

Report of: Director of Communities and Environment

Report to: Executive Board

Date: 24th July 2019

Subject: Annual Report on the Strategic Approach to Migration in Leeds

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<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
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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

Summary

1. Main issues

- This report provides Executive Board with an update on migration activity being delivered in Leeds, giving an overview of progress against existing and new migration work, and follows on from the Executive Board report of 25th July 2018 at which approval was given to provide a further update in July 2019.
- The report further provides information on key migration population trends and summarises impacts of national policy changes. In particular, on the implementation of the EU citizens settlement scheme approach.
- It reaffirms the importance of recognising that whilst we provide support for some new migrants, many arrive in the city ready to contribute to the economy and require very little support from services.

2. Best Council Plan Implications

- The work carried out under the Leeds City Council's migration programme helps the city to achieve its ambition to be a welcoming and compassionate city. It underpins the Strong Communities Benefiting from a Strong City

programme by focusing on the people who are new to Leeds, and ensuring that their interests and contributions are included in all aspects of city life.

- The recommendations in this report support the delivery of the Best Council Plan. Our focus has been on supporting communities, aiding integration and building more cohesive and resilient communities' whiles seeking to minimise any risks associated with changes to demography.

3. Resource Implications

- Our approach to migration in Leeds provides opportunities to build upon, and create effective partnerships and responses to changing need and to target our work more effectively based on evidence.

4. Recommendations

Members of Executive Board are recommended to:

- a) Receive and endorse this annual update report on migration activity taking place in Leeds.
- b) Note the responsibility of the Director of Communities and Environment and the Executive Member for Communities for leading this work through the Councils Stronger Communities Programme and also note the responsibility of the Chief Officer Communities in leading the work of the Leeds Strategic Migration Board.
- c) To receive a further update on progress in July 2020.

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 To provide the Executive Board with an update on migration activity being delivered both citywide and with supported migrant populations in Leeds, building on from the report to Executive Board in July 2018.
- 1.2 The report provides information on key migration population trends in the last year and on national policy changes, specifically on the approach in place to support EU citizens living in Leeds obtain settled status.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 Leeds continues to pride itself as a pioneering, diversely rich and vibrant city with international acclaim. The Council recognises the challenges in ensuring fair access for all in the city and we continue to strive to tackle inequalities in a number of ways including through a strategic, coordinated and inclusive approach to migration encouraged by the Executive Board, to ensure that the voice of migrant communities is at the heart of the migration agenda in Leeds. Reflecting the city's compassionate and welcoming approach.
- 2.2 It is important to recognise that whilst we provide support for some new migrants, many arrive in the city ready to contribute to the economy and require very little support from services. Migrants also make up a significant proportion of the current labour force across the city and employers in some sectors such as health and social care rely extensively on their contribution.
- 2.3 Migration is a key theme in the Council's approach to **locality working** and its emerging work in **priority neighbourhoods**. It is also an essential component of the **stronger communities programme** in the city, bringing together a range of projects and activities across a continuum. These range from universal activities that take place in all communities through to more targeted work in those areas where communities are perceived as being less engaged in the life of the city. The programme incorporates a **strategic approach to migration; tackling inequality, poverty and disadvantage; community cohesion, engagement and development; prevent; counter extremism and work with the Third Sector**.
- 2.4 There is ongoing work by Leeds City Council and Migration Yorkshire to encourage improved data and intelligence from government departments. Although, the issue remains that nationally, there is a reliance on data from initial National Insurance Number applications, which does not take into account key factors including family members, movement within the UK and return to other EU states.
- 2.5 **Key migration trends in the last 12 months in Leeds.** The local population of Leeds was estimated to be 784,800 people in 2017. This was an increase of some 3,800 people, a 0.5% increase since 2016. Immigration levels have fallen a little, according to 3 different measures (most recently shown from 2017-2018 according to DWP/National Insurance Number sources, but also between 2016 and 2017 according to the official immigration estimate and GP registrations from overseas, both supplied by the Office of National Statistics). In addition, there were more temporary migrants (short term migration and international students) welcomed to the city in 2016 than in 2015. **Migration trends show falls in most of the larger**

nationality groups arriving into Leeds, in particular there have been a noticeable reduction in arrivals from Romania, Poland and Spain. Romania remains the country from which most of the new arrivals originate, over twice greater than arrivals from India (the next largest country of origin).

