

# MAYOR OF LONDON

## Minutes of the London Strategic Migration Partnership, 19 June 2017

### Chair (*Sub*)

Shanthi Gunesequera      Senior Policy Officer, Diversity and Social Policy

### Attendance

#### LSMP members

Anne-Marie Pickup      Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)

Hannah Boylan      London Councils

Matthew Jaffa      Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)

Mulat Haregot      Representative, Migrant & Refugee Advisory Panel (MRAP)

Paul Morrison      Home Office

Rita Chadha      Representative, Migrant & Refugee Advisory Panel (MRAP)

#### Speakers

Chris Mansell      GLA

Corin Egglestone      Learning & Work Institute

Fiona Aldridge      Learning & Work Institute

Forogh Rahmani      GLA

Kasia Zagrodniczek      East European Resource Centre

#### In attendance

Chai Patel      Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI)

Amna Mahmoud      GLA

#### Apologies

Matthew Ryder      LSMP Chair; Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement

Cllr Sarah Hayward      London Councils

## 1. Welcome & Introduction

- 1.1 Shanthi Gunesequera welcomed members to the meeting on behalf of the Chair, Matthew Ryder, who was not able to attend due to the recent incidents in Finsbury Park and Grenfell Tower.
- 1.2 Shanthi updated members that the Mayor has launched a ground-breaking new citizenship & integration [initiative](#) in April 2017. The initiative will enable the Mayor to work with independent funders and civil society to make the capital more socially integrated. Shared objectives of the Initiative include increasing civic engagement and supporting young Londoners to access their citizenship and residency rights.
- 1.3 Shanthi also updated members that the Mayor will be launching a new city-wide scheme to support Syrian refugees to rebuild their lives in London and thrive in their local community. Following a successful bid for Home Office funding, a new regional coordinator, based at City Hall, will be recruited. Building on the good work local authorities are already doing, the GLA will work with to unlock support from across the city to help Syrian refugees resettle in London.

# MAYOR OF LONDON

## 2. Home Office Update

- 2.1 Paul Morrison updated members on the Home Office's approach to the victims of Grenfell Tower and their families. Paul advised that the Home Office was committed to taking a compassionate approach. Members suggested engaging with Borough resilience forums.
- 2.2 Paul Morrison noted that there was no other specific updates at this stage because of the recent general election.

**Action 1:** An urgent meeting to be set up between Matthew Ryder and Tyson Hepple (Home Office) to discuss Grenfell Tower incident.

## 3. Minutes and Actions from the last meeting

- 3.1 It was noted that minutes had been approved virtually and were now available online and outstanding actions had been incorporated into the LSMP work plan for 2017/18.

## 4. LSMP 2017/18 Work Plan

- 4.1 Members approved the LSMP Business plan and agreed that a representative from the Association of London Directors of Children's Services should be invited to join LSMP to maintain a link to the work led by London Councils on Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.
- 4.2 Members discussed the detail of how work streams could be delivered. In particular, members proposed that workstream 3.3 should include both an urgent meeting with the Home Office and civil society to develop the framework; and a specific issue. The lack of a firewall on sharing data between the Home Office and MPS was proposed, with specific consideration on piloting a new approach to hate crime reporting with MOPAC. This was also highlighted under agenda item 6.
- 4.3 Members were also interested in understanding more about the diversity of London's migrant population and in particular its benefit to informing a place-based policy approach at the Home Office (relating in particular to policies on resettlement and dispersal).
- 4.4 Chris Mansell provided an update on the Mayor's representations to Government with regard to influencing future UK immigration policy. In particular, the GLA will be holding a summit in July with think tanks and businesses on the skills needs of London that should be reflected in any new immigration system. Members highlighted that the Mayor's representations to Government on a post-Brexit immigration policy must take into account the experiences of migrants and wider communities. It was also acknowledged that local authority representation at the event may be difficult as it clashes with the LGA conference. Chris advised that consultation papers would be sent to London Councils before GLA publication of a paper.

**Action 2:** Chris Mansell to check that the invite list for the summit on immigration policy can be expanded to include community representation in particular inviting Chai Patel from JCWI

**Action 3:** Chris Mansell to share a consultation document with London Councils and other key stakeholders including migrant communities.

