

**Report of Assistant Chief Executive Citizens and Communities**

**Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board**

**Date: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

**Subject: Migration Update**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To update Members of Scrutiny Board on a range of issues relating to migration in Leeds.

**2 The History of Migration in Leeds and the UK**

- 2.1 The UK and Leeds has a long history of migration. The city, in common with many other UK cities, saw significant levels of migration following the end of World War 2. At this time migrants predominantly came from Commonwealth countries and in particular the Caribbean, South Asia and parts of Africa. These migrants arrived to work in industry as well as parts of the public sector where there were shortages of labour.
- 2.2 During the 1990's a further wave of migration to the city occurred due to the policy of dispersing refugees and asylum seekers from London and the South East of England. This brought migrants from new areas such as French speaking Africa, Somalia and Afghanistan, making the range of communities in the city much more diverse.
- 2.3 More recently there has been a significant rise in the numbers of migrants from the European Union, particularly following the expansion of the EU into Eastern Europe.

- 2.4 Across Europe the single most significant factor currently driving change in city populations is international migration. The United Nations has concluded that countries in Western Europe will for the foreseeable future continue to see fairly stable birth rates, but will experience relatively high levels of foreign immigration leading to an estimated population growth of 15% in the UK. This means that foreign migration will continue to be a key issue for the UK, leading to diversify an already heterogeneous population.
- 2.5 It is important to recognise that migration is a very diverse issue. Migrants come to the city and UK to join family, to work, to study or to claim asylum. By its nature it is difficult to have an accurate figure for the level of migration, including illegal migration. Illegal migrants can include people who have arrived illegally to work as well as those who arrived legally (for example to study or to apply for asylum) and then fail to leave if they are no longer entitled to stay.

### **3 Partnership Work in Leeds**

- 3.1 Leeds City Council works in partnership with a range of well-regarded Third Sector organisations across the city as well as other parts of the public sector to meet the challenges and take advantage of the many positive benefits that migration is bringing to the city.
- 3.2 MESH, the Migrant English Support Hub is a partnership between Leeds City Council, the University of Leeds, RETAS (Refugee Education Training Advisory Services) and LASSN (Leeds Asylum Support Seekers Network). It aims to support the coordination of adult English language provision in the community sector in Leeds. The aim is to enable thousands of people to find the right class for them to improve their written and spoken English, enabling them to access further education and employment in the future.
- 3.3 The Migrant Access Project is designed to help reduce pressures on statutory services and to help new arrivals settle in Leeds. It provides trained community people who speak the same language as new arrivals to help empower and connect people with the up-to-date information they need to successfully settle and integrate.
- 3.4 Leeds is a 'City of Sanctuary' within the UK wide network of Cities of Sanctuary. It is a mainstream, grassroots movement which works to create relationships between local people and those seeking sanctuary.
- 3.5 LASSN (Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network) has over 850 volunteers who have befriended those seeking asylum and helped them integrate into life in Leeds.
- 3.6 PAFRAS (Positive Action for Refugees & Asylum Seekers) works with refugees, asylum seekers and the wider community to counter the effects of enforced destitution on vulnerable migrants. Its work includes providing immediate humanitarian relief and long-term support, advice and advocacy aimed at assisting service users to make lasting improvements to their situation.

- 3.7 The Leeds Migration Partnership is a cross sector, citywide strategic forum for those working with all migrant communities in Leeds and consists of approximately 40 organisations. It's a mechanism for developing and influencing policy and driving forward good practice in relation to migrant communities. It reports to the Communities Board.
- 3.8 Migrants are affected by many of the same issues that affect mainstream society. However there are also a number of areas of particular need for migrant groups e.g. access to English language learning, immigration advice or qualification equivalency; as well as areas where there are particular vulnerabilities for migrants from certain arrival routes e.g. specific Post Traumatic Stress counselling for those fleeing warzones or persecution, safe spaces for trafficked individuals or access to specific health services for victims of Female Genital Mutilation. Many of these support and advice services are provided by partners and third sector organisations connected through the Leeds Migration Partnership.
- 3.9 We know that the majority of migrant support organisations operating in the city work with only adults, and a small number only with women. No organisations have been identified as working exclusively with children, but a small number of organisations work with both children and families.
- 3.10 Nationally, influenced advice provision in the city has also been subject to some changes following the review to the Home Office contract in April 2014. Previously this was provided by a national organisation that provided a range of face-to-face services to asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants and Leeds was supported well. However, this service provision has changed and advice from the new provider is now carried out via a telephone only service. So it is not a like-for-like service. This has resulted in additional pressure on other advice providers in the city.
- 3.11 The council is working closely with the Migration Partnership on work it is doing on preventing destitution in Leeds, which follows on from the Executive Board report in July 2013. This work will highlight current issues, numbers and impacts.
- 3.12 Work is also being progressed with partners to better understand impacts of migration on a number of safeguarding issues including forced labour, human trafficking and female genital mutilation, issues which are high on the national as well as local agenda.
- 3.13 The council is also working with a number of third sector organisations exploring the feasibility of co-locating some of the migration organisations and services to increase co-operation and partnership working and to minimise back office costs by sharing premises. This could help free up resources to support advice and advocacy work in the city.

