

The Mayor's Migrant & Refugee Advisory Panel (MRAP)

14.00 -16.00

28 October 2019

Committee Room 1, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, SE1 2AA

Attendance

Hannah Boylan, GLA (Chair)

Molly Petter, GLA (Notetaker)

Mark Winterburn, GLA

Bella Kosmala, GLA

Madeleine Ellis-Petersen, GLA

Jonathan Quereshi, GLA

Anna Janczuki, Poles in Need

Barbara Drodowicz, East European Resource Centre

Caitlin Boowel, JCWI

Dolores Modern, Latin American Women's Resource Centre

Eleanor Brown, CARAS

Fariha Bhatti, REAP

Fizza Qureshi, Migrants' Rights Network

Gisella Valle, Latin American Women's Resource Centre

Gracie Bradley, Liberty

James Banks, London Funders

Kahiye Alim, Council of Somali Organisations

Lena Mohamed, Migrants' Rights Network

Leticia Ishibashi, Flex

Lisa Doyle, Refugee Council

Michael Boyle, ELATT

Nafisah Graham - Brown, Natecla/ELATT

Tamara Flanagan, New Europeans

Agenda

1. Welcome and London Strategic Migration Partnership (LMSP) update

1.1 Minutes from the last meeting were **agreed** with no comments.

1.2 Hannah updated on GLA/ LSMP recruitment. Key points included the recruitment of Senior Project Co-ordinator (Immigration) Rupinder Parhar, LSMP Senior Policy and Projects Officer (Migration and Refugees) Mark Winterburn, and an ESOL co-ordinator Silvia Perrin who will be job-sharing with Theo Cadbury. Hannah noted that a senior project officer for refugee resettlement would also be joining the Social Integration team in a week's time.

Action: Members to contact GLA officers if any comments on minutes arise.

2. Brexit and the EU Settlement Scheme

2.1 Lisa Doyle updated on the Asylum, migration and integration fund (AMIF), which had been threatened in the case of a no deal Brexit. A group of organisations responded with a range of parliamentary action in response. News was received last week that this decision has now been overturned. It has also been confirmed that a second round of funding is continuing.

2.2 Hannah added that this is a positive outcome and noted the GLA's work to support organisations such as a Refugee Council on this campaign, including reference in a Ministerial letter from the Mayor.

2.3 Bella Kosmala updated on the GLA's work supporting European Londoners, including:

- 'We are all Londoners' event;
- A Letter to the Home Secretary regarding issues with the EUSS application scheme;
- The third round for £50k worth of EU Outreach microgrant activities has launched;
- A new public spaces information/outreach project targeting Christmas markets and shopping centres in the festive period has been launched;
- New assets added to the EU Londoners hub.

Children and adults in care

2.4 Members discussed Bella's update. Issues raised included:

- Organisations and boroughs charging high rates for legal advice on the EUSS scheme.
- Reflections on the role of OISC in helping to tackle the lack of capacity in the advice sector;
- Whether organisations can apply to the EU Outreach microgrant scheme if their services are helping non-Londoners. Hannah noted that GLA money should focus on services in London.

2.5 Barbara noted that the Home Office EU Settlement Scheme grant funding for civil society organisations may not be repeated next year. Barbara commented that if the fund is to be repeated, it may be very specific funding targeted vulnerable groups. She suggested that a co-ordinated approach from across the sector could help ensure the continuation of the fund in an effective way.

2.6 Hannah thanked members for their contributions to this discussion and noted that the Mayor has also been vocal about this issue. She asked that members who are interested in taking this conversation forward do so and include the GLA when useful.

Action: Members who have not received notification of the third EU outreach microgrants funding round to contact Bella for further information.

Action: Members to share ideas for any locations that the GLA could include as part of the public places project with Bella.

Action: GLA to share the 'What makes good advice services' document from the EU Londoners hub with members.

Action: Members to share grantees' experience of the Home Office EU Settlement Scheme grant funding with the GLA.

3. Non-UK National Rough Sleepers

3.1 Hannah updated from the GLA on this area of work. Key points included:

- The GLA hosted a roundtable on 25 July 2019 with the Home Office, MHCLG and civil society organisations from the rough sleeping and migrant sectors to discuss the proposed Rough Sleeping Support Service (RSSS).

- Following this meeting, a joint letter from Deputy Mayors Debbie Weekes-Bernard (Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement) and James Murray (Housing) was sent to Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, highlighting issues picked up during the roundtable.

3.2 Hannah invited members who were present at the RSSS roundtable to share their thoughts following the meeting. MRAP members outlined their key concerns with the proposed scheme. Serious concerns were voiced around issues of consent and data sharing, as well as the question of how appropriate the service would be without adequate immigration advice for service users.

