**Leeds Strategic Migration Board Meeting Minutes – 7 May 2024**

**Meeting Theme: Leeds Adult Social Care**

**Attendance**

| **Service** | **Members** | **Attended** | **Apologies** |
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| **Safer Stronger Communities** | **Paul Money (PM)** – Chief Officer for Safer Stronger Communities (Chair) |  |  |
| **Pria Bhabra** **(PB)** - Migration Programme Manager |  |  |
| **Nadeem Siddique** **(NS)** – Head of Community Relations and Cohesion |  |  |
| **Samantha Powell** **(SP)** -Third Sector and Migration Partnership Manager (Coordinator) |  |  |
| **Cath Dearlove (CD)** - Resettlement Manager |  |  |
| **Alex Fox (AF)** – Migration Project Officer (minutes) |  |  |
| **Hannah Jameson (HJ)** – Migration Project Officer |  |  |
| **Elected Members** | **Councillor Mary Harland** – Executive Board Member for Communities |  |  |
| **Community Hubs and Welfare** | **Lee Hemsworth (LH)** –Chief Officer for Community Hubs, Welfare and Business Support |  |  |
| **Housing** | **Mark Ireland (MI)** – Head of Private Rented Sector Housing |  |  |
| **Kerrie Murray** - Head of Homelessness |  |  |
| **Philip Windle (PW)** – Housing Options Manager |  |  |
| **Employment and Skills** | **Hannah Kirkham (HK)** – Employment and Skills Senior Manager |  |  |
| **Dawn Hall (DH)** – Executive Manager, Employment and Skills |  |  |
| **Children and Families** | **Jonathan Nevill (JN)** – Service Delivery Manager, Children Looked After |  |  |
| **Jancis Andrew (JA)** Head of Virtual School |  |  |
| **Adults and Health** | **Sibi Hanif** **(SH)** - Service Delivery Manager |  |  |
| **Catherine Ward** **(CW)** - Health Improvement Principal |  |  |
| **Anthony Cooke (AC)** - Chief Officer Health Partnerships |  |  |
| **Atlanta Rossiter (AR)** – Social Worker |  |  |
| **Andrea Noone (AN)** – Senior Social Worker |  |  |
| **Alicja Lewko** – Senior Social Worker |  |  |
| **Tim Taylor** – Head of Public Health – Localities  and Primary Care |  |  |
| **Leeds Integrated Care Board** | **Kenyetta Cohen (KC)** – Primary Care Team |  |  |
| **DWP** | **Chris Joyce (CJ)** -Leeds and Keighley Senior Operational Leader |  |  |
| **Gemma Sharratt (GS)** - Senior Partnership Manager |  |  |
| **Joanne Harris (JH)** – Leeds DWP |  |  |
| **Migration Yorkshire** | **Adam Atack (AA)** - Refugee Integration Service Manager |  |  |
| **Stefan Robert (SR)** - Integration and Partnerships Officer |  |  |
| **West Yorkshire Police** | **Lucy Leadbeater (LL)** – Chief Inspector |  |  |
| **Nick Berry (NB)** - Inspector |  |  |
| **Leeds Migration Partnership** | **Karen Pearse (KP)** – Director of PAFRAS |  |  |
| **Roger Nyantou (RN)** – Director of RETAS |  |  |
| **Migrant Help** | **Tesfay Waldemichael (TW)** - Head of Regional Service |  |  |
| **Mears** | **Jade Raybould,** Partnership Manager – AASC (Hull, East Riding, North Yorkshire, Leeds, Sheffield) |  |  |
| **Strategy and Resources** | **Mike Eakins (ME)** -Head of Policy |  |  |
| **Luke Andrews** –Intelligence and Policy Officer |  |  |

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| **Summary of Actions from Today’s Meeting – 7th May 2024** | | |
| **3.2**  **3.3**  **3.4**  **4.1**  **4.1**  **5.2**  **6.0**  **7.0**  **8.0** | **Asylum Discontinuations:** Tim Taylor asked if Bevan had the capacity to support the increased numbers of residents in the Huddersfield location. Kenyetta advised they had yet to raise any concerns with Public Health. Regular meetings took place with them to discuss. Kenyetta would raise this concern with them at the next meeting.  **RETAS OISC registered** - Sam to circulate an update on this with these minutes.   * **Action complete:** further information available on LMP’s website [here](https://migrationpartnership.org.uk/?s=retas&submit=Search)   **ESOL Strategy:** It was noted that Dawn was unable to attend this meeting, but she will be invited to attend the next LSMB meeting to provide an update. Paul asked about future updates including pressure points, what is going well, etc. Sam agreed to look into this and how to provide ongoing updates to the Board.  Sibi to share the presentation for circulation.     * **Action complete**   Further discussion to be had with colleagues about supporting NRPF DV cases at the next Board Meeting, which is already focusing on a community safety theme, exploring in more detail to understand the baseline and explore the gaps being seen by frontline services.  WY ICB commissioning footprint brings with it some opportunities and threats - something to bring to a future LSMB board to gain a greater sense of this agenda.  The Together for Ukraine funding is now complete. Sam to circulate the outcomes report produced by Leeds Community Foundation when available.  The next meeting focuses on community safety. Paul noted that Lucy Leadbeater is moving to a different role. Paul will discuss who can lead on this area for the next meeting.  Sam to circulate plans for Leeds Refugee Week when available.   * **Action complete:** Refugee Week list of events in Leeds 2024 available on LMP’s website [here](https://migrationpartnership.org.uk/refugee-week-list-of-events-in-leeds-2024/) | **KC**  **SP**  **SP**  **SH**  **PB**  **PB**  **SP**  **PM/PB**  **SP** |

