

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Mayor's Migrant & Refugee Advisory Panel (MRAP)

10.00 – 12.00

23 July 2019

Committee Room 1, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, SE1 2AA

Attendance

Hannah Boylan, GLA (Chair)

Ramiye Thavabalasingam, GLA (notetaker)

Lisa Doyle, Refugee Council

Barbara Drozdowicz, EERC

Jonathan Thomas, SMF

Mihai Clain Bica, RSG

Jennie Corbett, Doctors of the World UK

Fariha Bhatti, REAP

Gisela Valle, LAWRS

Amanuel Woldesus, Consonant

Eleanor Brown, CARAS

Tamsin Koumis, New Europeans

Rita Chadha, Barking and Dagenham CVS

Nafisah Graham-Brown, ELATT

Theo Cadbury, GLA

Madeleine Ellis-Petersen, GLA

David Eastwood, GLA

Imman Laksari-Adams, GLA

Spencer Thompson, GLA

Agenda

1. Welcome and updates

1.1 Hannah Boylan updated that the GLA are currently recruiting a number of roles in the migration strand of the Social Integration team, including a new role leading on insecure status, as well as the three LSMP funded posts.

1.2 Hannah also confirmed the four lead members of MRAP for 2019/20: Lisa Doyle and Barbara Drozdowicz will continue in their roles and Jennie Corbett will lead on the hostile environment and Nafisah Graham-Brown will lead on ESOL.

2. ESOL and the Adult Education Budget

2.1 Imman Laksari-Adams updated on the devolution of the Adult Education Budget (AEB). The budget for London is £306m this year and £311m in future years. The AEB funds the

MAYOR OF LONDON

majority of ESOL provision in London, at nearly £90m. The kick off date for the devolved AEB is 1 August.

- 2.2 Imman highlighted that GLA has been working to make funding rules more inclusive to varying levels of success; while the Home Office have now clarified people's rights to the funding, there remains limited flexibility on who is eligible for funding. The GLA will be using the next year to gather evidence to see if any particular groups are finding it difficult to access provision, for example asylum seekers, to continue advocate for eligibility criteria to be more flexible.
- 2.3 Imman updated on the consultation on future funding and how to change London's rules for the AEB; feedback on funding ESOL provision up to level 3 was mixed, with concerns being raised around the impact of other provision such as maths and digital skills, and the fact that funding is not the biggest barrier to ESOL provision – flexibility of learning, childcare, transport and delivery settings are other key issues.
- 2.4 Imman emphasised that the GLA will be looking at building the capacity of the sector by improving teaching, funding more community-based provision and building up evidence.
- 2.5 Imman highlighted that to improve engagement with learners, the GLA are planning an annual survey of learners. The Government's current online survey has a low return rate, and the GLA are looking to improve this by improving accessibility and providing incentives. Members suggested using focus groups would be helpful.
- 2.6 Imman also updated that through the new rules introduced by the Mayor, people in low wage work (below London Living Wage) can now access AEB funding. This has already seen an increase in ESOL provision.
- 2.7 In terms of European Social Fund (ESF) projects, £2.5m has been commissioned to deliver ESOL in community settings, and £2m has been allocated to teaching. The contracts for these projects will be announced in the autumn.
- 2.8 Theo Cadbury noted that the ESOL Plus Childcare pilot programme has shown new approaches and best practice to accessing ESOL and the learnings from the pilots can be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: Members to share any evidence of particular groups finding it difficult to access ESOL provision to Hannah Boylan and Theo Cadbury.

Action: ESOL Plus Childcare learnings to be discussed at next meeting.

3. Survey of Londoners

- 3.1 Spencer Thompson introduced the findings from the Survey of Londoners. Given the major gaps in the social evidence base, the GLA commissioned research and a large scale social

MAYOR OF LONDON

survey designed to provide new evidence in many different areas. Natsen delivered the survey, which was completed by over 6600 adult Londoners.

3.2 Spencer noted that the survey provides the first comprehensive evidence on social integration (in terms of the Mayor of London's definition), as well as food security and economic fairness. The survey collected data on nationality, country of birth, citizenship, language spoken at home, English proficiency, how long they've lived in London. However, not all of these aspects have been analysed in detail yet.

3.3 Spencer highlighted some key findings from the survey, including:

- There is no significant difference in terms of ethnicity for social mixing, however age did impact this.
- There was not much difference by nationality for loneliness but non-British Londoners were more likely to feel lonely.
- Non-British Londoners were less likely to be registered to vote than British Londoners.
- Those with lower English proficiency were more likely to perform lower in terms of economic outcomes, food security, participation, belonging and personal wellbeing.

3.4 Spencer updated that going forward, this work will support policy teams with policy and programme development, as well as disseminating the findings wider to boroughs, other cities and civil society. Further tools including information and guidance for civil society to measure the social integration impact of their work is currently being developed.

3.5 Members discussed:

- Whether belonging to London was compared to belonging to Britain was compared. Spencer highlighted that they were unable to fit this into the survey but Queen Mary University is undertaking research into this.
- That a high proportion of participants were born outside the UK. It would be useful to differentiate between different nationalities and identities e.g. Welsh, Western European, British but not British-born Londoners, dual nationals etc.
- If any health indicators were included in the survey, as well as a question on access to services. Spencer highlighted that there is a disability breakdown in the findings and that there was a question for people new to London on where they go for information, but this has not been analysed fully yet.
- That depending on the usefulness of these findings, the survey could potentially be conducted every 2-3 years.
- How the results show social isolation is more prevalent among younger people, as is loneliness.
- That the survey provides a breakdown by London Assembly constituency, as well as inner and outer London. Results show different levels of belonging for inner and outer Londoners.

