



**West Midlands Strategic
Migration Partnership**

**WEST MIDLANDS STRATEGIC
MIGRATION PARTNERSHIP**

**Strategic Business Plan
2009 – 2010**

Chairman's Foreword

The West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership continues to strengthen its position as the lead Regional policy body on asylum, refugee and migrant issues.

Through its membership WMSMP has made significant moves in developing better access to support for asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers, and in policies to sustain services.

In my previous Foreward Note, I expressed how central government had created a dilemma by delivering a commission to expand the activities of the Partnerhsip within the context of finite resources. I believed that would provide us with a significant challenge, as indeed it has.

It is therefore noteworthy that so much has been achieved during 08-09 which is a testimony to not only the breadth of knowledge and experience of individual members but as a commitment to partnership working.

There is still much to be done, in identifying where regional strategic leadership of the Migration Agenda might best sit and how it can be incorporated within the plans and activities of the Regional bodies. It is essential that economic migration alongside asylum seekers and refugees is considered in the development of Regional and local targets on Housing, Employment, Education and Health.

All this work must be completed in an environment of changing political landscape, the Sub-National review and outcomes from the national review of the Strategic Migration Partnerships.

The Review of the Regional social Inclusion Strategy and recommendations from the "Migration Matters" Conference will form the core drivers of the work for the Partnerhsip over the next twelve months.

Councillor Andy Matchet
Chairman,
West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership

Strategic Business Plan 2009 - 10

1. West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership – Our Overall Aim

The West Midlands Strategic Partnership is the lead Regional policy body on refugee, asylum and migrant issues. It is based within the Regional Partnership Centre, co-located with the West Midlands Local Government Association and a range of other Regional Partnership and organisations.

WMSMP is one of eleven Regional consortia across the UK that were established following the introduction of a Regional dispersal policy in 1999 for people seeking asylum. All Regional consortia are core funded by the Home Office and were set up to co-ordinate activities regarding the dispersal, accommodation and support of asylum seekers and the integration and social inclusion of refugees.

WMSMP has developed in response to changes in dispersal and migrant patterns, numbers and policy requirements and included new migrants in its remits following a request by the Home Office in 2007. The Partnership's current aims are to oversee asylum seeker dispersal and facilitate the integration of refugees and migrants in the West Midlands by effective multi-agency working across the Region.

The Secretariat of the Partnership is made up of four staff and seeks to:

- Work in partnership to gather Regional data and monitor and evaluate the impact of policies and influence policy decisions
- Promote the inclusion of asylum seekers, refugees and new migrants through a multi-agency approach
- Identify and seek to address gaps in resources and service provision
- Ensure relevant organisation are aware of the needs of asylum seekers, refused asylum seekers, new refugees and migrants
- Partner with local, Regional and national bodies including government departments and agencies to deliver on specific initiatives

Each WMSMP Secretariat member takes responsibility for different policy areas in relation to migration – health and social care, children, women, employment and training, cohesion and media – and coordinates Regional multi-agency groups to take forward strategy actions under these themes. WMSMP also has a Partnership Board made up of representatives from the statutory, private, voluntary and community sectors and refugees themselves, a Contract Delivery Group of Regional contract providers for asylum accommodation and support, and a Regional Refugee Forum of refugees and their organisation.

Although the Secretariat provides a significant input to all the Key Policy Areas and objectives, the Strategic Business Plan requires direct input from all Partnership Members, to ensure quality and sustainable outcomes.

2. How the Strategic Partnership works

The **Regional Director including the WMSMP Secretariat** is based at the Regional Partnership Centre in Birmingham. The overall objective of the WMSMP Secretariat is to support the West Midlands Region only (**different to the UKBA super-region**) to undertake the following:

- To strengthen links within the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) at a Regional and National level
- To co-ordinate asylum seeker, refugee and economic migrant services at a local and regional level and within the voluntary, private and statutory sectors
- To maintain consistency and quality in the delivery of services
- To ensure that policies and strategic action plans developed and implemented at a local and regional level reflect national policy and WMSMP Secretariat achieves value for money in all the services provided.
- To ensure that the Consortium of Local Authorities, in Contract for the provision of accommodation and support services delivers on the Service User Contracts Key Performance Indicators

The WMSMP Director and Secretariat convene meetings of the Strategic Partnership Board and are members of it. The Board is chaired by an Elected Member, nominated via the West Midlands LGA, it comprises of representatives from the statutory, private and voluntary sectors user groups, including UKBA, the Regional Learning & Skills Council, Government Office for the West Midlands, the Business Sector and Trade Union representatives.

