

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS
EXECUTIVE MEETING**



Date: 10 September 2010

Subject: **Migration Monitoring Report**

Report of: Roy Millard, South East Strategic Partnership
for Migration (SESPM)

Recommendation:

SEEC Executive is asked to note the report and consider the impact of migration on service provision in their local authorities.

1. Introduction

1.1 At the SEEC Executive on 14 July the Chairman requested an update on migration and the impact on public services.

2. Characteristics of Migration in the South East

2.1 The South East has the largest migrant population outside London, accounting for 15% (some 80,100) of the national total. Net migration in the SE stands at 21,900. Migrants in the South East represent a large and diverse population; the size and nature being influenced by economic and geopolitical events.

2.2 Migrant workers, both EU and Non EU, play a significant part in the South East. This is indicated by National Insurance number allocations, those registered on the Workers Registration Scheme and 'Flag 4' GP registrations.

2.3 Areas with significant migrant populations include – but are not limited to – Reading, Oxford, Slough, Brighton and Hove, Southampton, Portsmouth, and parts of Kent and Sussex. In addition, some districts such as Arun, Thanet, Dover, and Rushmoor have proportionally high migrant populations.

2.4 The South East has a comparatively small asylum population in the dispersal regions of Hastings, Southampton and Portsmouth (circa 500).

3. Education

3.1 The 2010 Schools Census shows 9.5% (some 48,900) of primary and 7.3% (37,100) of secondary school pupils in the South East are known to, or believed to, have a first language other than English. This is the third highest percentage of secondary pupils following London and West Midlands. Top areas affected at primary school level are Slough 55.6%; Reading 26.5%; Milton Keynes 19.4%; Southampton 17.7%; Windsor and Maidenhead 16.1%; Buckinghamshire 14.1%; Portsmouth 11.5%; Wokingham, 10.1%; Medway 9.6%; and Oxfordshire 9.1%.

- 3.2 These figures represent a small increase from the previous year. It should be noted that the figures are based on minority ethnic backgrounds rather than migration; however there are strong correlations and links
- 3.3 Key points to note received from local authority Heads of Service are:
- Language – rise in bi-lingual pupils (23% of pupils in Reading are bilingual); more than doubled in the past 10 years.
 - In Reading 45% of the school population is comprised of pupils for whom English is not their first language and this is expected to rise over the next 6 years. In Kent this is 15.3% covering 72 different ethnic groups.
 - Pressures in some locations e.g. Gravesham and Thanet for school places can result in long journeys or family members attending different schools.
 - In anticipation of the comprehensive spending review, the impact of migration (positive and negative) should be considered in reviewing funding arrangements and school capital funding.
 - Councils need to reconsider practices to understand, respond and support entitlements and emerging needs – for example community liaison, providing multi lingual culturally matched interventions, workforce diversity and finance.

4. Health

- 4.1 Flag 4 GP registrations recorded 86,501 new registrations in the South East in 2009 (a drop of 5% on 2008). The top 10 affected authorities were Oxford, Southampton, Brighton and Hove, Reading, Slough, Milton Keynes, Portsmouth, Canterbury, Guildford and Crawley.
- 4.2 Entitlement to NHS care depends on immigration status. Some have no recourse to public funds, while others can access the full range. Many economic migrants arriving under Tiers 1 and 2 of the points based system are provided with private health care by their sponsors.
- 4.3 Asylum seekers and refugees often have existing medical conditions including mental trauma (many having experienced violence, deprivation, disease and disaster) and are more intensive users of the NHS. The main areas affected in the South East are Portsmouth, Southampton, Hastings, Brighton and Hove and Crawley. Kent, Oxford and East Sussex have significant numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children with a range of health needs.
- 4.4 A prominent migrant health research project identified a number of recommendations for the South East:
- i) Promote understanding of appropriate and intelligent use of health services
 - ii) More 'intelligent' data gathering to better inform effective coordinated commissioning
 - iii) Joint working across agencies to address social issues which may have negative health impacts e.g. poor quality housing
 - iv) Improving English language
 - v) Establishing a South East network to coordinate multi-agency work.

