



**South East
Strategic Partnership
for
Migration**

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

South East Strategic Partnership for Migration

Business Plan 2016-17

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The South East is a very large, diverse and complex region with the highest number of local authorities (74) and a predominantly two tier structure requiring effective engagement at both 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 key interchange for migrants en route to other parts of the UK.
- 1.2 The core purpose of the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration (SESPM) is to provide strategic leadership, advisory and coordination for migration policy issues affecting the South East region. We also provide specialist delivery on programmes such as the regional coordination and matching of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme and the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Transfer Scheme.
- 1.3 SESPM operates through an effective minimalist structure with a single permanent post 100% dedicated to migration issues 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 migration, improving customer service and reducing costs are communicated and appropriately supported through strengthened partnership working. In 2016-17 additional resources will be required for programme delivery.
- 1.4 The partnership is overseen by an Executive Board chaired by an elected local authority leader and membership includes, but is not limited to, Local Authority Chief Executives, Regional Police Intelligence, Home Office (covering Immigration and Visas, Compliance and Enforcement and Interventions and Sanctions), lead officers from local authorities, Gangmasters Licensing Authority, Oxford University, COMPASS accommodation provider in the South East and voluntary sector partners.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 Progress against the business plan will be reported in line with the grant requirements i.e. in submission of grant payment requests, mid-year and end of year reports in addition to scrutiny at the Executive Board meetings

2016-17 Our Focus at a Glance

Starting from a low level of resources following last years 20% cut, SESPM has responded to the significant urgent requests by putting in place an interim solution to provide specialist support - in addition to our core work - to deliver the regional coordination for phase two of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme and the regional coordination of the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Transfer Scheme.

We are very keen to explore a future 3 year funding deal in line with the government commitment on the SVPRS to 2020, which will allow the necessary strategic planning to be more cost effectively delivered.

We will prioritise our work on **asylum**; helping address the need for an increase in accommodation provision and joined up cross sector local support services to deliver effective dispersal in the South East.

We will support local understanding and objectively assess the regional impact of the introduction of new policy and legislation such the 2016 Immigration Act.

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 No Recourse to Public Funds Network.

We will seek to support local and national priorities such as supporting the South East to be a hostile environment for the perpetrators of immigration crime and those who wish to exploit migrants, community integration models and voluntary returns.

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 and 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.

2. 2015-16 SESPM Strategic Objectives

- 1) Provide an effective, efficient, flexible and high quality means of engagement for the Home Office and local partners to effectively network, identify, understand, communicate and address migration issues of national and local importance.
- 2) Facilitate effective senior level discussion across the South East of Government commitments including the widening of asylum dispersal, refugee settlement and children's programmes.
- 3) Support South East Local Authorities to effectively respond to wider international migration and related issues such as Voluntary Returns, combatting Modern Slavery and integration and cohesion.
- 4) Support evidence based policy through monitoring, analysing and reporting trends and impacts relating to the nature and effects of international migration to and from the South East.

3. Delivering on Objectives 2016-17*

*A separate but related work plan covering the SVPRS is appended here using the template provided by the central SVPRS team - see Strategic Objective 2