The Migration Partnership regularly reports to the full West Midlands LGA Association meetings, in addition, links are made with other relevant policy areas within the West Midlands LGA and Regional Assembly Secretariat, such as Health, Housing and European and International Affairs. For more detailed information regarding the work of the Assembly and WMLGA Secretariat, please see www.wmlga.gov.uk

Regional profile of the West Midlands

The West Midlands region occupies a central position in England and covers 13,000 square kilometres. It includes 7 Metropolitan Districts, 3 Unitary Authorities, 4 Shire Counties and 24 District Councils.

The region has a population of 5.3 million, of this total, around half live within the West Midlands Conurbation, and half within surrounding Shire Counties and Unitary Authority areas.

3. Our Stakeholders

The enabling, managerial and policy development function of the Strategic Migration Partnership cannot be successfully achieved in isolation and must involve working in partnership with others and mainstreaming the needs of refugees and migrant workers into wider regional service plans and strategies.

Our key stakeholders are:

- UKBA
- Government Office of the Regions
- Local Government Associations (across the UK) via the National LGA
- Local authority departments across the regions
- Statutory service providers i.e. Health, Education, Police
- Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations
- Refugee Community Organisations and support agencies
- Accommodation providers within the private, public and voluntary sectors
- The Business Sector
- Trade Unions
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Jobcentre Plus
- Department of Health
- Regional Learning & Skills Council

4. Our Beneficiaries

The successful achievement of our overall aim is dependent upon the identification of appropriate objectives that meet the needs and expectations of our beneficiaries (those in direct receipt of our services and those affected by them). In order to successfully identify and meet such needs, the Strategic Migration Partnership must continue to effectively engage and consult with those beneficiaries

We regard our key stakeholders (detailed on page 4) as beneficiaries, in addition to those who are *affected* by our work, these include:

- Key voluntary and community organisations across the region with a key focus on asylum, refugee or migration issues
- Asylum Seekers
- Existing as well as new Refugees
- Unsuccessful Asylum seekers
- Economic Migrants

The Strategic Partnership will continue to effectively engage and consult with stakeholders and beneficiaries by:

- Convening regular meetings under the banner of the Regional Strategic Coordination Framework, which include:
 - The Board of the Strategic Migration Partnership
 - The thematic Regional Strategic Implementation Groups
 - The Contract Delivery Group
- Producing regular written, verbal and electronic communication with members of the above group
- Producing 'Electronic Bulletins' on a weekly basis containing useful information on policy, practice, events, conferences, UKBA information sheets, etc.
- Regularly attending all local authority-led multi-agency forums in the Cluster

Areas to meet and engage constructively with partners involved in dispersal and integration activities at a local level, and to promote the work of the Strategic Partnership

- Developing and provide for the governance of regional meetings regarding the development of strategic planning for the inclusion of refugee and economic migrants in the delivery of appropriate services
- Ensuring synergy between regional national and European groups/forums on asylum seeker dispersal, refugee integration and migration

5. The Framework of Activity

Summary of Legislation

- Immigration and Asylum Legislation (1999, 2002, 2004 Acts)
- National Assistance Act 1948
- Chronically sick and disabled persons act 1970
- Race Relations Act 1976
- NHS and Community Care Act 1990
- Asylum and Appeals Act 1993
- Asylum and Immigration Act 1999
- Race Relations (amendment) Act 2000
- Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004
- Housing Act 2004
- Children's Act 2005
- Regional Strategic Co-ordination Arrangements
- New Asylum Model

