

Helping the South East Monitor Trends, Address Challenges, Maximise Opportunities and Inform National Policy

South East Strategic Partnership for Migration

Business Plan 2018-20

Introduction

The South East is a very large and diverse region with England's highest number of local authorities (74) and a predominantly two tier structure requiring effective engagement at County, Unitary and District levels. It hosts the largest number of migrants in the UK (with the exception of London), is a global gateway by sea, air and rail and is a hub for many other migrants en route to other parts of the UK.

The core purpose of the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration (SESPM) is to provide strategic leadership, advice and coordination for migration policy issues affecting the South East region. We also provide specialist delivery on programmes such as asylum dispersal, the regional coordination and matching of the Refugee Resettlement Programme including English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and unaccompanied migrant children's programmes.

SESPM operates through an effective minimalist structure with a lead officer 100% dedicated to migration issues supported by a small team of part time and seconded staff based within the South East England Councils (SEEC). This enables one point of contact which connects into the heart of the South East. The established networks and structures of SESPM and SEEC enable us to achieve excellent value for money in the delivery of effective two way communication between the Home Office and local partners; ensuring Home Office objectives including controlling and managing migration, safeguarding the vulnerable and host communities, improving customer service and promoting growth are communicated and appropriately supported through strengthened partnership working.

The partnership is overseen by an Executive Board chaired by an elected local authority leader. Following a review of governance the core membership will now include three further Councillors, Local Authority Chief Executives/Lead Officers, National Police Chiefs Councils, Home Office (covering key business areas), Oxford University and COMPASS accommodation provider.

In addition, there is a far reaching sub-regional structure based round four geographical areas, which enable SESPM to remain close to those supporting migrants on the ground. This includes voluntary sector, health practitioners, emergency and public services, and the No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) network.

The Board agrees the business plan and objectives. The objectives reflect the requirements of the Enabling Grant Agreement with the Home Office and agreed regional priorities

Progress against the business plan will be reported in line with the grant requirements i.e. in submission of grant payment requests, quarterly and end of year reports in addition to scrutiny at the Executive Board meetings. Whilst this plan covers a two year period 2018-20, it will be reviewed after the first year.

2018-20 - Focus at a Glance

We will prioritise our work on widening asylum dispersal, and coordination of the Refugee Resettlement programmes (including ESOL) and the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children's (UASC) programmes.

We will support local understanding and objectively assess the regional impact of the introduction of new policy. Embedding a place based approach, we will endeavour to hear from local authorities as to what works best in each locality when managing migration across the South East and relay this to the Home Office.

We will respond flexibly and effectively to changes in migration policy and decision making that could result following the referendum vote to leave the EU (Brexit).

We will continue to identify regional migration priorities and maintain and build robust, cross sector partnerships through the facilitation and coordination of regular Sub Regional Strategic Migration Groups, the Regional Executive Board and the regional NRPF network.

We will seek to support local and national priorities such as promoting community integration, voluntary returns and combatting modern slavery.

We will continue to provide an effective single point of contact for the South East region on migration issues remaining an effective and efficient two-way conduit between central sources such as Home Office Communications, National Asylum Support Forum and Migration Advisory Committee, Local Authorities and other local partners.

We will continue to represent the South East region on national bodies including the Local Government Association Asylum, Migration and Refugee Task Force, the Association of Directors of Children's Services Asylum Task Force, the Voluntary Returns Steering Group and the National No Recourse to Public Funds Network.

SESPM – How we work

The work of SESPM is guided by the following ways in which we work with our partners:

- Maintaining objectivity, fairness and an equitable approach that is politically neutral and non-judgemental
- Understanding shared concerns, informing, enabling and providing a platform for others in the South East who are involved with migration
- Sharing expertise and good practice amongst others in the South East
- Respecting different perspectives and approaches
- Combining flexibility to respond to events alongside planned activities
- Using evidence and facts to guide our work
- Remaining accountable, transparent and working to professional standards