Strategic Objective 1	Actions	Indicators	Lead	Timescale	Expected Outcome
<p>Provide an effective, efficient, flexible and high quality means of engagement for the Home Office and local partners to effectively network, identify, understand, communicate and address migration issues of national and local importance.</p>	<p>Provides a single point of contact and engagement for all Home Office immigration departments.</p>	<p>Named contact points established with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UKVI Senior Management • ICE teams • UKVI Interventions and Sanctions Partnership Managers • Border Force • UKVI Voluntary Returns Unit • Home Office/DCLG/DfiD Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme Lead 	<p>SESPM Manager</p> <p>SESPM Interim Specialist Support – SVPRS</p> <p>SESPM Interim Specialist Support - UASCTS</p> <p>SEEC Director</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid & effective passing of information to enable partners to be aware of the major changes such as the impact of the new legislation and policy including the 2016 Immigration Act and initiatives such as UASC Transfer and SVPRS delivery. • Reacting to changes such as levels of asylum intake and support and the impact of migration on local public services. • Central communications are disseminated appropriately and where appropriate guidance and follow up actions undertaken to ensure understanding and compliance • Effective two way communications at this level will provide evidence that can inform effective strategies for controlling migration and local costs. • The partnership has supported & enhanced effective customer experience for the Home Office at the local level through the comprehensive range of engagement mechanisms provided by the partnership.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Office Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Transfer Scheme – Policy, Strategic and Operational Leads 			
	Facilitate a South East Executive Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board meetings Cross regional representation Cross sector representation Provide a strategic overview and expert resource on the impact of migration in the SE 		Quarterly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional priorities identified. Work is effectively monitored. Programme work is identified, presented and, where appropriate, mini business case(s) are presented for approval. Regional migration impacts and trends are monitored. The board is made aware of issues, risks and opportunities within the region. National initiatives are shared and promoted appropriately; examples include Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme, UASC Transfer, Community Sponsorship, Controlling Migration Fund and the potential implications of Brexit
	Facilitate an action focused sub-regional engagement mechanism	<p>Four Sub regional strategic migration groups maintained with a focus on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asylum dispersal and support Incorporation of programmes including UASCNTS, VCRS and SVPRS Community safety Housing Health Education Employment 	SESPM Manager	Each sub region to meet three times per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub regional experiences of migration are shared and priorities/developing issues identified for presentation to the Executive Board. Review progress and receive feedback on SVPRS, VCRS and UASCNTS 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 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

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public services Community Cohesion 			
	Facilitation of a SE No Recourse to Public Funds Network and promotion of the Connect data base.	Cross sector regional meetings and email distribution.	SESPM Manager	Twice yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two meetings per year to address emerging issues and share good practice. Identify key issues of concern working together with the National NRPf Network, SE Local Authorities, UKVI Interventions and Sanctions Managers, Voluntary Returns Unit and voluntary sector colleagues Promote the CONNECT data base aiming to reduce costs and increase speed of casework resolution for these cases. Provide expert input on implications of national case law
	Provide proactive input into national fora	Submissions to, engagement with and attendance at a range of national fora.		Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High quality, evidence-based input on SE migration issues to national groups such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Government Association Migration Task Group. Assisted Voluntary Returns Steering Group. National Asylum Support Forum. Directors of Children's Services. No Recourse to Public Funds National Steering Group. Engagement with emerging Home Office initiatives such as previously provided for the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Scheme
	Respond to consultations on behalf of the South East.	Relevant consultations issued are responded to in line with Schedule 1A	SESPM Manager	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate, coordinate, collate, aggregate and submit responses to Home Office, MAC & other appropriate consultations. Prepare background papers & consultation templates to enable partners to respond in an effective & time efficient way. Identify and present issues of regional significance and present through the Executive, LGA or other strategic body as appropriate. Undertake research & coordinate task & finish groups

