBA. She leads on integration and will have information about indicators for the national refugee integration strategy.

AP – pointed out that individual Boroughs hold a lot of information on different communities and this data should be used where possible. Some

**RS to contact SS
at UKBA for input**

KPIs may already be measured.

MD – clarified that LSMP needs to establish a baseline for the RIS so that the survey process can be repeated later to measure impact. At this stage high-level indicators are needed rather than data on specific communities. She stated that the aim is to identify KPIs and get contacts from LSMP members who hold relevant data.

JE – welcomed the presentation and said the Refugee Council holds information on housing and employment from the Refugee Integration & Employment Service (RIES), which they run on behalf of the UKBA. He suggested following the 2007 RIS consultation approach.

AB – pointed out that there is a gap in that there is no suggested PI on skills and access to job market. LSEB considers the skills of excluded groups in its work and suggested Judith Rutherford, Director of LSEB secretariat as a contact.

PL – suggested that there needs to be an indicator on skills, not just ESOL.

RB – asked whether the NHS had data, which they can share.

ST – Responded that the Health Link body is working on this issue and suggested there might need to be a discussion on the dataset.

RS – stated that access is one issue and asked whether there can be a single indicator on health or whether services need to be segmented.

RS – stated that other indicators are used as proxies.

JE – highlighted the JCP refugee marker as good practice.

KP – cautioned that JCP relies on customers to provide information on status, and they may not choose to report status.

SA – emphasised the need for a workplan and timetable for implementing the strategy rather than focussing on information.

MR – suggested contacting Chris Hedges of UKBA for information on the European Integration Fund which might support the baseline assessment.

LH – suggested contacting the Metropolitan University's Working Lives Institute as they have done a lot of work on indicators.

JE to contribute data they hold to GLA

RS to contact JR

RS to investigate marker

RS to contact at tender stage

LH to provide contacts

5. Presentation on the information needs of the LSMP

RB invited DW to give a presentation on the information needs of the LSMP. DW presented his report (presentation attached) highlighting that:
5.1 Rather than a major project to gather information, the LSMP needs to have an overview of migration based on an ongoing process of mapping available information, supported by other GLA teams and functional bodies, LSMP members, MRAP and other stakeholders.

5.2 DW asked members to consider how their agencies could contribute to improving the information that the LSMP need to have about migrant communities.

5.3 Comments

RB – mentioned work commissioned by the GLA and carried out by Leeds University which recommended a creation of a New Migrant databank.

MR – said he would like to see how ONS incorporates this work.

DW – added that Leeds University project to establish a New Migrant databank is nearly complete and some work had already been included in Office of National Statistics datasets.

LH – volunteered to contribute premises and research forum to disseminate information.

FS – suggested that the main thing is to focus on what the LSMP will do

DW to follow up as required

with information. She suggested 'new information' as a standard agenda item.

MR – suggested that for more detailed comment the LSMP needed to see a specification for information gathering, and said that information on regional migration patterns and the impact on London would be useful.

MD – outlined that there were plans for Health Observatory and a Skills Observatory- that officers need to investigate what these can offer and that LSMP members could forward information to the GLA for circulation

SA - suggested using both 'migrants and refugees' terms so as not to lose sight of refugees. The emphasis in the first year of the strategy should be on refugees.

ST – pointed out that the needs of refugees and those who fled a war are different from that of migrants.

DK – agreed that asylum seekers, refugees and migrants have a different status and issues that should be taken into consideration. However, there are problems among migrants' communities and no infra-structure to support migrant communities.

HH – requested clarification on the terminology: asylum seeker, refugee and migrant.

AB – suggested a data sheet with the relevant information.

SF – offered to provide a UKBA presentation on this topic.

MD - clarified that it was agreed in the first LSMP meeting that the first year will focus on the implementation of the RIS and three wider migrant issues (ESOL, data and rough sleeping) and by the 2nd year the LSMP will develop a wider migration strategy. The LSMP Terms of Reference reflects that.

DW to investigate existing observatories

GLA to provide sheet with definitions of different status

6. Future developments of the Regional Strategic Migration Partnerships (RSMPs)

RB invited Sharon Flannery, the UKBA London Area Director, who has replaced Tony Smith on this Board, to update the members on the future of RSMPs.

SF - informed members that UKBA has decided to extend the funding for RSMPs for a further two 2 years. However, the pot of money will remain the same nationally, with a new RSMP in Northern Island sharing the resources with the rest of the UK regions. There is a formula to calculate how the funds would be allocated to each region.