Strategic objectives

- 1. **Engaging and networking.** Provide an efficient, flexible and quality means of engagement for the Home Office and local partners in the South East to effectively identify, understand, communicate and address migration issues of national and local importance. Engaging senior representatives from South East local authorities, identifying and maintaining networks of the key statutory and voluntary sector partners involved with migration.
- 2. **Assisting partners in the South East to respond to migration priorities.** Support South East Local Authorities to help them respond to the challenges migration may cause. This will include assisting partners to identify local priorities, enhancing their understanding of the local impact of migration and sharing this understanding with the Home Office. For 2018-20 this will include: the widening of asylum dispersal, Refugee Resettlement schemes, UASCs, combatting Modern Slavery, promoting awareness and understanding of the voluntary returns options, enhancing the asylum process (including accommodation), integration, community cohesion and the implications of Brexit.
- 3. **Support the development of evidence based policy and practice** Gathering evidence, monitoring trends, analysing and reporting on the impacts of migration to and from the South East, identifying and sharing good practice in terms of responding to migration issues, training and dissemination of information. We have modest additional resources through the Controlling Migration Fund to support this objective for UASC.
- 4. **Implementing programmes, training and coordination.** Providing a South East coordination role for Home Office programmes, such as Refugee Resettlement Schemes, The National Transfer Scheme (NTS) for UASC, the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) and other initiatives as appropriate, such as mapping and promoting good practice of ESOL provision.

Strategic Objectives for the 2018-20 SESPM Business Plan

Strategic	Actions	Target/KPI	Lead	Timescale	Projected Outcome	Engagement
Objective 1						
	1.2 Facilitate a South East Executive Board	 Quarterly Board meetings Pan region local authority representation Cross sector representation Provision of a strategic overview & expert resource on the impact of migration in the South East 	SESPM Chair SESPM Manager SEEC Director	A minimum of four times a year & regular reporting back on progress.	 Central communications are disseminated appropriately & where appropriate guidance & follow up actions undertaken to ensure understanding. Effective two way communications at this level will provide evidence that can inform effective strategies for controlling migration and local costs. Implement review of the board membership Identification of regional priorities & agreed actions to address the strategic objectives Report on progress of actions & share good practice Facilitated communications between central & local government on key migration issues Achieving a shared 	We will achieve these aims by regular contact with the organisations listed in the Annex attached

Strategic A	Actions	Target/KPI	Lead	Timescale	Projected Outcome	Engagement
Objective 1						
Objective 1					understanding between the Executive Board and Home Office of a 'place based' approach in the South East Work is effectively monitored. Programme work is identified, presented and, where appropriate, mini business case(s) are presented for approval if required. Regional migration impacts and trends are identified and presented to inform local/regional/national considerations. The board is made aware of issues, risks and opportunities within the region. National initiatives are shared and discussed. Examples include: Refugee Resettlement, Children's	

Strategic	Actions	Target/KPI	Lead	Timescale	Projected Outcome	Engagement
Objective 1						
	 1.3 Facilitate an action focused subregional engagement mechanism in Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Kent, Surrey & Sussex and Thames Valley Identifying and bringing in new partners and networks Facilitating a regular programme of meetings Ensure meetings take a holistic approach to the key issues including: asylum dispersal and support, Refugee Resettlement, children's programmes, community safety including modern slavery, public services including housing, 	 Four Sub regional strategic migration groups serviced. Meetings in each sub region are held a minimum of three times per year. Appropriate cross sector attendance. Email distributions are maintained on important issues between meetings. 	SESPM Manager	A minimum of three times a year and regular reporting back on progress.	National Transfer Scheme, Community Sponsorship, Controlling Migration Fund, Modern Slavery and the potential implications of Brexit. Sub regional experiences of migration are shared and priorities/developing issues identified for presentation to the Executive Board. Review progress and receive feedback on resettlement programmes, including opportunities and challenges. Initiatives are discussed in detail such as, asylum dispersal and support including local issues, operational impacts of changes such as those to the Immigration Rules and new policy areas Best practice examples identified and supported	