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to produce recommendations as required. Act as a single point of contact for central communications; reaching appropriate partners & providing effective follow up.
Strategic Objective 2	Actions	Indicators	Lead	Timescale	Expected Outcome
<p>Provide effective engagement across the South East of Government commitments including the widening of asylum dispersal, refugee settlement and children's programmes.</p>	<p>1. Widening Dispersal: Establish and agree with UKVI a strategic engagement mechanism across all SE authorities to respond to UKVI letter requesting local authority support in participating in asylum dispersal</p>	<p>Meetings arranged covering SE local authorities not currently participating in asylum dispersal.</p>	<p>SESPM Manager UKVI COMPASS Delivery Managers LA leads as appropriate</p>	<p>Throughout the year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings are arranged with SE Councils requesting County Coordination in two tier authorities, and individual/clustered meetings with Unitary authorities. . Local authorities receive clear information about asylum dispersal and the differences between this and other programmes. . Meeting outcomes are recorded Levels of participation are identified and barriers to participation recorded and where possible mitigated. .
	<p>Facilitate and participate in regular meetings between the Home Office, accommodation provider and local authority.</p>	<p>Regular recorded meetings.</p>	<p>SESPM Manager</p>	<p>Ongoing as agreed by all</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of each of the 74 local authorities of the SE conducted. Scope each area's potential as a dispersal cluster. Recommendations on limits and critical mass. Provide appropriate introductions to key local authority representatives & facilitate and support meetings (initial and ongoing where agreed). Enable discussion on local cluster levels and seek agreement including trigger points to meet should accommodation requirements increase on a local or national basis. A full understanding of the local housing environment and public services impacts and pressures is conveyed and understood by the Home Office to inform dispersal allocation profiles. Agreement is sought that individual cluster areas acknowledge the significance of their participation in the asylum dispersal programme reflecting regional and national pressures and demands. Local business continuity plans are in place to support emergency planning.

	2. *SVPRS – A separate template workplan is appended to this workplan as per Schedule 3B of the Enabling Grant	SESPM provides a regional coordination model for delivery of phase two of the SVPRS	SESPM Manager SESPM Specialist Support	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 800 people are resettled into the SE by the end of the year through charter and scheduled flights. • SESPM establishes arrangements to share charters with other regions. • SESPM provides ongoing local support to partners though attending sub regional meetings and running workshops where appropriate to share good practice.
Strategic Objective 3	Actions	Indicators	Lead	Timescale	Expected Outcome
Support South East Local Authorities to effectively respond to wider international migration issues such as Voluntary Returns, combatting Modern Slavery and integration and cohesion.	Develop strategic and operational approaches to raising awareness of Modern Slavery	Key relationships are formed with : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner's Office • National Police Chiefs Council • SE Serious and Organised Crime Unit • Regional Anti-Slavery Partnerships • Sub Regional Anti-Slavery initiatives 	SESPM Manager	Throughout 2016-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase partners' preparedness to effectively discharge their duty under as proposed in the Modern Day Slavery Act • Training films for public services are coordinated and disseminated. • Establishing effective cross agency communication to increase detection, support prosecutions and enable victim support •
	Voluntary Returns: The new model is effectively communicated to all partners at a strategic and operational level	Relationships are developed with the Home Office Voluntary Returns Lead and discussed at the sub regional and regional meetings.	SESPM Manager UKVI Voluntary Returns Lead UKVI Interventions and Sanctions Managers	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

			NRPF leads in SE authorities		
	Establish a mechanism to capture the integration priorities of the region.	An evidence base for integration interventions is created.	SESPM Manager Local partners Home Office Refugee Resettlement Team	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 and shared such as integration /ESOL for those on the SVPRS and applied to other programmes where appropriate • Good practice from initiatives such as 'Community Sponsorship' and the 'Digital Register' is identified and where appropriate shared across projects.
Strategic Objective 4	Actions	Indicators	Lead	Timescale	Expected Outcome
Support evidence based policy through monitoring, analysing and reporting trends and impacts relating to the nature and effects of international migration to and from the South East.	Produce a data dashboard covering all aspects of migration in the South East.	Migration data for the South East is produced, maintained and circulated.	SESPM Manager	Twice yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of a single source of data for migration iRegular updates with narrative will be available for SESPM partners and shared at regional and sub-regional meetings and via South East England Councils. • The data will inform activities including assessing integration requirements and project developments. • Inclusion of Migration Observatory projections to cross reference ONS data at the district level.
	Survey of service areas to inform key areas of work.	Assessment of key work areas.		Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form links which include potential additional funding sources to scope work areas likely to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Health ○ Education (all levels) ○ Employment ○ Benefits

