

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**



Date: 25 September 2014  
 Subject: South East migration update  
 Report of: Roy Millard, Manager, South East Strategic Partnership for Migration (SESPM)

**Recommendations:**

SEEC Executive members are asked to:

- i) Note the update on latest migration figures and an offer from SESPM to provide further local detail on request
- ii) Consider SEEC support for a South East training film to help council staff identify modern day slavery
- iii) Recommend officers to help test a new methodology for assessing migration impacts on school places.

**1. Latest migration data**

- 1.1 New [South East annual migration data from ONS](#) shows that migration remains a significant issue for South East councils. South East net migration increased in 2012-13 – up 21% to 16,200 compared to the previous year. The change is due to a significant fall in people leaving the South East, as there was also a fall in the numbers arriving. Kent, Oxfordshire, Southampton and Brighton & Hove saw the highest net increases. Areas such as Elmbridge and Woking saw net decreases. Other headlines include:
- Work and study remain the top reasons for granting visas. Family visa grants reduced.
  - Since 2003 the South East has averaged 10.6% of all long term net international migration to England. This is second only to London.
  - 72,000 National Insurance numbers were issued to overseas nationals in the South East last year – 23% up on the previous year. This is 13% of the English average, again second only to London. Most were issued in Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Kent, Oxfordshire and Surrey.
  - In 2013, ONS estimated 304,000 non EU migrants and 323,000 EU migrants. Estimates suggest 3,000 from Bulgaria or Romania. Top nationalities for arrivals were Poland, India, Republic of Ireland and France.
  - South East asylum figures are not available but, nationally, applications at 23,479 were 44 lower than last year. Most applications came from Pakistan, Eritrea, Iran and Syria. However, more recent local reports suggest numbers of asylum seekers and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) are rising. Local authorities have care responsibilities for UASC.
  - As yet there is no resolution in discussions with France on the future of some 1,800 migrants in the Calais area who wish to come to the UK.

**2. South East Anti Trafficking and Slavery Partnership**

- 2.1 Work is underway to establish a South East Anti Trafficking and Slavery Partnership. This follows two multi-agency events hosted by SESPM, which identified gaps in how well the South East is prepared to respond to the demands of the Modern Slavery Bill. This may include a statutory duty on council staff to report suspected trafficking.
- 2.2 The aim is to help South East councils and partners raise staff awareness of how to spot trafficking and slavery and provide a simple method of reporting them. Advice is being provided by bodies including the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit, Association of Chief Police Officers, and Police and Crime Commissioners.
- 2.3 The Home Office has agreed to partially-fund a short training DVD for South East local authorities to raise awareness among their staff. SEEC members are asked to consider

co-branding the film and providing input to the content of the film in return for a small financial contribution. Target date for delivery of the film is January 2015.

**3. Impact of migrant birth rates on school places in the South East**

- 3.1 In response to a query from SEEC Executive, SESPM is collating information on factors affecting local authority work in planning future school places. This includes statistics on migrant birth rates and information from the national pupil database.
- 3.2 It is evident that there is a large degree of mobility within migrant communities, resulting in many migrant children having moved from the location in which their birth was registered by the time they start school. Net migration into many areas in the South East from elsewhere in the UK is also increasing pressure on school places.
- 3.3 SESPM has developed a methodology that aims to provide practical planning assistance through identifying trends and establishing predictors of school place demand across the South East. However, we now need assistance from local authority specialists to test the robustness of the method. Members are asked to suggest relevant officer contacts in their local authorities who could assist with this work.