Strategic	Actions	Target/KPI	Lead	Timescale	Projected Outcome Er	ngagement
Objective 1						
	health, education, employment, policing, Home Office priorities and enforcement and cohesion				 and where agreed shared across the region. Ensure sub regional views are represented at the Executive board to inform regional priorities. Support for local initiatives such as integration projects 	
	 1.4 Facilitation of the South East NRPF Network with a focus to include: Awareness of the CONNECT data base Options for voluntary returns Identify & seek to address key issues of local authorities in responding to NRPF Connect local partners with the Interventions & Sanctions Directorate local partnership managers Connect partners directly 	 Number of meetings Numbers of people attending Email distribution 	SESPM Manager	Twice yearly	 Two meetings per year to address emerging issues & share good practice. Identify key issues of concern working together with the National NRPF Network, SE Local Authorities, UKVI Interventions & Sanctions Managers, Voluntary Returns Unit & voluntary sector colleagues Increased uptake of the CONNECT data base to achieve cost reduction for local authorities & increase the speed of casework 	

Strategic	Actions	Target/KPI	Lead	Timescale	Projected Outcome	Engagement
Objective 1						
	1.5 Maintain a network of key contacts & organisations involved with migration in the South East	Maintaining an updated distribution list of partners	SESPM Manager	Ongoing throughout 2018-20	 resolution for NRPF cases. Increased connection with the Interventions & Sanctions Directorate and options for local authorities to explore embedded officer options & expedited premium line status checks. Provision of expert input on implications of national case law Enhanced flow of information & relevant contacts in the South East 	
	1.6 Maintain the SESPM element of the SEEC website to provide a useful focal point for disseminating information to partners.	Quarterly review of Website to ensure updated information is shared.	SESPM Manager	Ongoing throughout 2018-20	Enhanced flow of information in the South East.	

Strategic	Actions		Target/KPI	Lead	Timescale	Expected Outcome	Engagement
Objective 2							
Assisting	2.1 Delivery of a programme of	•	Arranging &	SESPM	Ongoing	Local authorities receive	We will
partners in	engagement with local		recording a	Manager	throughout	clear information about	achieve these
	engagement with local authorities & other partners to understand the local context & the Home Office priorities (now being overseen under one central command structure). The topics to include those below & others that may arise: Widening Dispersal: Establish and implement with UKVI a strategic engagement mechanism across all SE		5 5		0 0		
	 authorities Provide appropriate introductions to key local authority representative Facilitate & support meetings (initial and ongoing). Collation of responses of local authorities & facilitation of ongoing collective discussion through the sub-regional strategic migration groups. 					 agreed. Levels of participation are identified & barriers to participation recorded and where possible mitigated. Enable discussion on local cluster levels & seek agreement including trigger points to meet should accommodation 	

Strategic	Actions	Target/KPI	Lead	Timescale	Expected Outcome	Engagement
Objective 2						
					requirements increase on a	
					local or national basis.	
					A full understanding by all	
					parties of the local housing	
					environment, public	
					services impacts &	
					pressures. These conveyed	
					& understood by the Home	
					Office to inform dispersal	
					allocation profiles.	
					An enhanced two-way	
					communication between	
					local authorities & Home	
					Office.	
					Better understanding of the	
					opportunities & challenges	
					presented by migration in	
					the South East.	
					Discussion & sharing of	
					good practice	
					Awareness raised with	
					relevant parties on the issue	
					 The better sharing of 	
					information amongst	
					_	
					partners, via email, the web	
					site, events & day to day	

Strategic	Actions		Target/KPI	Lead	Timescale	Ex	pected Outcome	Engagement
Objective 2								
							contact.	
	2.2 Identify where support is needed	•	Meetings	SESPM	Ongoing	•	Meetings are arranged with	
	to assist local authorities in the		arranged, action	Manager	throughout		SE Councils requesting	
	delivery of work related to		points identified &		2018-20		County Coordination in two	
	migration. To include:		notes recorded	SESPM			tier authorities &	
	Arranging and recording a	•	Links &	Refugee	Regular		individual/clustered	
	programme of meetings on the		relationships	Resettlemen	events held		meetings with Unitary &	
	issues in the overall objective,		established with	t coordinator	for all		District authorities.	
	such as Refugee Resettlement &		key parties.		programmes.	•	An enhanced	
	Children's Programmes.	•	Specific topic-	SESPM			understanding of the local	
	The meetings between SESPM,		focussed events	Principal			environment & public	
	Home Office (UKVI Etc.)		held to support	Social			services impacts &	
	COMPASS Delivery Managers		local authority	Worker for			pressures is conveyed to	
	Asylum Accommodation		needs.	UASC			support the Home Office	
	provider & local authority leads,						RASI place based focus.	
	voluntary sector &others					•	Specialist staff (UASC and	
	covering the South East.						Refugee Resettlement)	
							provides ongoing single	
							point of contact for all	
							stakeholders proving	
							support & programme	
							coordination.	
						•	A schedule of stakeholder	
							events is delivered for all	
							programmes.	
						•	A practitioners' forum for	