6. The Size of the Business

- The West Midlands region accommodates 3,868 dispersed asylum seekers in total. Contracts have been allocated within the West Midlands region as follows, the percentage allocation and numbers of service users are not yet finalised
- The region has an estimated Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking population (UASC) population of 927 the precise figures are being determined as part of the work on the USAC reforms.
- The region has a Section 4 population of 3,526 (Correct as at 17/03/08).
- The region has a refugee population of approximately 76,000 (+/-5%) (West Midlands Consortium for Asylum and Refugee Support – previous name of WMSMP) Census 2004
- Estimated 85 languages and dialects represented

7. Our Key Objectives

In addition to the overarching objective detailed below, our key objectives are in-line with the objectives presented within the Regional Strategy for the Social Inclusion of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the West Midlands 2006-09, and the Regional Migration Scoping Exercise, January 2008. Both of these documents can be accessed in full (as well as summaries) at www.wmlga.gov.uk/asylum

Overarching Objective:

- To facilitate the development of the West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership
 - To ensure that full, appropriate and effective membership within the WMSMP Board, Contract Delivery Group (CDG), Inclusion Strategy Monitoring Group (ISMG) and Regional Implementation Groups (RIGs) is sustained
 - That such membership reflects the diversity of knowledge and skills across the region, appropriate to the issues of Asylum, Refugee Integration and Economic Migration
 - To secure additional funding to enable the partnership to deliver on all the following key objectives

Key objectives relating to Asylum Seekers and Refugees:

- To provide accessible (translated) information, about statutory and voluntary services which can facilitate the integration of individual asylum seekers and refugees and assist RCOs advisors and service providers
- To ensure the sensitive dispersal of asylum seekers to appropriate accommodation, and to improve access to move-on accommodation enabling refugees to make informed choices about where they will live
- To improve the general health and wellbeing of refugees and asylum seekers within the region by reducing health inequalities that this group experience
- To ensure that refugee and asylum seeking children are able to achieve their potential in a safe, secure and healthy environment
- To improve English language learning for refugees and asylum seekers in the region, and increase the number of refugees accessing further and higher education, leading to employment
- To increase the number of refugees in employment that is appropriate to their experience, skills and qualifications
- To increase the number of refugees and asylum seekers accessing appropriate volunteering opportunities
- To increase balanced and accurate media coverage of refugee and asylum issues in the region
- To build positive community relations between refugees, asylum seekers, other migrants and long-term residents in the region

- To empower refugees and asylum seekers both individually and collectively to develop their own needs and aspirations and participate strategically at a local and regional level
- To facilitate the participation of refugees and asylum seekers in mainstream and culturally specific activities

Please note the above objectivities do not include any activities relating to economic migrants as at the time of writing the Regional Strategy in 2006, the Migration Partnership was not commissioned by UKBA to include this group. However some key objectives relating to economic migrants can be drawn from the Regional Migration Scoping Exercise written in January 2008, in light of the new commission given to the Migration Partnership from UKBA to make economic migrants, in addition to asylum seekers and refugees the core target groups.

Draft Key Objectives Relating to Economic Migrants:

(outcomes of objectives subject to additional funding)

- To improve the living conditions of migrant workers who experience overcrowding; exploitation; lack of legal advice, sub-standard accommodation and other issues relating to their accommodation
- To improve support available to migrant children in schools, in rural area in particular, as well as parental understanding of admissions, appeals absenteeism and other procedures to enable migrant children to reach their full potential
- To support and develop the capacity of Primary Care Trust Asylum Leads and other relevant health networks in relation to migrant health issues in the region
- To improve the employment conditions of and opportunities for progression for migrant workers in the region, as well as dispel myths about displacement caused by migrant workers and communicate the benefit of up-skilling this group to local employers in the West Midlands
- To improve the opportunities for migrants to access English language training, ideally through working with their employers and local ESOL providers. In addition, to improve the information, advice and guidance available to migrants about education and training opportunities, enabling them to make better and more informed decisions.
- To respond positively to issues of community cohesion and tensions in areas where there is a significant new migrant population; work with the media to challenge common misconceptions concerning new migrants enabling more balanced and accurate coverage of migration issues.