She gave a general overview of the structure of UKBA and briefed the members on the establishment of the Local Immigration Teams (LITs). SF said that in the past the UKBA worked in isolation but they would like to engage with communities and agencies and work in partnership with other local stakeholders aiming at better relationships with the boroughs and a culture of openness. She distributed a diagram of LIT structure for London, explaining that West London Boroughs were not included but will be soon. She asked for help, advice and feedback from the members and offered to have one to one meetings with the LSMP Board members.

JE – raised the issue of LITs accountability and mentioned issues about inconsistent housing advice provided by UKBA.

SF – responded that accountability would be via LSPs and other local bodies, like any other agency

AP – requested that SF do a presentation to London Councils.

RB - suggested a more detailed presentation on what functions the Local

SF to send a list of topics for presentations, for the chair to consider

Immigrations Teams carry out

7. Developing the Mayor's Migration Strategy

RB invited RS to present this topic (presentation attached).

7.1 **RS** commented that it is important for this work to progress and deliver positive change for London's migrant communities. She requested that members agree the process.

Comments

AP – London councils endorsed the approach and agreed the recommendations.

LH – requested that Trade Unions are added to stakeholders. He suggested establishing a steering group to take the development of the strategy forward. He raised the issue of media attitudes and said that the partnership should be aware of these risks. He suggested that the Mayor might need to respond on some issues. LH also asked which stakeholders were referred to in 8a and 8b.

RS – 8a and 8b refer to GLA officers and LSMP members.

RB – stated that the Assembly might also have an interest.

SA – highlighted the role of stakeholders in monitoring and evaluation.

MR – raised the importance of political engagement e.g. the issue of community cohesion. He stated that a lot of engagement was required with CLG who have responsibility for community cohesion.

RS to add TU's.

RS to add media strategy as a risk

RS – will analyse feasibility of a steering group

RS to add Assembly as stakeholder and initiate early engagement with DCLG

8. Presentation on Refugee Teachers Hub – Employability Forum

RB invited Beryl Randall, Director of the Employability Forum, to give a presentation on the Refugee Teachers Hub (presentation attached).

Beryl gave a presentation and responded to questions.

Questions and Comments

AB – pointed out that there are technical difficulties facing doctors but it would be interesting to see if the hub approach could help them.

RB – gave the example of registration as a hurdle to getting a job.

BR – responded that for teachers there are different routes e.g. support role before qualification.

RB – asked whether Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks are an issue.

BR – explained that CRB depends on each school's management risk assessment.

JE – pointed out that the hub was an example of effective partnership working between the Employability Forum and the Refugee Council, which has a grant of 1.5m from the Teachers Development Agency for support and mentoring schemes.

SA – stated that for refugee doctors clinical attachment is part of the pathway to employment. She suggested that the LDA talks to Building Bridges, a partnership initiative which is led by NHS Employers to support refugee doctors.

AB – stated that the LDA now has a new board and that any approach to them required a good evidence base.

HH – FE colleges have good support in London. There are networks of professionals.

MD – asked how the learning from LSEB and the Adult Advancement and Careers Service could be integrated.

PL – Explained that the family learning support provides a route for classroom assistants. She emphasised there was a need to pull all these

LDA to link to Refugee Doctors initiative

threads together.

BR – suggested that this work could be part of the refugee integration strategy. Funding for the hub ends in March and suggestions for further funding would be welcome.

LH – stated ESOL is the glue in addressing these needs and that support mechanisms were needed for foreign teachers.

9. A.O.B

9.1 Future agenda items

RB – brought the circulated ‘draft Thematic Schedules for LSMP meetings’ to the attention of the members. He proposed that in order to ensure due scrutiny of delivery of the primary work programme of the LSMP which is the Mayor’s Refugee Integration Strategy and the three priority areas, each meeting focuses on two different thematic chapters and corresponding actions in order that they appear in the strategy. The GLA officers will invite lead agencies to present their work on the implementation of the RIS. The thematic areas would take an hour and there will be room for LSMP Board members to suggest agenda items and have a business meeting too.

9.2 DIVE Conference.

RB informed LSMP members that the Mayor is co-hosting a conference on 22 February 2010 at City Hall as part of the Diversity and Equality in European Cities Project (DIVE). LSMP members will be invited.

9.3 LSMP public website page.

RB informed the members that the GLA has launched an LSMP web page on the GLA public website.

<http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/migration/index.jsp>

9.4 City Parochial Fund report on Poverty Profile and irregular migration

RB - suggested that the poverty profile report be considered at the Outer London Commissions. It highlights many of the challenges faced by Londoners who live in the Outer-boroughs.

RB reminded members that the Mayor had commissioned LSE to carry out research on the economic impact of an earned regularisation of irregular migrants on the London and UK economy, this report was launched in June. He will meet the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Assembly to discuss progress on this issue.

10. Date of next meeting

15 December 2009, 10.00am – 12.00pm

RB thanked the members for their contribution and closed the meeting.