Strategic	Actions	Target/KPI	Lead	Timescale	Expected Outcome	Engagement
Objective 2						
					Children's programmes is	
					facilitated.	
					The development an	
					assessment tool with UASC	
					to encourage consistent	
					practice across the region.	
					Delivery of a UASC specific	
					training programme across	
					the region	
					Specialist staff attends sub-	
					regional events as required	
					by local authorities such as	
					Refugee Resettlement	
					Boards run at County	
					Council level.	
					Awareness raised with	
					relevant parties on the issue	
					The better sharing of	
					information amongst	
					partners, via email, events	
					& day to day contact.	
	2.3 Delivering a coordination role in	Numbers of	SESPM	Ongoing	The South East participates	•
	UASC & Resettlement	refugees resettled.	Manager	throughout	in resettlement schemes &	
	programmes,	Numbers of UASC		2018-20	refugees are successfully	
		transferred within	SESPM		resettled.	
		and out of region.	Refugee		The South East successfully	

Strategic	Actions	Target/KPI	Lead	Timescale	Expected Outcome	Engagement
Objective 2						
			Resettlemen		participates in the UASC	
			t coordinator		National transfer scheme	
					that in a way that is	
			SESPM		appropriate for local	
			Principal		authorities and UASC.	
			Social		SESPM provides ongoing	
			Worker for		local support to partners	
			UASC		though attending sub	
					regional meetings and	
					running workshops where	
					appropriate to share good	
					practice on these topics.	

Strategic	Actions		Indicators	Lead	Tir	nescale	Ex	pected Outcome	Engagement
Objective 3									
Support	3.1 Facilitate targeted information	•	Regular reports &	SESPM	On	ngoing	•	Local authorities have	We will
the	exchange & dissemination		updates to & from	Manager	thr	roughout		access to reliable, relevant	achieve these
developme	migration policy including:		partners		20	18-20		& timely information shared	aims by
nt of	Collation of information &	•	Meeting	SESPM VPRS				in a user friendly way	regular
evidence	research relating to migration		consultation	coordinator	•	Migrati	•	Local authorities have a	contact with
based	issues locally (and where		deadlines			on &		central point in the South	the
policy &	relevant, nationally)	•	Regional & sub-	SESPM		resettl		East to which they can	organisations
practice.	Identify key partners for specific		regional events	Principal Social		ement		report emerging issues,	listed in the
	local knowledge & input.		organised	Worker for		statisti		share concerns and identify	Annex
	Collect information on &		regularly on	UASC		cs –		challenges.	attached
	facilitate sharing of practice		specific topics			quarte	•	There is a targeted way to	

Strategic	Actions	l	ndicators	Lead	Timesc	ale	Expected Outcome	Engagement
Objective 3								
Objective 3	 Bespoke consultation meetings on specific policy areas as required Scope enabling training events on specific topics as they arise – regionally & sub-regionally. Tailor meeting agendas to policy developments Continue to promote awareness of modern slavery Collate partners positions in response to policy areas 	t o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o	Evaluation built in to the operation of SESPM's operational & strategic work of Migration data for the South East is produced, maintained & circulated	SEEC Director SEEC person (for the dashboard)	y (f the Sou Eas Eng d Cou s	ta- nuall for ta- ta- ta- nuall for ta-	respond to issues in order to influence policy as it applies in the South East. Sharing of expertise across the South East Partners are supported to make informed evidence based decisions. Good practice examples disseminated to partners & adopted Reduction in costs incurred to local authorities through sharing good practice, for example on the commissioning of ESOL Support partners understanding of immigration issues Increase in partners' preparedness & ability to effectively respond to immigration issues, such as resettlement programmes	