- 2.6 Different measures of immigration suggest that between 8,000 -12,500 **new long-term immigrants** (immigrants who are expected to stay more than a year) arrived in Leeds in 2017 (according to three sources: ONS estimates; DWP national insurance numbers; and GP registrations). The estimates from ONS and DWP are at the lower end of this range, with GP registrations suggesting the top end of the range. One data source (DWP) gives an even lower figure for 2018 of 7,100 new arrivals (the other sources have not yet been published).
- 2.7 **Net migration** to Leeds was around 1,900 in 2017 – **almost half the previous year's** figure. The ONS expects both immigration and emigration to fall a little in future resulting in a net migration figure of around 900. This projection assumes no changes in policy or international conditions. Importantly, it does not incorporate anticipated changes relating to the UK leaving the EU. Around 3,600 short-term migrants visited Leeds in 2016 to work or study for up to 12 months; this is an increase of around 700 people on the previous year. Two thirds of the 3,600 short term immigrants were short term students with the remainder being short term workers.
- 2.8 **The reasons for migration. Work** - The overall number of new migrant workers arriving in Leeds fell by nearly 900 people to 7,100 in 2018. This reflects falls in arrivals particularly from accession and other European countries, in line with the national picture. Greatest change in individual nationalities compared to 2017 has been a decrease of around 500 arrivals from Romania.
- The level of **workers from non-accession countries** arriving each year remains higher than the accession group with 4,600 arriving in 2018, relatively unchanged from the previous year. This group is dominated by arrivals from India, Italy and Spain.
 - The number of new migrant **workers from EU accession countries** fell to around 2,400 arrivals in 2018, over 800 fewer arrivals than in 2017. This group is predominantly composed of Romanian and Polish arrivals.
- 2.9 New arrivals to Leeds came from 100 different countries of origin. EU nationals account for over three quarters of new arrivals. Romania remains the top country of origin overall with 1,340 arrivals in 2018. India now occupies second place (600 arrivals), followed by Italy (470 arrivals) and Poland (461 arrivals). This is the first time in at least 10 years that Poland hasn't been in the top 2 countries of origin for new arrivals.
- 2.10 The gender split is equal: half of newcomers are men and half are women. The most common age group for arrivals is 25-34 years.
- 2.11 **Study** - There were 9,655 **international students** registered at a Higher Education institution in Leeds in the 2017-2018 academic year, an increase of over 400 overseas students on the previous year. Over three-quarters came from outside the EU.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 **Leeds Strategic Migration Board.** Over the last year the board has focused on key themes and received updates in relation to migration activities. These included changes to NHS charging regulations impact on vulnerable groups; the roll out of universal credit and the impact on migrant communities; housing options pilot on support for asylum seekers; Windrush consultation activity; Brexit and the EU Settlement scheme; and the review of the asylum dispersal contract for the region. These discussions have been set within the context of the impact on particular communities and neighbourhoods, using the learning from neighbourhoods in targeted wards such as Chapeltown and Harehills and priority neighbourhoods including the Clifton's and Nowell's and the Beverley's and Stratfords where the communities experience the impact of policy changes and wider migration activities.
- 3.2 The Leeds Strategic Migration Board has supported the links between the key migration programmes described below and the opportunities presented through the work in priority neighbourhoods where the issues of migration can be felt more acutely from both migrant communities and settled communities. A recent Executive Board update report on Locality Working highlighted examples where work with priority neighbourhoods has helped to shape and provide evidence for conversations with the Home Office leading to improved effectiveness of the asylum dispersal contract. It also brought together the innovative approach of the Migrant Access Project (MAP) networkers to support improved community conversations and engagement through door to door support work in neighbourhoods where community work was less effective due to language barriers.
- 3.3 **Migrant Health Board** The first Leeds Migrant Health Board, chaired by Leeds City Council Director of Public Health was convened on 22nd February 2018. It connects to the wider Leeds Strategic Migration Board and reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board. **A key focus of the health board over the last year has been on addressing implications for migrant communities in Leeds, of the changes to national policy on NHS charges.** This included the following activity:
- Submitting a comprehensive response to the Department of Health and Social Care around the impacts of the 2017 National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Amendment) Regulations on vulnerable migrant groups.
 - Delivery of a multi-agency workshop to help co-ordinate action in Leeds in response to the 'The National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Amendment) Regulations 2017. 58 colleagues, (including from the Department of Health and Social Care and the Home Office) attended.
 - Leeds City Council public health and NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group have assessed which commissioned services are in, or potentially in scope of the new regulations.
 - All sectors of the Leeds healthcare system are now working collaboratively to design and deliver a compassionate whole systems approach to the regulations.

