

## Leeds Strategic Migration Board 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 Meeting Summary

### Key Theme: Education Support

#### The Education Support Presentation



LSMB Education -  
0-19 schools - Decer

Jhardine Farrell shared the above presentation, key highlights are outlined below:

- The learning improvement team 3 key aims are to help pupils **attain, attend** and **achieve**.
- There are 112,000 children within 276 schools in Leeds, from reception to year 11. Approximately a fifth of those pupils speak English as an Additional Language (EAL) and more than a third are from diverse communities.
- The learning improvement team raise awareness about the support needs for refugee and asylum seekers through their service page, termly networks, by promoting refugee week, and through websites such as [‘My Bright Kite’](#).
- A number of education learning challenges have been identified by schools (see slide 6 of the Power Point presentation above). **Action:** partners to share information on how they can provide support with [Jhardine.farrell@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Jhardine.farrell@leeds.gov.uk).

#### Questions/observations

- Does the learning improvement team work with schools that have become academies? **Response:** The team work with main stream schools and have some contact with academies, however academies are not required to sign up to the team’s priorities.
- Are there any welcome packs which can be shared with new pupils and families? **Response:** Many schools have their own induction pack and the team have a welcome pack specifically for pupils who speak EAL, with basic phrases.
- PATH Yorkshire have found it difficult to engage with schools when supporting parents. Can schools be made aware of organisations offering parents support, such as PATH Yorkshire, to prevent this barrier? **Response:** Each term, a list of support networks is shared with schools according to the themes of the networks. **Action:** Organisations that would like to be listed amongst the networks offering support are to email [Jhardine.farrell@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Jhardine.farrell@leeds.gov.uk)

### Local, Regional and National Updates

#### Leeds Migration Partnership (LMP) Priorities



LMP Priorities  
presentation Decem

The LMP presented an overview of their 4 key priorities and reviewed the impact of Covid-19. The key highlights and challenges are below:

- **Housing:** LMP have raised awareness about **destitution prevention** by lobbying the local authority and local members of parliament to keep it a priority. The Leeds Asylum Seeker Support Network and PAFRAS have supported asylum seekers that are refused asylum and those with no recourse to public funds.
- **Health:** LMP are speaking with Public Health to ask whether the migrant health board will be reconvened (the board has not met since March) and are raising awareness around vaccine messages.
- **Safety and Inclusion:** Domestic Violence reports have increased since the start of the pandemic and many organisations have attained the domestic violence quality mark to ensure staff are trained to identify and support victims.
- **Employment and Learning:** the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted digital inclusion/exclusion as a primary barrier to access training and support (i.e. ESOL learners with a low level of English struggle to access online ESOL provisions).

Over the last 10 months the LMP operations meetings have been held fortnightly, to ensure organisations are supported through the pandemic.

#### Comments:

- The Department of Work and Pensions have secured funding to support those who speak English as a second language to claim universal credit, alongside the Citizens Advice Bureau support.
- Migrant victims of domestic violence, with no recourse to public funds, are not protected under the current domestic violence bill. A review of the bill has considered establishing a mechanism to support those with no recourse to public funds, the summary can be [accessed here](#).

#### Migration Yorkshire

##### Post Brexit immigration policy:

- On the 11<sup>th</sup> November parliament passed the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Act 2020, it defines the framework for immigration for European Economic Area (EEA) nationals post Brexit and will be operational from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. The post Brexit immigration policy brief can be accessed [here](#).
- EEA nationals arriving in the UK before the 31<sup>st</sup> December are able to apply for settled/pre settled status to obtain permission to remain in the UK, they have up to the 30<sup>th</sup> June to apply for this.
- EEA nationals arriving in the UK from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 will be subject to UK immigration controls and will have to apply for entry and to extend their stay under the post-Brexit immigration system under the points based system. The points based system briefing can be accessed [here](#).

##### Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) Visa

- Many Hong Kong residents possess a type of British Nationality Status known as British National (Overseas). The British government is openly welcoming any

people with British National (Oversea) status who may no longer wish to remain in Hong Kong as a result of changes to their rights in China.