Actions		Indicators	Lead	Timescale	Ex	pected Outcome	Engagement
3.2 Provide proactive input into national fora	•	Submissions to, engagement with & attendance at a range of national fora	SESPM Manager SESPM Refugee Resettlement coordinator SESPM Principal Social Worker for UASC SEEC Director	Ongoing throughout 2018-20	•	High quality, evidence-based input on SE migration issues to national groups such as: Parliamentary Committees, APPG, Local Government Association Migration Task Group, ADCS Training Committee, Assisted Voluntary Returns Steering Group & the Directors of Children's Services Provide regional input to national bodies including the LGA Asylum and Migration Task Force; Association of Directors of Children's Services Migration Task Force; & the	•
3.3 Respond to consultations on behalf of the South East where	•	Relevant consultations	SESPM Manager	Ongoing throughout	•	National No Recourse to Public Funds National Steering Group Coordination, collation & submission of responses to	
	3.2 Provide proactive input into national fora 3.3 Respond to consultations on	3.2 Provide proactive input into national fora 3.3 Respond to consultations on behalf of the South East where	3.2 Provide proactive input into national fora • Submissions to, engagement with & attendance at a range of national fora 3.3 Respond to consultations on behalf of the South East where	3.2 Provide proactive input into national fora • Submissions to, engagement with & attendance at a range of national fora SESPM Refugee Resettlement coordinator SESPM Principal Social Worker for UASC SEEC Director 3.3 Respond to consultations on behalf of the South East where	3.2 Provide proactive input into national fora • Submissions to, engagement with & attendance at a range of national fora • Submissions to, engagement with & attendance at a range of national fora SESPM Refugee Resettlement coordinator SESPM Principal Social Worker for UASC SEEC Director 3.3 Respond to consultations on behalf of the South East where • Relevant consultations • Relevant consultations Manager Ongoing throughout	3.2 Provide proactive input into national fora • Submissions to, engagement with & attendance at a range of national fora SESPM Refugee Resettlement coordinator SESPM Principal Social Worker for UASC SEEC Director 3.3 Respond to consultations on behalf of the South East where • Relevant consultations • Relevant consultations Manager Ongoing throughout 2018-20 • Ongoing throughout 2018-20 • Ongoing throughout 2018-20	3.2 Provide proactive input into national fora - Submissions to, engagement with & attendance at a range of national fora SESPM Refugee Resettlement coordinator SESPM Principal Social Worker for UASC SEEC Director SEEC Director SEEC Director - Relevant consultations on behalf of the South East where - Relevant consultations - Relevant consultati

Strategic	Actions	Indicators	Lead	Timescale	Expected Outcome	Engagement
Objective 3						
_	agreement. Collate responses from local partners.	issued are responded to.1	Lead	Timescale	consultations as required including: Home Office, Migration Advisory Committee, COMPAS Refugee Integration Projects Steering Group & other appropriate consultations. Prepare background papers & consultation templates to enable partners to respond in an effective & time efficient way. Identify & present issues of regional significance and present through the Executive, LGA or other strategic body as appropriate. Act as a single point of contact for central communications; reaching appropriate partners & providing effective follow	Engagement

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 $^{^{\}rm 1}$ The targets for this activity are included in the schedules of the Enabling Grant.

Strategic	Actions		Indicators	Lead	Timescale	Expected Outcome	Engagement
Objective 3							
	3.4 Maintain & develop relationships with key Home Office official (UKVI, Voluntary Return, Refugee Resettlement Central Team, Immigration Compliance & Enforcement, Interventions & Sanctions Directorate.) & other bodies to ensure two-way flow of information	•	Key stakeholders identified and engaged across all programmes	SESPM Manager UKVI Voluntary Returns Lead UKVI Interventions &Sanctions Managers	Ongoing throughout 2018-20	 Discussion at every sub regional meeting Links are made to facilitate practical training such as forgery awareness Information is disseminated through the email distribution Awareness sessions/workshops undertaken where appropriate 	
	3.5 Facilitate discussion on local integration experiences at through the sub-regional Strategic Migration Groups & attend & contribute to relevant fora	•	An evidence base for integration interventions is created	SESPM Manager Local partners Home Office Refugee Resettlement Team	Ongoing throughout 2018-20	 Key initiatives are supported such as the development of the Controlling Migration Fund Local priorities supported such as the Kent Roma Interest Group Learning across programmes is identified & shared such as integration /ESOL for those on the Refugee Resettlement Programmes and applied to other programmes where 	