- 3.4 The migrant health board has also been providing strategic support to address the reduction of **communicable diseases** in the migrant population. This has included targets on increasing identification and treatment of TB cases and take up of childhood immunisations. Work is underway in Harehills and Lincoln Green to increase the number of children receiving childhood vaccinations from 70% to 90%.
- 3.5 **Controlling Migration Funded Activities.** The Controlling Migration Fund was launched by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in November 2016 to help local authorities mitigate the impacts of recent migration on communities in their area. £100 million was available for local authorities across England.
- 3.6 **Over the past two years, Leeds City Council has successfully bid** to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government **for £1.6million**. Projects funded through this programme are as follows:
- 3.7 **The Leeds Migrant Access Project (MAP and MAP 'Plus')**. The Migrant Access Project aims to alleviate pressures on services where there is the impact of migration and new arrivals to the city, and in addition, it helps new migrants to settle in Leeds. Part of the project is to train Migrant Community Networkers (MCNs) who are from different national, ethnic or language backgrounds so that they can share information with new arrivals within their communities about life in Leeds. Throughout the last year, more than 700 engagement contacts have been made through a weekly drop in. Plans are being prepared to deliver training to a new cohort of Migrant Community Networkers in the coming year.
- 3.8 The **Migrant Access Project 'Plus' is the nationally funded** part of the programme and extends the work of the Migrant Access Project. The focus of the Migrant Access Project 'Plus' which commenced in July 2017, has been to improve access to services in key target wards with higher levels of new migrant communities and alleviate pressures on settled community. Year one focus has been on improving access to health services in Armley and work with private landlords in Holbeck to improve housing conditions. A further three satellite areas were identified for year 2 in July 2018, these were; Little London/Hyde Park, New Wortley and Beeston Hill with the theme of increasing community engagement. The project was due to end in July 2019, however Leeds have been **successful in a bid to extend this initiative to March 2020** for year 2 areas.
- 3.9 Key outputs of the project to date are:
- 91 Migrant Community Networkers successfully trained, through 5 cohorts of training.
 - 20 Migrant Community Health Educators have received training, 11 work in partnership with GP surgeries in Armley and 9 are waiting for placements.
 - The project has also funded 28 'U choose' local community projects delivered by the Migrant Community Networkers in Beeston Hill and Holbeck, Hyde Park, Little London and Woodhouse and the Armley and Wortley ward areas.
- 3.10 An independent evaluation of the project is being undertaken by the Leeds University in partnership with Leeds Beckett University and a report will be available from September 2019, to inform future projects.

- 3.11 **Online Welcome to Leeds websites.** Leeds City Council commissioned local charities Touchstone and Leeds Asylum Seekers' Support Network to develop The Leeds Transition guide and the New to Leeds online guides, which were launched earlier this year. The guides provide people who have recently moved to Leeds from another country, with a wealth of important information on how to access a variety of services that are available in the city.
- 3.12 **English Language Programme.** Leeds received funding for a 2 year project to develop an ESOL strategy for the city and to deliver conversational English language hub grants scheme. In developing the strategy Leeds City Council is working closely with key providers of ESOL, namely, Leeds City College, Leeds Adult Learning, Migrant English Support Hub, Talk English, Migration Yorkshire and National Association for Teaching English and other Community Languages to Adults (NATELCA).
- 3.13 The Language Hub project aims to support communities to build their **language skills** through activity utilising a grants process. The Language Hub project is about enabling people to practice conversational English, whilst taking part in activities which **engage new and settled communities**. The £200k grant scheme will run for 2 years up to July 2020 with 13 groups having successfully accessed grants to the end of March 2019. The majority of applications received are from organisations located in the Inner East and Inner South of the city, with 77% of projects located in areas which experience the highest levels of deprivation (lowest decile on the Index of Multiple Deprivation). 31% of the projects are working specifically with women, with 23% offering crèche facilities. The scheme has been promoted widely through our community networks and the wider voluntary, community and faith sector.
- 3.14 Migrant English Support Hub (MESH) are developing the Learning English in Leeds website into a regional resource following successful Controlling Migration Funding with Migration Yorkshire. For Leeds, this will see dedicated work taking place to re-engage with providers to ensure the resource provides accurate and up to date information on ESOL provision.
- 3.15 **Local Authority Asylum Support Liaison Officer Scheme (LAASLO)**
Leeds Housing Services received funding to take part in a **2 year pilot initiative aimed at providing support to asylum seekers who received a positive decision from the Home Office to settle in the city**. Leeds Housing Options are currently working closely with the current provider G4S to help meet future accommodation needs of agreed asylum cases.
- 3.16 For those that have received positive decisions, their asylum cases are supported by LAASLO officers, however, the challenge of providing housing advice/support to people who have received a negative asylum decision is a significant one, not least because people will not be eligible for housing assistance/allocation. The work in partnership with key third sector organisations such as PAFRAS (Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers), RETAS (Refugee Education Training Advisory Services), the Migrant Access Project, Abigail House, Department of Work and Pensions link workers and the Red Cross are essential to ensure that people continue to feel supported.

