

Vacancy: Chairman, South East Strategic Partnership for Migration

About SESPM

The South East Strategic Partnership for Migration (SESPM) is a network that provides leadership, co-ordination and advice on migration in the South East of England. Fully funded by Home Office grant, SESPM also manages South East delivery of Government programmes, including refugee resettlement and placement of unaccompanied asylum seeking children. SESPM is hosted as part of South East England Councils (SEEC).

A one-page overview of SESPM is attached and more information is available [online](#).

About the vacancy

Overview

The role of SESPM Chairman is open to a Leader or Cabinet member from a SEEC member local authority, who has specific experience of dealing with migration issues. The vacancy has arisen following the decision by current Chairman Cllr Paul Watkins (also leader of Dover DC) to retire from local government with effect from 30 September 2017. The appointment is for an initial 18 month term to June 2019, when the post-holder will be able to stand for re-nomination via the SEEC AGM.

Time commitment

Board meetings are held quarterly in central London. There are also occasional Ministerial/ senior civil servant meetings. The time and location of regular meetings with the SESPM Head of Partnership can be organised at the convenience of the new Chairman.

Chairman's role

- Provide leadership for the SESPM Board and officer team.
- Agree and preside over SESPM activities, including chairing an Executive Board to steer SESPM's work.
- Contribute to and sign off SESPM objectives, business plan, meeting agendas, annual reports and accounts, reflecting the parameters set by the Home Office in SESPM's annual grant agreement.
- Ensure an effective relationship with partners, in particular Home Office, DCLG and other Government Departments, local authorities, other public services and voluntary sector.
- Act as spokesperson and engage in senior level meetings, including ministerial and civil servant meetings and representing SESPM at the national LGA Migration Task Force.
- Ensure that the Board has fair representation of interests across the South East and incorporates the right balance of skills, knowledge and experience needed to guide SESPM effectively.

Experience required

In addition to holding a Leader or Cabinet role in a SEEC member local authority, the new Chairman will require:

- An interest in migration policy and direct experience of the impacts of migration on South East local authorities.
- Experience of working to achieve cross-party consensus on controversial issues with a wide range of partners at both political and officer level.
- Strong leadership and communication skills and experience of chairing multi-disciplinary groups.
- Experience of careful, discreet handling of sensitive and confidential material. (Examples in this role will include Home Office/ serious crime briefings and operational information or Chatham House discussions).

Remuneration

There is no direct financial remuneration for this post, although SESPM encourages the Chairman's home local authority to cover any travel expenses incurred.

How to apply

Please send a short expression of interest, accompanied by a brief CV, by Tuesday 11 October 2017 to SEEC Director Heather Bolton heatherbolton@secouncils.gov.uk. A nomination to the post will be considered at the SEEC Executive Meeting on 13 October.

For an informal discussion about the role please contact Roy Millard, SESPM Head of Partnership on 07881 521092 or email roymillard@secouncils.gov.uk.



South East
Strategic Partnership
for Migration

South East Strategic Partnership for Migration

Our purpose

To provide independent leadership, co-ordination, advisory functions and programme delivery for migration in the South East.

We aim to achieve this by:

- Creating and maintaining awareness of the reasons for, the nature of and the effects of migration to and from the South East
- Monitoring trends including economic and social issues
- Identifying and addressing challenges
- Maximising opportunities such as identifying appropriate funding streams
- Informing policy.

Our service areas

1. Policy

Contribute to developing policy locally, regionally and nationally regarding migration for the benefit of those who live in the South East.

2. Programme Coordination and Delivery

Key areas will include continuing to coordinate refugee resettlement schemes; coordinating and supporting local authorities in the placement of unaccompanied refugee and asylum seeking children; dispersal of asylum seekers; and supporting partners to detect and report modern slavery.

3. Trends and Data

The provision of quality, up-to-date information on migration in the South East.

4. Share Best Practice

Provide cross sector partners' research, good practice, experience and expertise, on the impact of migration on delivery of services and on managing integration.

5. Networking and Communication

Facilitate meetings, workshops and ongoing communications on key migration areas. Provide input to stakeholders' meetings at local, regional and national levels.

Geography

The Partnership covers all 74 local authorities in the South East.

Strategic connections

We are hosted by South East England Councils. SESPM sits on the Local Government Association Task Group on Migration, Association of Directors of Children's Services Asylum Task Force, Assisted Voluntary Returns Steering Group and the No Recourse to Public Funds Network

SESPM Board members and partners include: Local Authority Chief Executives and lead officers; Home Office; DWP; National Police Chiefs Council; South East Regional Organised Crime Unit; Association of Directors of Children and Adult Services; South East Fire & Rescue Services; Skills Funding Agency; Universities; Clearsprings Ready Homes (contracted Asylum Accommodation Provider in the South East); and a range of NGOs at national, regional and community level.