5. Employment

- 5.1 Latest statistics show 3,669 employer sponsor licence applications in the South East covering a wide range of employment, the most prevalent being education, social care, IT, scientific, hospitality, manufacturing and sports and leisure.
- 5.2 EU Accession state migrants (A8 and A2) are regulated through registration schemes. Typically, but not exclusively, workers are in low skilled employment such as agricultural labourers, hospitality and catering and cleaning.
- 5.3 The South East Strategic Partnership for Migration (SESPM) recently coordinated a meeting to contribute to Government consultation on establishing and operating the limit on non EU economic migrants (skilled workers from Tiers 1 and 2 of the points based system). The cross sector group raised a number of key points:
- They urged caution to prevent compromising the South East's economic competitiveness as restrictions on key workers may result in companies relocating
 - Consideration should include economic projections over the next 4 to 5 years, not just the current economic conditions
 - We should take account of sector requirements and regional skill priorities rather than first come first served
 - The need for a development strategy to up-skill resident workers
 - The need to manage messages around controlling immigration to avoid a negative impact on community cohesion and integration.

6. Social Services

- 6.1 A minority of migrants use social services, however when this does occur it is often complex and time consuming.
- 6.2 A key area social services cover is in supporting Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASCs) and those leaving care. There are currently circa 1,250 cases being supported in the South East – the main areas being Kent 870; Oxfordshire 220; and West Sussex 120. Authorities receive some central grant support, however this does not cover all costs. Supporting UASCs is often complex and time consuming and difficult to plan for, given the unpredictable nature of this type of migration.
- 6.3 SESPM is establishing a South East 'No Recourse to Public Funds Network' to assist local authorities where – when no other form of support is available – social service support may be provided to avoid a breach of human rights. This impacts on a range of authorities in the South East especially Brighton and Hove, Hastings, Portsmouth, Southampton, Kent and Oxfordshire. One key aim is to identify the costs for potential re-imburement.

7. Housing

- 7.1 Economic migrants under the points based system are often provided with accommodation by the employer, or use the private rented sector. The local impact in areas of high migration for work may be to reduce

the availability of rental accommodation and increase the price. It may also increase property prices in the buy-to-let market.

- 7.2 Some migrants from EU accession states minimise their living expenses by sharing houses or living in Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). Incidents of overcrowding, 'hot bedding', 'beds in sheds' and camping have been reported in the South East in areas including Slough, Thanet and Dover. Accession state EU migrants may be entitled to housing benefit provided they are in work and registered with the Home Office. They are also entitled to apply for council housing but success will depend on the points threshold applied by the local authority.
- 7.3 Often agricultural migrants are provided with accommodation. A report commissioned by Arun indicates that some employers are now using good quality housing to attract EU migrants who may otherwise choose to work in alternative EU countries when transitional arrangements cease in 2011.

8. Policing and crime

- 8.1 It is difficult to measure the impact of migration in terms of policing. Generally in areas of higher migration, workloads and costs increase whether a migrant is a victim or perpetrator; work often takes longer and requires interpreters and may involve international investigation. In some areas community engagement programmes have been established, particularly aimed at hard to reach communities such as Roma.
- 8.2 Motoring offences, benefit fraud and illegal working are often cited as lower level criminal activity associated with some categories of migrants. Also homelessness among migrants not entitled to public funds in areas such as Brighton and Hove, Southampton and Reading is seen as a contributory factor to increases in anti-social behaviour, theft and alcohol abuse. The UK Borders Agency (UKBA) is piloting work in the South East to remove EEA nationals considered not to be exercising their treaty rights.
- 8.3 Some serious crime such as human trafficking, drug manufacturing and organised crime is tackled on a multi-agency basis involving the police, UKBA, and agencies such as the HMRC, DWP and local authorities.
- 8.4 Foreign National Prisoners (FNPs) are held in a number of prisons across the South East. Canterbury accommodates 100% FNPs and there are significant populations in non dedicated establishments including Maidstone, Rochester Young Offenders' Institute and Lewes. In addition there are Immigration Removal Centres in Dover and Haslar.

1 September 2010.