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| **1.0** | **Welcome and Introductions** |  |
|  | Paul Money welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted. |  |
| **2.0** | **Matters Arising and Previous Meeting Minutes - 6th February 2024** |  |
| **2.1** | Attendees agreed the minutes. |  |
| **2.2** | **Summary of Actions from Previous Meeting – 6th February 2024** |  |
| **3.2**  **3.4**  **4.2** | **Action**: Access to good move on resources as under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Pria and Sam to explore the issue further and liaise with Piers at Leeds Housing Options who is developing resources.   * **Action in progress:** Work is ongoing between Pria, Sam and Piers to develop Housing resources. Further updates in due course.   **Action**: to share a summary of third sector orgs funded by the council to support asylum seekers and new refugees.   * **Action complete:** summary of funded organisations shared with the Board.   **Action**: Illegal Migration Act – Pria and Sam to follow up with other stakeholders to review what might be provided regarding Illegal Migration Act and bring this back to a future meeting.   * **Action ongoing:** Pria and Sam have been attending meetings to improve awareness and partnership working, this has included a focus on current priorities around national policy in relation to people seeking asylum. A further update will be provided to the Board, as necessary. | **PB/SP**  **SP**  **PB/SP** |
| **3.0** | **National, Regional and Local Updates** |  |
| **3.1** | **Migration Yorkshire - National Policy Updates, Stephan Robert, Integration and Partnerships Officer**  Stefan provided an update from Migration Yorkshire’s horizon scanning document which is available via their website – [see link.](https://www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/news/horizon-scanning-migration-sector-yorkshire-and-humber-february-2024)  **Net migration**  Government has outlined measures to reduce net migration including:   * New salary requirement for family migration routes, skilled worker visa - £29k to £38k. * No longer able to bring dependents on health and social care worker visa. * Employers to sponsor people on worker visas. * A more restrictive shortage occupation list.   **Rwanda bill**  The Rwanda bill has now passed, and the Home Office was expecting to complete the first removals in the next 9-11 weeks. The full legislation has not yet been implemented.  **Asylum backlog**  Legacy asylum backlog has now been cleared. Many outstanding claims have been affected by the recent legislation. A different approach was being applied to decision making. There have been some delays to new claims owing to the delays on the passing of the Rwanda bill.  **Resettlement**  UKRS would be gathering momentum as the programme for all resettled refuges, rather than separate schemes for groups such as Syrians and Afghans. An Afghan community sponsorship scheme has been piloted in some areas, but there was no further info at this stage on whether it would be rolled out further.  **EU nationals**  Universal Credit is now available to those with pre-settled status. |  |
| **3.2** | **Leeds City Council Migration – Asylum update, Nadeem Siddique, Head of Community Relations and Cohesion.**  **Asylum Hotels:** We have received notification from the Home Office to end contract for one of the 4 hotels in Leeds, the Holiday Inn Express in Rothwell, at beginning of July. Relevant partners have been notified including statutory and non-statutory.  **Asylum Discontinuations**: As updated in the last meeting part of the HO approach to address the asylum backlog was the streamlined asylum process whereby the majority were receiving positive decisions. Since Sept 2023 there has been a significant increase in positive decisions.  It was noted that there are still significant arrivals through the asylum system, and the Home Office continue to find new accommodation.    Jade provided a summary of the process to close an asylum hotel. A decant strategy has been agreed with key partners including Bevan Healthcare who are the GP service.  Jade was asked if a new asylum hotel was due to be opened in Huddersfield. Jade had no information to provide at this time.  Tim asked if Bevan had the capacity to support the increased numbers of residents in the Huddersfield location. Kenyetta advised they had yet to raise any concerns with Public Health. Regular meetings took place with them to discuss. Kenyetta would raise this with them at the next meeting. | **KC** |