#### **4 Demographic Data for Leeds**

- 4.1 Leeds is one of the fastest growing cities in the UK, and is home to over 140 different ethnic groups – making Leeds' black and minority ethnic population the

most diverse outside of London, with the single fastest growing ethnic identity in Leeds being of “mixed race”.

- 4.2 This picture of persistent and dynamic change is perhaps the only truly predictable part of migration in UK cities. Within the space of just four years, for example, the position of Polish nationals rose from thirteenth to first in the list of foreign national groups coming to live in Leeds.
- 4.3 Data from the 2011 Census on country of birth, together with new questions on age and year of arrival for those born overseas, provides a reliable indication of internationally migrant communities of Leeds.
- 4.4 It shows that between 2001 and 2011, the number of Leeds residents born outside of the UK almost doubled from 47,636 in 2001 to 86,144 in 2011, alone currently making up just over 11% of the Leeds population. Of those, more than two-thirds were born outside of the EU, and just over half arrived at some point in the last 10 years.
- 4.5 There are over three times as many residents in Leeds who were born in a “third” country, outside the EU, than were born in the EU. 77,200 compared to 20,300 respectively; this difference is common across the region, but a little more pronounced in Leeds.
- 4.6 Asia is dominant among ten world regions of birth, followed by the EU. In contrast, the EU is the most common passport type; the difference is likely to reflect the fact that many Asian-born residents also have British citizenship. In Leeds, Pakistan is the most common country of birth for non-UK born residents and accounts for 1.2% of the whole population with India also at a similar level.
- 4.7 In terms of actual numbers, Poland showed the largest increase for those born outside the UK (2001-2011), from 830 (0.1% of the population) in 2001 to 7,139 (0.9%) in 2011 (an increase of 6,309) - this was followed by India and Pakistan a joint increase of almost 6,000.
- 4.8 The migrant population of Leeds is on average younger than the general population, which reflects the demography of newer communities. Many international migrants change countries for reasons of work or study and this often skews the data towards working ages – 60% of non-UK born residents were between the ages of 16 and 34 when they first arrived in the UK, and 30% arrived as children (0-15 years old). Just over 40% of people born in EU Accession countries are aged 25-34 years.
- 4.9 There is a much higher proportion of older people (aged 50 and over) amongst those born in EU countries (as at March 2001) and those born in the Americas and the Caribbean (40.4% and 48.3% respectively), reflecting the earlier waves of international immigration. For example the median age of the Irish community in Leeds is now 52 years old, compared to the Leeds average of 39.
- 4.10 As an ethnic identity, ‘Asian’ continues to be the predominant minority ethnic group, as it was in 2001. The biggest growth in minority ethnic groups since the

2001 census could be seen in terms of absolute numbers or in terms of proportion of the population.

- 4.11 In terms of numbers 'white other' (i.e. not white British) rose by the greatest number with more than 19,000 new individuals added to the total number, which is just under 30,000 people. Put differently, the proportion of the population described as 'white other' more than doubled from 1.5% to 4% of the Leeds population between 2001 and 2011.
- 4.12 In terms of the proportional increase 'Chinese & other' saw the biggest increase, with the Leeds based population increasing almost four-fold between 2001 and 2011, from just under 6000 individuals (0.8% of the population) to just over 23 000 (3.1%).
- 4.13 English is overwhelmingly the main language used in Leeds with 93% of the population using it as their main language at home as well as at work.
- 4.14 Of the 51,221 people for who would not describe English as their main language, 39,863 speak English well or very well.
- 4.15 Currently 15,000 pupils in Leeds have a first language that is not English. This is equivalent to 18% of primary and 13% of secondary pupils. Both are a small increase on the previous year, and similar to the Yorkshire and Humber average
- 4.16 12.2 individuals in every 1,000 new GP registrations are by people who previously lived abroad, compared with an average of 8.3 per 1000 across Yorkshire and Humber.
- 4.17 The general fertility rate in Leeds is lower than the Yorkshire and Humber average, but both figures have fallen in the last year. Births to mothers who were themselves born outside the UK are among the highest across the region (apart from Bradford and Sheffield) at 24% of all new births in 2013 compared with a regional average of 19%.
- 4.18 In Leeds, five wards have more than 20% of residents born overseas and who have entered the UK in the last 10 years. All five wards also have a more long term resident diverse population:
- Gipton and Harehills 34.2%
  - Hyde Park and Woodhouse 30.4%
  - City and Hunslet 26.8%
  - Chapel Allerton 23.7%
  - Burmantofts and Richmond Hill 22.5%
- 4.19 There are some concentrations of particular ethnic groups in these wards, for example a strong South Asian presence (both long term resident and more newly arrived) in the Harehills area of Gipton and Harehills, but overall Leeds is notable for its diversity of origin of communities across all wards in the city.
- 4.20 Looking forward, further work is planned to identify and understand the numbers, geography and economic circumstances of migrant populations around the City.