- A concern for local authorities and services is the risk of destitution from the middle of 2021, local authorities may have to support individuals and families. As visa holders will have a no recourse to public funds condition, they will not be eligible to claim welfare benefits or access local authority housing and homelessness assistance.
- Migration Yorkshire are working with the Home Office to consider the potential impact on services.
- For the policy briefing [access here](#)

## Progress Updates

### Modern Slavery

- The modern slavery strategy was approved at the last board meeting. An action plan is being developed and will align with migration priorities. Key themes in the strategy include; awareness and understanding of what modern slavery is and where and how to access support.
- To raise awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking, the migrant access project facilitated training with support from Safer Leeds and Hope for Justice to 19 migrant community networkers. A project evaluation event will take place on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> January.

### Asylum

- Mears initial accommodation, Urban House, was re-opened on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September, offering a maximum of 270 places. Hotel accommodation has been necessary to support newly arrived asylum seekers, with 3 hotels being used in Leeds.
- Mears have robust processes in place to reduce the transmission rate of Covid-19 and are working in partnership with the police, elected members, local authority staff and third sector organisations to support those in hotel accommodation.
- Third sector organisations support residents to access items such as clothing and digital devices. Refugee Council arrange a timetable of activities for those in the hotels, including art therapy and theatre production showings.
- The local authority regularly discuss concerns around property procurement with Mears and the Home Office. Mears are working to turn voids around quickly and are making property procurement a priority.

### Comments/questions:

- People staying in the hotels do not seem to know about the activities open to them, is there a flyer which organisations such as PAFRAS can share?  
**Response:** there is a resident welfare manager based at each site sharing information with residents during business hours, Nicki will raise this with them.

### Housing Leeds

- Garforth House was closed at the end of November and all 8 residents were rehoused into 2 shared houses. The residents are supported by LEDAS for everyday support and PAFRAS help with asylum claims.

### Public Health

- The migrant health board paused meetings during Covid19, however Anna is meeting Karen (PAFRAS) to ensure migrant health remains a priority for Public Health.

- A migrant health lead is yet to be decided within the team.
- The Public Health team have supported organisations providing emergency accommodation, with regard to Covid-19 guidelines/advice.
- Public Health have allocated money from the government's tier 3 funding to pay for the activities planned for asylum seekers and the purchasing of personal protective equipment packs (facemasks, hand sanitizer).

#### **European Union Settlement Scheme (EUSS)**

- While the final outcome of the UK-EU negotiations are currently in the air, the Council continue to ensure organisation in the city are prepared as we can be with the resources available.
- A Brexit officer working group, composed of senior officers from across the council, continues to meet to co-ordinate preparedness and refresh the strategic response plan. The group key priorities include: the EU Settlement Scheme, working with businesses, ensuring data systems are up to date and preparing adult social care for any impacts.
- There will be a significant change to the economic relationship between the EU and the UK post Brexit, which will likely lead to disruption to the flow of freight and trade. At present, the ports in the Yorkshire and Humber are not expected to be significantly impacted.

#### **Community Connector Project**

- The Ministry of Housing and Local Government funded the Community Connector Project, a temporary 15 month initiative, to help improve the lives of migrants. 5 community connectors were recruited from diverse backgrounds and they were expected to work with 100 households but exceeded this target and supported 267 households. They have worked in partnership with services to provide holistic support to the families.

#### **Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS)**

- Since the pandemic, face to face contact has been limited and the team sourced laptops and I-pads to help people access online learning provisions.
- Many families on the programme are accessing emergency food provisions and free clothing.
- A family liaison officer and a community engagement officer have been recruited to provide additional support to the families, in response to identified needs.

#### **Windrush**

- A recent report produced by the human rights commission indicates the Home Office broke equalities law under the hostile environment measures.

**Next meeting date:** 11th March 2021, 2pm-4pm (Online)

**Meeting Theme:** Asylum and the UK Immigration Points System