**Action 4:** LSMP secretariat to discuss planned workstreams with colleagues in MOPAC

**Action 5:** LSMP secretariat to work with LSMP members to progress agreed workstreams

## 5 ESOL in London

- 5.1 The GLA, in collaboration with London Councils, commissioned the Learning and Work Institute to map formal and informal provision of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) in London, and undertake work to identify the language learning needs of resettled Syrian refugees in London. The research aims to support London boroughs to ensure resettled refugees are able to access appropriate learning opportunities. It will also contribute to the wider development of ESOL policy in London, in particular in relation to the anticipated devolution of the Adult Education Budget. The report will be published online later this month.
- 5.2 Corin Egglestone and Fiona Aldridge, Learning & Work Institute presented the key findings from the research. In particular the research showed that demand for ESOL courses outstrips supply, there is a lack of information about provision at a local level and learning opportunities often do not meet the needs of learners. The research highlights the need to identify new and more diverse sources of investment in ESOL; support development of new approaches to strategic planning and commissioning of ESOL, including increasing join-up of formal and informal learning opportunities; and address practical barriers to accessing ESOL learning
- 5.3 Forogh Ramani provided an overview of the Mayor's approach to developing a skills strategy for London and the anticipated devolution of the Adult Education Budget from 2019/20. It is anticipated that a draft skills strategy will be available in the Autumn for consultation.
- 5.4 Members highlighted a number of concerns and opportunities around the provision of ESOL in London and urged the GLA to consider these in the development of the skills strategy and the approach to skills devolution. In particular, they highlighted that the uncertainty of future funding (e.g. ESF) affects providers' ability to plan; certain cohorts of Londoners face particular barriers to accessing ESOL provision (e.g. women with leave to remain but with no recourse to public funds); there is opportunity to consider how English language learning can be wrapped around more vocational courses (Learning & Work are doing some research into ESOL and apprenticeships).
- 5.5 It was agreed that it would be helpful for LSMP to be kept updated on the progress of the Mayor's skills strategy and priorities for skills devolution.

**Action 5:** Forogh to consult LSMP on the draft skills strategy in the Autumn

## 6. Migrant Rights and Mitigating Exploitation – Roundtables

Two roundtables were held on 17 May 2017 to take forward workstreams in the LSMP work plan on working with London stakeholders to increase awareness of EU nationals and other migrants' rights, and mitigating the risk of exploitation post-Brexit. These roundtables were chaired by Kasia Zagrodniczek, Information Campaign Coordinator, East European Resource Centre and Carolina Gottardo, Director Latin American Women's Rights Service. The roundtables resulted in a number of ideas from stakeholders about how to take this forward, and Kasia presented to the group key proposals for taking these workstreams forward in the LSMP workplan for 2017/18. These included:

- 5.1 Convening an LSMP working group to scope the viability of a London 'Know Your Rights' card and 'Know Your Rights' training for migrants (and stakeholders) in the city
- 5.2 Exploring ways for LSMP to support the voluntary sector to produce a London guidance document that brings together all existing information on the rights and entitlements of EU and other migrants
- 5.3 Convening an event/workshop on migrant's rights including quality of advice given to communities

# MAYOR OF LONDON

- 5.4 Facilitating a conversation with MOPAC and the voluntary sector to explore what MOPAC is doing to:
  - 5.4.1 Understand the levels and hot spots for migrant exploitation
  - 5.4.2 Prevent labour exploitation in London
- 5.5 Exploring the data sharing arrangement between the Police and Home Office in relation to labour exploitation; discussing options for how the data protection process could have more firewalls to protect migrants

LSMP members highlighted that there would be significant challenges to understanding hot spots of migrant exploitation and to reviewing data sharing agreements, but agreed it would be useful to have this conversation.

Members agreed that the proposals should be put forward for consideration by the LSMP Chair as part of finalising the LSMP work plan for 2017/18, and progressed accordingly.

## 7. AOB

Next meeting: 5 September 2017, 10am-12pm

**NOTE: This has now been moved to 12 October 2017.**

\*End\*