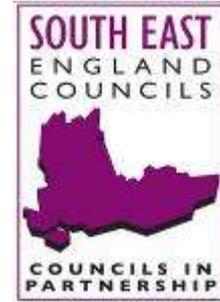


**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**



Date: 27 March 2013

Subject: Impact of migration on policing and local services

Report of: Roy Millard, Manager, South East Strategic Partnership for Migration

**Recommendations**

SEEC Executive members are asked to:

- i) Note the findings of research into the impact of migration for policing, for local authority services and community cohesion
- ii) Consider the local potential for sharing services and good practice to help deliver budget savings and more effective strategic responses to migration across the public sector.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 SESPM (the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration) is funded by the UK Border Agency and hosted by SEEC. SESPM has recently completed research into the impact of migration on policing in the South East. During the research it became clear that the impacts were also relevant to wider public services provided by local authorities and other partners.
- 1.2 The work was carried out under the guidance of SESPM and Sussex Police. We welcome Katherine Allenby as a speaker today in her role as staff officer to Sussex Assistant Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney. ACC Pinkney is the national ACPO lead for migration and related matters.

**2. Headline findings**

- 2.1 The research identified a number of key messages. These are outlined below:

**Migration in the South East**

- i) In the South East the main reasons for migration are work and study and there is relatively little impact on policing.
- ii) Information on the impact of migration on services is often anecdotal. Migration status is not always required or recorded in the same way as other information (eg ethnicity). This brings the potential for serious misunderstanding of the nature, scale and impact of migration in the South East.
- iii) There are pockets in the South East where rough sleeping among migrant communities (normally of Eastern European origin) present policing and community challenges.

**Impact on policing**

- iv) Policing needs to be informed by the wider migration issues and can be more effective when put into context. For example, policing around destitute asylum seekers would be significantly different to dealing with organised crime gangs from Eastern Europe.
- v) Cultural awareness is important in effective policing. In some areas, such as Arun, the introduction of a PSCO with language skills and awareness has helped build trust and respect.

### **Potential for joint working to tackle shared issues**

- vi) Interpreter needs – there is potential to look at ways of reducing costs by sharing interpreter resources across agencies and greater use of technology.
- vii) The police are often one of the first bodies to pick up information relevant to other partners. For example, connections with employment agencies provide intelligence around possible local levels of migrants intending to come to the UK for work. This could help in objectively assessing the likely impact of ending restrictions on migration from Bulgaria and Romania later in 2013.
- viii) Joint approaches to issues such as human trafficking have resulted in greater awareness of the potential criminalisation of victims and the need to ensure they are treated appropriately. There is potential for councils, police and voluntary sector to work together to embed a deeper understanding of the signs of trafficking across public services, both to help victims and to support effective prosecution of perpetrators.
- ix) Greater liaison between local authorities, police and voluntary groups could also help ensure more effective, co-ordinated responses to a range of common concerns, for example:
  - a) Destitution and street living are major issues that contribute to community tensions in some areas. There is potential to share good practice from successful examples of multi-agency approaches in areas including West Sussex, Gravesham and Slough.
  - b) Specialist knowledge has developed in some areas, such as Kent and Hampshire, in relation to Gurkha communities and accommodating newly arrived asylum seekers.
  - c) Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children remain the responsibility of local authorities. However specific issues need police interventions, for example where there are conflicts between young men within migrant communities and between migrants and the settled community. Some police forces have developed ways to diffuse problems and minimise inflammation of tensions. There is good practice to share here, ranging from quasi-mediation to working with schools to prevent the spread of hate messages through social media.