Strategic	Actions	Indicators	Lead	Timescale	Expected Outcome	Engagement
Objective 3	3.6 Develop and pilot a UASC specific 'Outcome Star' through the engagement, consultation, training of all South East local authorities. Facilitate a regional training programme to be accessed by all South East local authorities.	SW teams supporting UASC in the SE are using the UASC star as their main support planning tool. Local Authorities develop a consistent approach to meeting the needs of UASC including PVOT across the region. UASC are better prepared for different outcomes of the	SESPM Manager SESPM Principal Social Worker for UASC Pathways to Independence Triangle	Ongoing throughout 2018-20	 appropriate Good practice from initiatives such as 'Community Sponsorship' & the 'Digital Register' is identified & where appropriate shared across projects. Undertake research & coordinate task & finish groups to produce recommendations as required Undertake an initial consultation with 8 local authorities in SE region. Develop a draft 'Outcome Star' to be piloted with the working group. Produce a finalised version of the 'Outcome Star' to be rolled out across the region to produce UASC data on a both a local and regional level. Provide a regional training 	South East Directors of Children's Services. South East Assistant Directors of Children's Services. Social Work Practitioners and

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Strategic	Actions	Indicators	Lead	Timescale	Expected Outcome	Engagement
Objective 3						
		asylum system			programme to Social	Independent
					Workers across the region	Reviewing
		Increase in			to promote understanding	Officers from
		engagement by South			in the following area's;	all 19 top tier
		East local authorities in the NTS.			Outcome Star, Triple Track	Local
		in the ivis.			Planning, Asylum Process,	Authorities
					UASC Trauma, Child	across the
					Trafficking, Modern Slavery	South East
					and Age Assessment.	region.
						Refugee
						Council
						Health
						Professionals
						working
						directly with
						UASC within
						the region.

Strategic	Actions	Indicators	Lead	Timescale	Expected Outcome	Engagement
Objective 4						
Implementi	4.1 Deliver the outputs for the	To be covered in the	SESPM	Refugee	Increased capacity &	We will
ng	programmes within the grant	Enabling Grant	Manager	Resettlemen	participation of local	achieve these
programm		schedules		t Programme	authorities in the South East	aims by
es, training	agreement		SESPM	events	in the context of work with	regular
and	Deliver training for partners		Refugee	quarterly	& addressing the impact of	contact with
coordinatio	engaged in the resettlement		Resettlemen		migration	the
n	schemes & the UASC National		t Program	For other	Delivery of training &	organisations
	Transfer Scheme ²		coordinator	activities:	events enhancing the	listed in the
	Match allocations of Refugee			ongoing	capacity & ability of	Annex
	Resettlement refugees to local		Children's	throughout	partners to deliver	attached
	implementing partners the		Programmes	2018-19	responses to immigration in	
	scheme		Coordinator		the South East	
	Facilitate to implementation of				An enhancement of the	
	the UASC National Transfer		SEEC		skills of staff in local	
	Scheme in the South East		Director		authorities & other partners	
	Facilitate dialogue with local				in the South East	
	authority partners on the				Successful resettlement of	
	potential to widen the number				refugees in the South East	
	of areas participating in asylum				 Increased sharing of good 	
	dispersal in the South East				practice	
	Organise a programme of events				Form links which include	
	in the South East on UASC				potential additional funding	
	National Transfer Scheme,				sources to scope work areas	
	resettlement schemes, asylum				likely to include:	
	dispersal accommodation &					

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² The targets for these activities are included in the schedules of the Enabling Grant.

other topics as necessary					Health
Organise one-off meetings on					Education (all
other topics as necessary					evels)
Negotiating an increasing					Employment
capacity in the South East.				O [Benefits
4.2 Assessment of key work areas	Review meetings &	SESPM	Ongoing	The worl	of SESPM is
	evaluation	Manager	throughout	effective	ly matched to the
			2018-19	priority r	needs.
		Home Office		A risk reg	gister is jointly
		Grant		produce	d & agreed
		Manager		between	SESPM & the
				Home Of	fice

SESPM Governance Structure