Action: Members are invited to request any specific points for analysis from the Survey of Londoners and how they could use the findings.

MAYOR OF LONDON

Action: Spencer to share link to published findings from the Survey of Londoners.

4. Controlling Migration Fund

4.1 David Eastwood updated on the GLA's successful Controlling Migration Fund (CMF) bid for £3.3m. The aims of the bid are to strengthen the GLA's rough sleeping work by providing a migrant voice for outreach and support and trialling new initiatives. David thanked members for helping shape the bid.

4.2 David outlined that there are three parts to the bid:

- Part 1 looks at improving strategic oversight and coordination of rough sleeping services. The GLA will be looking for expertise from the migrant sector for a new role in the policy team. A new governance group for this work, including boroughs who have had successful CMF bids, will be created once the role has been recruited.
- Part 2 aims to improve services, focusing on how to provide a more immediate route off the streets. The GLA will be flexing the tenancy sustainment teams contracts to provide additional support for non-UK nationals in clearing house properties and the Routes Home contract will also be flexed and additional bedspaces for medium needs, and providing more support in someone's home country to help provide support for those who want to go out. The GLA will also be procuring a range of other services including support for Roma rough sleepers including helping people get into formal work and short term accommodation, helping people in the private rented sector, and supporting non-UK nationals in clearing house properties.
- Part 3 focuses on improving data and training for the homeless sector on non-UK nationals' rights and improving CHAIN data for internal purposes.

4.3 Members discussed:

- The role of the Home Office and immigration enforcement in this work and if the GLA will confirm they will not share data with the Home Office. David emphasised that the Home Office is not involved in this work and will not be sitting on the governance group or the steering group as a core member. David emphasised that the GLA has already committed to not sharing any data with the Home Office that is not in the public domain but if this has not been clear then they can look to reaffirm this position. David also highlighted that the GLA already has a strict data sharing agreement already in terms of CHAIN, which he can circulate.
- Whether MHCLG will change the name of the Controlling Migration Fund. Hannah emphasised that this is a government decision but the GLA have recommended changing the name in their response to the Government's Integrated Communities Strategy.
- That there will be a specialist outreach team working with Roma rough sleepers. A tender for this will be going out, and the GLA is looking for providers to come with expertise. It is envisaged that the work will focus on maximum three boroughs. There is an opportunity for Roma Support Group and other organisations to shape this work.

MAYOR OF LONDON

- What will happen at the point of outreach in terms of proving they are not British. David emphasised that referrals will not be based on nationality alone.

4.4 Hannah suggested that these issues can be discussed at the new governance group and that there should be a link between this group and MRAP. It was agreed that attendance to this group is arranged similarly to the EDI advisory group, with two members of MRAP attending each meeting.

Action: Hannah to share note on CMF bid with members.

Action: David to share data sharing agreement for CHAIN with members.

Action: David to speak to MHCLG to understand their expectations in terms of data in relation to CMF.

5. Refugee Resettlement

5.1 Lisa Doyle updated on the Government's recent announcement extending the refugee resettlement programme for a further year, with a target of 5000 resettled a year. Community sponsorship will now be an additional target, rather than being included in the 20,000 target for the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

5.2 Lisa noted that the three resettlement programmes (Gateway, VPRS and VCRS) will be consolidated into a single programme, which is a positive step. The programme will provide five years of funding. The Government is also introducing emergency resettlement mechanisms, and this will not focus on a single nationality or a single conflict.

5.3 Lisa emphasised that there are still concerns for local authorities, who still cannot think about future planning as only one more year of funding has been confirmed. Future years cannot be confirmed until the Government's next comprehensive Spending Review

5.4 Lisa noted global resettlement needs are currently 1.4m people this year, however the UNHCR has been ambitious on setting new targets to help to address the needs, and has introduced a three year strategy on resettlement and complimentary pathways such as student visas, which can be shared.

5.5 Hannah highlighted that the new asylum accommodation and support contracts are now up and running. Lisa noted that the accommodation provider Clearsprings seem to be organised and systematic in London, and engaging well with civil society.

5.6 Lisa emphasised her reservations around the asylum support contract, particularly around the move on period. This is now Migrant Help's responsibility and they have outsourced this element to Reed for England (in Scotland and Wales it is the Scottish and Welsh Refugee Councils). The enhanced move on support consists of three phone calls and referrals.

MAYOR OF LONDON

5.7 Members discussed:

- That a meeting with Migrant Help and Reed should be arranged and key organisations for referrals such as DWP should be invited.
- That Reed had a contract on getting refugees into work through the Big Lottery Fund, and it may be worth looking at the evaluation of the work.

Action: Lisa to share commitment to introduce three year strategy on resettlement and complimentary pathways with members.

Action: Hannah to arrange meeting with Reed and Migrant Help.

6. AOB

6.1 The minutes for the last meeting were agreed, with exception of correcting the organisation under Rita Chadha's name in the attendee list.

6.2 Hannah highlighted the high-level update from LSMP on the Home Office's review of the citizenship process, which will be linked to the Integrated Communities and ESOL strategies. Debbie Weekes-Bernard reiterated at that meeting that the GLA is disappointed that this is the focus of the review rather than shorter and cheaper routes to citizenship. Hannah highlighted that there is limited flexibility around the English language test until the end of the year in terms of the provider. Hannah suggested the lead official for the review is invited to a MRAP meeting.

6.3 Hannah highlighted that there will be a meeting on 25 July to give the Home Office feedback on their Rough Sleeping Support Service.

Action: Hannah to share minutes from LSMP with members.

Action: Two members to attend next EDI Advisory Group meeting in September.

The date of the next meeting will be: 28 October.