| **3.3** | **Leeds Migration Partnership (LMP), Roger Nyantou Director of RETAS and Karen Pearse Director of PAFRAS.**  **Asylum discontinuations**  Since September LMP have been looking at asylum discontinuations and move on for new refugees. LMP were grateful to Leeds Housing Options and DWP for attending these meetings to provide updates and respond to partner queries. Kerrie Murray attended a recent meeting and shared helpful insights into the current challenges Leeds Housing Options are experiencing across all resident groups and the ways the service is responding. Amber Khan also attended, confirming the number of people seeking asylum receiving a positive decision has now returned to normal levels. Working with the Migrant Third Sector, LHO have arranged information sessions to support services and volunteers engaging with clients in the move on process.  **LMP and upcoming national elections**  Third Sector Leeds have developed four key lobbying messages to lobby MPs to influence the next government to ensure communities in Leeds are supported. LMP have agreed to work together to develop key lobbying messages in relation to migrant, refugee and asylum seeking communities. In addition, Leeds Migration Partnership are sharing resources to aid communities in understanding their voting rights and voting requirements.  **Leeds Migration Partnership priorities**  **Legal advice**   * Legal advice - pilot project is going well, and the second cohort of volunteers are being trained. * Roger confirmed that RETAS has gained OISC registration status, so are now able to provide level 1 and 2 immigration advice, contributing to much needed capacity. **Action:** Sam to circulate an update on this. * **Action complete:** A summary of RETAS legal advice provision is available on LMP website [here](https://migrationpartnership.org.uk/?s=retas&submit=Search).   **Health**   * Leeds Migration Partnership are looking to engage with the Integrated Care Board who are re-contracting the interpreter service for GP surgeries. LMP wish to ensure understanding around the challenges experienced in accessing and engaging with language support. | **SP** |
| **3.4** | **Leeds ESOL strategy: strategy update and next steps, Sam Powell, Third Sector and Migration Partnership Manager**  As a result, in 2020 the ESOL strategy was written detailing the current position, the priorities and the outcomes we wish to achieve in Leeds. These include two important areas of the strategy:   1. Our vision is for Leeds to have a comprehensive, well-coordinated, high quality ESOL and Learning English provision, which will enable all adult residents, for whom English is not a first language, to attain the English language skills to fully participate in economic, educational, community and family life. 2. At the heart of the approach is a cross sector multiagency collaboration, to respond to the complex ESOL landscape and address the challenges faced by learners and the sector.     Integral to the strategy was shared ownership and governance with Employment and Skills and partnership work with Employment and Skills continues since 2020 to finalise the strategy. Due to a range of reasons there has been a delay.  It was noted that Dawn was unable to attend this meeting, but she will be invited to attend the next LSMB meeting to provide an update. Paul asked about future updates including pressure points, what is going well, etc. Sam agreed to look into this and how to provide ongoing updates to the Board. | **DH/SP** |
| **4.0** | **Key Themes** |  |
| **4.1** | **Leeds Adult Social Care: supporting people under the legal framework and as a compassionate city. Sibi Hanif, Service Delivery Manager, A&H**  Sibi was joined by colleagues from Rapid Response teams - Atlanta, Andrea and Alicja to provide an update on Adult Social Care and the services provided. See presentation below.    Sibi explained that ASC aimed to support those in the greatest need, whilst managing expectations of what can be provided. Work is undertaken with Health colleagues to ensure that people are empowered to make their own decisions and to live as independently as possible. Modern slavery is a key area with regards to safeguarding. Sibi also explained the eligibility criteria for receiving support under the Care Act, and how ASC can support people who have NRPF status.  