

MAYOR OF LONDON

London Strategic Migration Partnership

Minutes of the London Strategic Migration Partnership

7th March 2013

3-5pm

City Hall

CR1

Present

MM	Munira Mirza	LSMP Chair, Deputy Mayor of London
CH	Chris Hedges	UKBA (speaker)
VL	Val Lowman	Lend Lease Europe
FB	Fariha Bhatti	MRAP
HH	Hugh Harris	London First
MA	Iman Achara	MRAP
JS	Judith Smyth	Regional AoC team
MH	Mubin Haq	London Funders
SA	Simin Azimi	MRAP
BR	Beryl Randall	Third Sector Alliance
LH	Laurie Heselden	SERTUC

In attendance

PT	Paul Tucker	JCP
AL	Andrew Lawton	Refugee Council
SF	Steve Fisher	UKBA (speaker)
SS	Steve Sykes	UKBA (speaker)
RW	Richard Walker	GLA (speaker)
WT	Will Tonkiss	GLA (speaker)
JR	Jack Ryan	GLA (speaker)
TM	DS Tony Maxwell	Operation Nexus MPS (speaker)
NH	Nick Hughes	Operation Nexus MPS (speaker)
AC	Amanda Coyle	GLA
TD	Terry Day	GLA
JL	James Lee	GLA
RS	Roudy Shafie	GLA
AM	Amna Mahmoud	GLA
NS	Nasra Salah	GLA

Apologies

PP	Paul Plant	NHS London
MP	Cllr Marie Pye	London Councils
SW	Stephen Watson	MPS
PW	Paul Wylie	UKBA
DH	Derek Harvey	JCP
RB	Richard Bell	Skills Funding Agency

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1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, including the new MRAP representatives – Iman Achara and Fariha Bhatti, and noted apologies.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

2.1. Minutes of the last meeting of 29 November 2012 agreed as an accurate record subject to adding Paul Tucker, DWP & Monica Acheampong, Department of Health, to the list of attendees.

2.2. Matters arising from the last meeting:

On the issue of delays in issuing National Insurance Numbers (NINo) to newly recognized refugees, the situation was noted to have improved though problems persist for asylum seekers granted leave to remain on appeal. Identifying a single point of contact as the UKBA was noted as possibly leading to improvements.

3. Chair's update

3.1. The Chair thanked Liz Davidson who is currently on maternity leave and recorded thanks to LSMP members; Jobcentre Plus (Paul Tucker), Skills Funding Agency (Richard Bell) and Association of Colleges (Judith Smyth/Caroline Neville) for their work around ESOL and jobseekers.

3.2. The Chair updated members on the work of the London Culture Strategy Group on non-EU artist. The LCSG will be carrying out a study into the impacts of visa restrictions on the London culture sector and its strength as a global hub. It was noted that a fall in the number of student visas issued was also likely to have a negative impact on the economy.

4. Progress report on delivery of LSMP business plan 2012/2013

4.1. Highlights in delivery against the LSMP business plan last year were reported on. These were welcomed. Other issues noted of importance for future delivery were: supporting SMEs, sharing data captured by the NRPF database and national minimum wage issues with employers. London Funders reported on an access to primary health care project and will circulate information to members.

5. London's changing demographic: briefing on the latest 2011 Census data

5.1. Richard Walker and Will Tonkiss, GLA Intelligence presented the findings of 2011 census in relation to London's migrant population. The meeting noted the limitations of the census question on English language levels as subjective and not necessarily accurate, though the current information provides a proxy.

5.2. Members welcomed the data as useful and called on the GLA to support retention of the census.

6. European Integration Fund and the Asylum and Migration Fund

6.1. Steven Sykes, Head of European Funding, and Chris Hedges, European Funding team, UKBA updated the LSMP on the call for proposals for the European Integration Fund and on the changes to future funding for 2014-2020, when the ERF and EIF will merge into the Asylum and Migration Fund (AMF). It was noted that the current funding programme is limited by strict restrictions on eligibility and overly bureaucratic processes.

Action 1: The LSMP agreed as a critical priority that the GLA should maximise its strategic influence over the forthcoming AMF.

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7. New UKBA structures and processes for stakeholder's engagement and regional strategic migration partnerships

7.1. Steve Fisher, Lead North London, Immigration, Compliance and Enforcement Team, UK Border Agency update on UKBA structural changes. Members welcomed the confirmation to continue the LSMP Grant Agreement for 2013/14.

8. London Strategic Migration Partnership business planning for 2013/14

8.1. Terry Day, Greater London Authority presented the draft LSMP business plan for 2013/14. The group noted the five work streams and the possibility of additional projects on vulnerable employment in the hospitality (accommodation) sector linking with other GLA priorities and mental health and rough sleeper programs in wider GLA projects.

9. Items from the Migrant and Refugee Advisory Panel

9.1. The meeting noted concerns from MRAP with regards to managing the local impacts of the end of transitional arrangements on A2 (Romania and Bulgaria). Members agreed that it was primarily an issue a local borough level and an update will be sought on their preparations. DWP also offered to update the group on their process for preparation.

9.2. The meeting noted concerns from MRAP on proposals for health charges for foreign nationals. Department of Health consultations on this matter will be brought to the LSMP and MRAP's attention.

9.3. On the issue of guidelines for refugee documentation for the Disclosure and Barring Service (formally CRB), the Chair updated members on the introduction of a process from April 2013 to allow refugees with an Immigration Status Document to apply for a Biometric Residence Permit. Members welcomed this but were concerned with regards to its cost.

Action 2: The Chair agreed to write on behalf of the LSMP to the Home Office and ask for a review of charging.

10. AOB

10.1. It was noted that the next meeting will be chaired by Kit Malthouse, Deputy Mayor for Business and Enterprise.