In particular, what migrant cohorts exist, where they are located and what their priority service needs are.

## **5 Economic and Business Impact**

- 5.1 The overwhelming majority of recent research shows that migrants have a positive economic impact on the UK economy paying more in taxes than taking in benefits.
- 5.2 For example, Dustman and Frattini show an overwhelming net fiscal benefit of EU migrants contributed over £20bn to public finances. ONS analysis of the census shows that a greater percentage of foreign nationals are more economically active than UK nationals. However, there are some studies with other findings, for example, Migration Watch concluded a neutral net contribution of migration.
- 5.3 The specific contribution of migration to some sectors of the economy, for example health services and social care, is significant. For example, around a quarter of doctors in the NHS are foreign nationals. New Philanthropy Capital reported that work done in Leeds to retrain refugee doctors provided a saving of nearly £240,000 compared to retraining a doctor from scratch, a return of 6,000%.
- 5.4 Skilled migrants in the workforce are shown to be positively associated with labour productivity, migrant recruitment fills skilled and specialist roles, their skills complement rather than replace those of colleagues to make for more dynamic teams, and some organisations have expanded as a consequence (e.g. NIESR report by H Rolfe et al Nov 2013).

## **6 Public Service Impact**

- 6.1 In addition to the debate around the economic benefits, there are significant implications for public services in accommodating new migrants.
- 6.2 Whilst current figures show that in recent years there has been a slow-down in the numbers of migrants coming to the city (as a result of economic conditions and government policy in restricting numbers where possible), there are still pressures on local public services.
- 6.3 At a time of significant financial pressures, local council services, as well as those of partners, are under pressure to meet demands for services, support and advice.
- 6.4 The Council has lost £129m in grant funding since 2010/11 and with inward migration contributing to an increased population base this adds further challenges and pressures.
- 6.5 Many council services and partners have developed robust support mechanisms and systems to ensure we continue to respond effectively to demographic changes and this will continue to be an issue of focus looking forward.

## **7 Managing and Understanding the Perception of Migration.**

7.1 An Ipsos MORI report reviews attitudes to immigration among the public. It highlights incorrect public assumptions about migration levels and dominant types of migration in the UK, and much lower concerns about migration locally than at a national level.

7.2 Similarly, YouGov recently found that the median guess amongst voters of how many EU immigrants are currently claiming Jobseekers Allowance is 300,000 when in fact the true figure is 60,000.

7.3 Migration Yorkshire have been successful in securing further funding from the European Integration Fund to run another one year Integration Up North programme in 2014/15. The programme will :

1. Improve the understanding of the integration needs and experiences of different Third Country National groups;
2. Inform policy and practice through disseminating new research findings and providing platforms for involving and consulting third country nationals with key stakeholders;
3. Develop a comprehensive training programme for local authority and other key partner staff to improve understanding and working with Third Country National migrants, focusing on specific disadvantaged groups (e.g. women, youth and children, elderly, illiterate and people with disabilities);
4. Provide development, assistance and support to partners to individually and collectively to review and improve their strategic approach to migration and learn from best practice across Europe, and;
5. Provide comprehensive easy-to-use guidance, data and learning briefings for staff working with third country nationals.

7.4 The council have also signed up to the work on 'Enhancing public perception on diversity and migration'. The council will receive support and advice to help with our strategic approach to migration and draw up an appropriate action plan.

## **8 Recommendation**

8.1 Members of Scrutiny Board are recommended to discuss and ask questions on the migration issues covered in this report.