3.3 Jonathan Quereshi gave an update on the GLA housing team's work with non-UK national Rough Sleepers. GLA housing team have developed a bid for to the MHCLG suspension of derogation fund for just under £2 million to expand their work on 'floating hubs' and ensure every that hub has an OISC registered worker present. GLA housing team also developed a bid to the Controlling Migration Fund (CMF) for 2 additional GLA roles focussed on migrant rough sleeping, one of which would report into the Social Integration team.

ACTION: Mark to share the note from the Rough Sleeping Support Service Roundtable with members.

ACTION: Members to share comments with Mark on how MRAP could be linked with new governance which will be set up to have oversight of wider GLA work around rough sleeping.

ACTION: Members to share responses to the derogation fund pilot with Hannah

4. ESOL Plus: Update & Plans for the Future

4.1 Theo Cadbury updated attendees on the ESOL Plus programme. The first round of ESOL Plus focused on two areas: ESOL Plus Childcare, and ESOL Plus Employers. A new ESOL Plus round will be launched in December focusing on how the creative arts and heritage sector can support ESOL learning. This will be a small pot of funding and will invite partnership bids from ESOL providers and arts & heritage organisations.

4.2 Theo clarified that the GLA were not planning to restrict applications to the next round of ESOL Plus by the level of ESOL Learners, and that funding for projects beyond the December round was currently uncertain due to the GLA budgeting processes currently underway.

4.3 Members asked whether the GLA were considering how ESOL can be used as way to connecting people who might be suffering from issues like Domestic Violence or mental health. Theo noted that the next round of ESOL Plus will be delivered differently to include underrepresented groups of learners. She noted that the round will have more emphasis on participation and that learning will not be restricted to language skills.

4.4 Nafisah noted that NATECLA have developed 'A Framework for Good Practice in Voluntary ESOL' document which was the result of consultation with 70 voluntary organisations.

Action: Nafisah to share 'A Framework for Good Practice in Voluntary ESOL' document with group.

Action: Theo/Silvia to share learning and engagement from the ESOL Plus programme with members.

Action: Theo/Silvia to share details of upcoming ESOL events in partnership with CARAS with members

5. Asylum Seekers: Accommodation and Support

- 5.1 Mark Winterburn gave an update on key points in this area of work. He explained that Migrant Help have been awarded the AIRE (Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility) contract to support asylum seekers in the UK.
- 5.2 Mark summarised a meeting which took place between Reed in Partnership, MRAP members and Migrant help on 3 September 2020 regarding the AIRE service which helped highlight the key concerns of the refugee and migrant sector and identify opportunities for collaboration. Mark noted that Reed showed a great deal of willingness to work with civil society, but it is also clear that sector is already beyond capacity.
- 5.3 Members expressed a concern that not all organisations offering support in this space had been contacted yet. Lisa from Refugee Council asked that any organisations who were having issues contacting migrant help let her know. Lisa also noted that in her experience so far not all organisations are comfortable in the role of referral partner. There is a nuanced issue around relationship building that has not received enough attention and Reed need to be aware of this.
- 5.4 Hannah noted that Migrant Help attend LSMP so there are existing ways that any issues can be communicated through that forum.
- 5.5 Members from REAP and HEAR noted that they have been in negotiation with the Home Office regarding accommodation provision for clients with special needs and were told that Migrant Help would be actioning this. Members noted they would like to see an update or confirmation that their agreement to include this is in the terms and conditions of Migrant Help's AIRE contract has been implemented. Hannah noted that any issues of this kind continue to be flagged to Mark and Lisa while they continue their conversations with Reed in Partnership and Migrant Help.

Action: Members who are having issues contacting migrant help to notify Lisa Doyle.

Action: Members to contact Mark with any specific questions regarding the AIRE contract being delivered by Migrant Help and Reed in Partnership.

6. AOB

- 6.1 Nafisah raised a query regarding the procured element of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) which will be match funded by European Social Fund (ESF) funding. Because of the matching of the funding, there will be a broad requirement to match AEB funding to the criteria for ESF funding. Nafisah expressed her concern that if individuals are economically inactive this could affect their eligibility for AEB funding. Theo responded that she was meeting with GLA skills team soon and requested further detail on Nafishah's concerns be shared outside the meeting.
- 6.2 Liberty asked for an update on the GLA Hostile Environment research. Rupinder responded that a meeting with the researcher for the project had taken place that week and data was beginning to be processed. Rupinder emphasised that the research was carried out with an

independent sample of people who are working in spaces where hostile environment policies are put into action.

6.3 ELATT raised a question on whether any work was currently taking place to support individuals who have been granted leave to remain and then forcibly removed from social service provided accommodation. Mark responded that he was not aware of any and asked that this conversation be followed up after the meeting.

6.4 Hannah confirmed the date of the next MRAP meeting on 27 January 2020.

7. Close