Case studies were discussed:   * A resident from Pakistan referred to ASC due to concerns over dementia and mental capacity. Assessed for support under Human Rights Act, ASC supported the family to seek legal advice on their immigration status, with a support plan and daily visits from carers. * A customer with British status lived in Northern Cyprus for 14 years. When moving back to the UK needed to seek support. There was concern they were at risk of homelessness, ASC helped to access supported accommodation to meet their care needs.   Karen referenced the huge gap for women fleeing DV, particularly for those with NRPF status, and third sector are challenged to access appropriate support often unable to get places for women in this situation leaving women in desperate situations. Karen highlighted the approach taken by Bradford LA where there is greater responsibility. Sibi explained it was difficult, but staff would assess their eligibility to see what the council could do first. LCC do fund some organisations and have established the LDVS service who offer expertise in DV. Sibi agreed to discuss with Karen and Jude Roberts. Karen referenced working with partners including Safer Leeds LDVS and others, however the work is not moving forward and suggests a future item comes to LSMB.  Paul agrees a further discussion to be had with colleagues about supporting DV cases at the next Board Meeting, which is already focusing on a community safety theme. Paul consider we should explore in more detail to understand the baseline and explore the gaps being seen by frontline services. | **SH**  **PB** |
| **5** | **Migrant Health Board update** |  |
| **5.1** | **Migrant Health Board Update, Tim Taylor, Head of Public Health (Localities & Primary Care) on behalf of Catherine Ward.**  **Engagement with the Roma community:** Tim summarised work on engagement over the past 12 months to better understand the Roma community’s health and wellbeing needs. Review carried out by talking with Roma groups, looking at Census and health data and working with partners.  Key findings identified the Roma population is young with half under the age of 35 and one third are children, people lived on average 10 years less than the wider population, living in inner city areas and 1 in 4 do not speak English. |  |
| **5.2** | **NHS WY Integrated Care Board Translation and Interpretation Service**  Tim explained a review was ongoing for translation and interpretation services for the WY ICB across a WY footprint. For context, over 200 languages were spoken and there was a huge increase in Language Line use. The review was looking at how services could be improved, by speaking with GPs friends and family were translating on behalf of patients. During the review concerns have been raised that the people who use the service has not been consulted. Part of the issue is cost, ICB are making efficiencies, however Tim has been raising health inequalities within the response. It’s important for this Board to recognise the ICB are starting to look at things and commissioning health on a WY footprint rather than local level. |  |
| **6.0** | **Homes for Ukraine Update** |  |
|  | Nadeem provided an update, including national and local figures, please refer to the presentation circulated below.    In summary:   * 933 Ukrainians have arrived in Leeds under the scheme, and 793 residents have hosted Ukrainian refugees. There has been excellent partnership working across the council and beyond. * The Together for Ukraine funding is now largely complete. Sam to circulate the outcomes report produced by Leeds Community Foundation when available. * There have been recent changes to the schemes since February, including closure of the Family Scheme, changes to sponsor eligibility and how Ukrainians could extend their stay. There were concerns about the future of the scheme beyond this point. | **SP** |
| **7.0** | **Forward Plan** |  |
|  | The next meeting would focus on community safety. Paul informed that Lucy Leadbeater was moving to a different role. Paul will discuss who can lead on this area for the next meeting. | **PM** |
| **8.0** | **Any Other Business** |  |
|  | Leeds Refugee Week   * Leeds Refugee Week falls on 17th-23rd June. The theme this year is *Our Home*, from our individual homes to our collective home planet earth: everyone is invited to celebrate what Our Home means to them. It resonates with our work to become a council of sanctuary supporting people seeking sanctuary to help make Leeds their home. LRF bring together a working group, and Sam will circulate a flyer of activity for LSMB which can be shared.   Jon Nevill announced he was leaving the council and took the opportunity to say goodbye and thank you. Paul wished Jon well and thanked him for his contributions on behalf of the board. | **SP** |
| **9.0** | **Close** |  |
|  | Paul thanked all for their contributions at the meeting.  **Next meeting**  Tuesday 10 September 2024 – 10am – 12pm on MS Teams. Sam to ensure invite has gone out. | **SP** |