- 3.17 From April 2018-2019 LAASLO has conducted more than 140 Homelessness/Housing Needs Assessments. The following housing outcomes have been achieved
- 40% have been rehoused in private rented accommodation and awarded priority on the Leeds Homes Register
 - 34% have been rehoused in supported accommodation and awarded priority on the Leeds Homes Register
 - 12% chose to stay with friends on a temporary basis and have been awarded priority on the Leeds Homes Register to assist with a planned move
 - 10% were awarded banding on the Leeds Homes Register, as requested, and did not want further assistance.
- 3.18 In addition to the Homelessness/Housing Needs Assessments, LAASLO has offered general housing advice and assistance. Working closely with the voluntary sector and tapping into networks such as the Migrant Access Project, this has improved knowledge of housing options, rights and responsibilities within migrant communities. LAASLO through working with DWP link workers have helped resolve issues with benefit claims and assisted clients with furniture packs, thus reducing financial hardship faced by clients. Clients receive continued support after rehousing to ensure tenancy sustainment.
- 3.19 More recently, during the Severe Weather Protocol, shelter and other assistance has been given to clients who are street homeless. Referrals for Severe Weather Protocol have been received via PAFRAS, RETAS and WYDAN (West Yorkshire Destitute Asylum Network).
- 3.20 **Victims of Modern Slavery.** Leeds received funding for a pilot to deliver support to 'Victims of Modern Slavery'. This project provides pathways for those victims of modern slavery leaving the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) with a Positive Conclusive Grounds decision. Leeds is one of six local authority areas elected to take part in a pilot along with Croydon, Derby, Birmingham, Nottingham, and Redbridge.
- 3.21 Common aspects of the projects include working to ensure victims have access to housing upon leaving the NRM and using locally-based advocates to support victims to move towards independence. Other strands include disruption of perpetrator activities and developing community support. The Home Office Analysis and Insights team will conduct an evaluation of the pilots at the end of 2019.
- 3.22 Safer Leeds have put in place a contract with an experienced provider, Palm Cove, to deliver the advocacy support element of the pilot. Palm Cove are currently exceeding their targets in terms of the numbers of victims accessing support under this scheme. Referral pathways with the council housing services have been established and further work is underway with Adult Learning and Education and other key partners.
- 3.23 **Domestic Violence and Working with Migrant Communities Refugee Forum.** The Safer Leeds Domestic Violence Team have delivered a number of training sessions to organisations working with migrants across the city to support them to achieve the Domestic Violence Quality Mark. Training has been delivered to both staff and community representatives through the Leeds Refugee Forum, Bahar

Afghan Women's Association, Refugee Council and PATH (Yorkshire). Further sessions have been planned for 2019 to be delivered through the Migrant Access Project and Refugee Council.

- 3.24 **Domestic Violence and Abuse, No Recourse to Public Funds Toolkit** was launched in December 2018 across West Yorkshire. The toolkit incorporates information and resources to make it easier for front line workers to identify needs and establish pathways to specialist support as quickly as possible. The toolkit is available to practitioners in Leeds via the Safer Leeds.gov website.
- 3.25 **Further Funding Opportunity.** A further Controlling Migration Funding round was opened in summer 2018. Leeds City Council submitted two bids, firstly to extend the Migrant Access Project Plus and secondly to trial a Migrant Community Connectors programme. Leeds City Council received confirmation earlier this year on having been awarded a further £457K for the two projects. The extension of the MAP Plus project has been agreed with Touchstone as the commissioned provider and the Communities Team are in the process of establishing the Community Connectors initiative.
- 3.26 **Other key activities and initiatives**
- 3.27 **EUROCITIES.** Leeds hosted a two day event in September 2018 led by EUROCITIES on **Roma Inclusion**. The event was a huge success that showcased the strategic, coordinated and inclusive approach to migration in Leeds. Attendance included the **European Commission, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government** and delegates from both **European and UK cities**. The agenda also included a study visit to a Roma Cafe which was an important highlight. The study visit concluded with a debate on Brexit that European cities requested. The commitment to Roma under this working group continues in partnership with EUROCITIES in Brussels.
- 3.28 The conversation was **strongly connected** to the partners working with **Community Committees in neighbourhoods** that have larger number of the Roma communities. Local partners from neighbourhoods like Harehills and Armley were able to describe the work that is supported in the community to promote inclusion and integration of a diverse range of people, particularly those with Roma heritage. Some of the challenges and opportunities were discussed and Leeds was able to show some of the **inter community work** that is taking place and also share some of the approaches we have for **improving access** to services for the Roma community.
- 3.29 **UK's future skills-based immigration system White Paper**
On the 19 December 2018 the UK Government presented a White Paper setting out plans for its new single migration system built around skills that migrants can bring, alongside investment to improve productivity and the skills of the UK workforce.
- 3.30 As the UK leaves the European Union (EU), free movement regulated by EU law will end. **All nationals other than British and Irish citizens, will need permission if they want to come to the UK, to visit, work or study** and will need to comply to this new single system as the implementation period ends in December 2020 (if in a 'no deal' situation) or July 2021.

- 3.31 The new single system will:
- Come into force at the end of the implementation period
 - Apply to all nationals other than British and Irish citizens
 - Offer 5 different routes to coming to the UK to work, based on skills levels and periods of time (specialist, highly skilled, short term/temporary, visitor or part of the youth mobility scheme)
 - Be digital, streamlined and compliant, maintaining strict control of borders, access to employment and public services such as health care, benefits etc.
- 3.32 The next steps indicated by Government is an extensive 12-month programme of engagement with sectors across the UK. This will include discussions with private, public and voluntary sector employers, as well as industry representatives.
- 3.33 **The EU Citizens Settlement Scheme.** In December 2017 the UK government reached an agreement with the European Union on citizens' rights and in March 2018 this was extended to cover those arriving during the implementation period. This agreement protected the rights of EU citizens after the UK leaves the EU and would enable them to continue to live their lives as now. It also covered their family members.
- 3.34 Post Brexit, those residing in the UK will need to apply online for a new UK residence status under the EU Settlement Scheme that will allow citizens and their family members to continue to live, study and work in the UK (subject to any relevant occupational requirements), with ongoing rights to health care and access to benefits and public services according to the same rules as now.
- 3.35 To obtain settled status EU citizens and their family members will need to have lived continuously in the UK for five years. Those with less than five years' residence will be granted pre-settled status until they accumulate their five years. On 21 January 2019 the government announced that a decision was made to cancel previously agreed fees.
- 3.36 **To support EU citizens living in Leeds the Council** has signed up to the national scheme and **will provide Digital Assistance Support and ID Checking Services** to those applying for settled status. All our community hubs self-serve IT desks homepage have a direct link to the gov.uk website to signpost people wanting to apply and five inner city area community hubs will provide the digital assistance support working in partnership with 'we are digital' who are the lead organisation overseeing this activity nationally.
- 3.37 Leeds City Council have supported a number of activities including hosting Home Office events aimed at informing civic leaders and local citizens. Circulating guidance toolkits to businesses and communities and local organisations, on the implementation of the scheme.
- 3.38 In December 2018 the Home Office announced grant funding of up to £9 million for voluntary sector organisations to bid to support EU citizens who might need additional help when applying for their immigration status through the EU Settlement Scheme. The closing date for bids was the 1st February 2019. St. Vincent's in Leeds have been successful in their bid to support vulnerable citizens apply.

- 3.39 **Windrush.** Leeds was one of the few authorities in the region that took part in co-ordinating community consultation activity on Windrush, providing local residents and families affected an opportunity to share their stories and inform the lead officers looking at the development of the compensation scheme. **On 3rd April 2019 the Windrush Compensation scheme was launched.** People are able to claim if they have arrived from commonwealth countries before 1 January 1973 and suffered a loss because they could not demonstrate their lawful right to live in the UK. The information can be accessed via the gov.uk website.
- 3.40 **National Windrush Day** was announced in December 2018 to take place annually on **22 June** to encourage communities across the country to celebrate the contribution of the Windrush Generation and their descendants. Leeds is supporting communities to develop local celebration events.
- 3.41 **Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS).** Leeds made a commitment to support 225 individuals during a two year period from 2016/2017. Leeds met its pledge and had welcomed 239 individuals by June 2018 which includes cases where there was a local family connection. Following consultation with the Home Office Leeds pledged to accept a further 90 individuals up to the end of the contract spring 2020. By April 2019 we have taken 48 individuals of the additional 90, with an expectation of a further 21 by July, leaving a further 21 places to be filled by Spring 2020.

As of 1st September 2018, the operational responsibility of this scheme transferred from Migration Yorkshire to Leeds City Council's Communities Team.

- 3.42 **Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme.** Leeds pledged to resettle 38 people under the Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme and on the 27th March 2019 Leeds fulfilled their pledge when the final family of 4 arrived. **How to be Lucky**, a theatre production about the life of a Syrian boy that has moved to the UK, has been shown in 6 Leeds schools during February 2019. It had a positive effect on the pupils, with some saying; 'it was very powerful', *'It was an amazing story that opened my eyes'*. The production will be shown again in different schools throughout 10th – 15th June 2019. The Department of Work and Pensions have agreed to show the play twice to staff as they feel it is important for staff to have a better understanding of the lives of those from Syria.
- 3.43 There has been a noticeable gap in youth activity provision for new families. Third sector organisations have **now developed youth activities** to support young people, particularly teenagers, who are struggling to adjust to life in the UK. Plans are underway to recruit a Youth Worker and an Education Support Worker to further support this activity.
- 3.44 **The Syrian Community Grant Fund** aimed at addressing isolation and assist with English language learning has funded 6 small projects to date.
- 3.45 **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC).** A Task Group led by colleagues in Children Services continues to bring together agencies from across the city to ensure UASC's needs are met. **Leeds continues to lead in the region in terms of good practice** and has been actively participating in the National Transfer Scheme, which has included young people moving to Leeds from London

and the South East, but Leeds has also welcomed young people who are part of the 'Dubs' scheme to offer sanctuary to unaccompanied young people who are in Europe and a small group of unaccompanied refugee children who have been rescued from Libya by UNHCR through the VCRS scheme.

- 3.46 At a recent regional UASC meeting the Home Office UASC transfer team, based in Croydon, joined the meeting by conference call and praised Leeds for their dedication in understanding the plight of the UASC situation in Libya and within Europe. The approach and responsiveness of Leeds Children's Service across the region was further acknowledged by the group and thanks was expressed regarding our offers of support and advice to colleagues in neighbouring authorities. **Current figures** show that Leeds is supporting 63 UASC under the age of 18 and 99 young people aged 18+ as care leavers.
- 3.47 **In May 2019 Local Authorities received notification from the Home Office** on them having concluded the USAC funding review and of changes to be implemented. The decision taken is **to provide an uplift on rates currently paid** at £71, £91, and £95 (all per USAC per night) to £114. These changes are to be applied to care provided from 1st April 2019.
- 3.48 **Asylum Dispersal Contract.** In January 2019 the government announced that the new asylum dispersal housing contract for the Yorkshire and Humber region had been **awarded to Mears Group** who will take over from the current provider G4S and the contract will run for 10 years until 2029. Transition activity between providers is now underway.
- 3.49 **Connecting Opportunities.** This 2 year **project aimed** at supporting 'vulnerable new migrants' to **improve confidence and skills and increase employability** started in 2017 and has recently **been successful in securing additional funding to extend the project until June 2022.**

Connecting Opportunities is funded by the European Social Fund and the National Lottery, through the Big Lottery Fund and works with ten organisations that specialise in working with migrants offering tailored support, cultural orientation, English language classes and other training across West Yorkshire and part of North Yorkshire (Craven, Harrogate, Selby and York). In Leeds the project is being delivered by Path Yorkshire, The Childrens Society, SOLACE, LASSN and Touchstone led by Migration Yorkshire (Leeds City Council).

In Leeds, the project has worked with 242 participants (34% total project participants). 60% are female; 46% are refugees, with the top 3 nationalities being Iranian, Sudanese and Eritrean; 54% other migrants, with the top 3 nationalities being Indian, Pakistani & Romanian. Referrals in Leeds onto the project have come from over 40 different agencies with 17% being self-referrals from individuals themselves. In terms of provision accessed: 54% participants have accessed ESOL, 74% accessed mentoring & befriending & 90% work placements/experience. Of those participants, that have exited the project, so far in Leeds up to 60% have exited either into jobs and/or external training/education.

- 3.50 **Introduction to Migration training.** Leeds Communities Team commissions Migration Yorkshire to deliver a programme of training for practitioners in the

Council and partners. During 2018/19 65 participants attended the 'introduction to migration' events. For 2019/20 Leeds has commissioned a further 4 sessions.

4. Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 The Leeds Strategic Migration Board's membership includes council and partner agencies and is the key vehicle for consultation, engagement and overseeing migration activity.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 The council's Equality Improvement Priorities for 2018 – 2022 have been produced to ensure that the council meets its legal duties under the Equality Act 2010, to complement the 'Best City' ambition aimed at tackling inequalities: for Leeds to have a Strong Economy and to be a Compassionate City. They provide focus to address issues of inequality and are based on evidence of disproportionate outcomes, which we are seeking to challenge and change.

4.2.2 The migration work takes into account equality and diversity as core components and a Migration Equality Improvement Priority was approved by Executive Board in July 2018 to improve the approach to migration in Leeds through improving access to services; shifting attitudes and behaviours; increasing awareness and understanding; strengthening resilience and building capacity; and building and creating cooperative partnerships.

4.3 Council polices and Best Council Plan

4.3.1 The work carried out under the Leeds City Council's migration programme helps the city to achieve its ambition to be a welcoming and compassionate city. It underpins the Strong Communities Benefiting from a Strong City programme by focusing on the people who are new to Leeds, and ensuring that their interests and contributions are included in all aspects of city life.

4.3.2 The recommendations in this report support the delivery of the Best Council Plan. Our focus has been on supporting communities, aiding integration and building more cohesive and resilient communities' whiles seeking to minimise any risks associated with changes to demography.

Climate Emergency

4.3.4 There is no direct impact on the Climate Emergency arising from this update report.

4.3.3 Migration is however, one of the possible responses to a climate emergency. While this doesn't apply to current migration we need to be prepared for potential future pressures.

4.3.4 This paper sets out the council wide approach to supporting our new and existing migrant communities. Any direct impact on the Climate Emergency will be addressed by respective Directorates as part of their current and future migration work which is outlined in the update report.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

4.4.1 Our approach to migration in Leeds provides opportunities to build upon, and create effective partnerships and responses to changing need and to target our work more effectively based on evidence.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 Although, there are no legal implications or access to information issues within the work articulated in this paper there will be implications arising from national changes such as the Immigration Act 2016 and Brexit. As yet the full impact of these regulations is not known and guidance is pending. The present report is subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 Having a coherent and strategic approach to migration supports the council to deliver its priorities and minimises any associated risks.

4.6.2 Officers continue to keep information updated on national changes likely to impact on the citizens of Leeds.

4.6.3 As the UK approaches its formal withdrawal from the EU, it is important we have routes in to our newer communities, to enable information to be passed on about their legal status. The work we undertake with our migrant communities, provides vital links both in to these communities and for them to share their concerns.

5. Conclusions

5.1 This report shares the significant work that the city has delivered and continues to deliver on migration across Leeds during a live and fast moving national policy environment. Keeping abreast of national changes; ensuring strong connections to ministerial departments; contributing to shaping national thinking; working locally and regionally with our colleague local authorities to learn and share what works; developing strong bids for funds; ensuring officer capacity on the agenda; working in collaboration with and funding the migrant third sector; growing our award winning approach to engaging new and settled communities through volunteers; and most importantly, spending time to develop trusting relationships with the communities that we welcome to Leeds has been and remains fundamental to the success of our approach

6. Recommendations

6.1 Receive and endorse this annual update report on migration activity taking place in Leeds.

- 6.2 Note the responsibility of the Director of Communities and Environment and the Executive Member for Communities for leading this work through the Councils Stronger Communities Programme and also note the responsibility of the Chief Officer Communities in leading the work of the Leeds Strategic Migration Board.
- 6.3 To receive a further update on progress in July 2020.

7. Background documents¹

- 7.1 There are no specific background documents linked to this report

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.