8. Current Partnership Architecture

The West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership established the structure for Partnership activities that provide for the implementation of operational policies and strategic plans for asylum seeker dispersal, Refugee integration and the integration and economic migrants.

The West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership Board agreed on the following structure:

8.1 PARTNERSHIP BOARD

The West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership (WMSMP) will consist of one Board but in two parts: (Part 1) The Asylum and Refugee Section and (Part 2) the Migration Section (See Diagrammatic Representation). Each Section will have clear and separate functions, roles and membership but some overlap in relation to shared issues.

For WMSMP purposes, migrant includes migrant workers and their families, a migrant worker being defined as 'an overseas national who has a legal right to work in the UK'. The Partnership will focus on migrants from A8 and A2 countries and work permit holders, who have worked in the UK for less than 5 years and for whom English is not a first language (after HMRC).

8.1.1 Key Objectives

8.1.1.1 The WMSMP Board holds a policy lead responsibility for Asylum Dispersal, Refugee Integration and Migrant Support in the region. It supports and advises the WMLGA and other regional partnerships and is formally recognised by the West Midlands Regional Assembly (WMRA) as the principal regional policy forum on Asylum, Refugee and Migrant issues.

8.1.1.2 The Partnership Board provides a Region-wide mechanism for cross sector, cross agency working on Asylum, Refugee and Migrant issues at both strategic and operational levels. The Partnership Board has oversight of the work of other groups in the WMSMP Structure.

8.1.1.3 The Partnership Board will provide regional strategic co-ordination, leadership and oversight of Asylum Dispersal, Refugee Integration and Migrant Support. They ensure that the key aims and objectives of WMSMP business, strategic plans and strategies are met and that appropriate facilitation, monitoring and evaluation are undertaken.

8.1.1.4 The WMSMP Structure and its terms of reference have been developed in line with the Home Office National Migration Groups.

8.1.2 Roles and Functions

8.1.2.1 The main roles and functions of the Partnership Board are:

- i. To co-ordinate, support and monitor both the strategic and operational functions of WMSMP in Asylum Dispersal, Refugee Integration and Migration Support;
- ii. To inform and seek to influence relevant national policy, interpret and implement national policy in the region and respond to policy consultations and changes from a local / regional perspective;
- iii. To facilitate the inclusion of asylum seeker, refugee and migrant issues into the core business of other regional and local partnerships;
- iv. To support the development of services in the region that respond to the needs of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, acting as commissioning agents where required;
- v. To ensure that the core roles and functions of WMSMP achieve quality and value for money;

- vi. To advise other Partnership groups on specific areas of concern that may need to be addressed and are not already included within existing WMSMP strategies and plans.

8.1.2.2 A number of groups will support the Partnership Board in this work and report on progress to the Board on at least a quarterly basis. The Partnership Board and supporting groups will collectively be called the Regional Strategic Co-ordination Framework. The groups consist of:

- (a) Inclusion Strategy Monitoring Group – (ISMG);
- (b) Contract Delivery Group – (CDG);
- (c) Regional Implementation Groups – (RIGs);
- (d) Regional Refugee Forum – (RRF).

8.1.3 Frequency of meetings

Meetings will take place every quarter

8.1.4 Membership of WMSMP Partnership Board

PART 1: Asylum and Refugee Section	
<i>Sector</i>	<i>Nominating Body</i>
Local Government (Member)	WMLGA
Local Government (Officers)	WMSMP
Local Government (Contract Manager - Officer)	WMSMP
Refugee Members	Regional Refugee Forum
Employment	Job Centre Plus
Health	Department of Health
Police	Association of Chief Police Officers
UKBA – Regional Director	Border and Immigration Agency (UKBA)
Private Sector Representative	Private Sector Providers
One Stop Shop Provider	Refugee Council
WMSMP - Director	West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership
GOWM	Government Office for the West Midlands
Voluntary Sector	Refugee Strategy Network

PART 2: Migration Section	
<i>Sector</i>	<i>Nominating Body</i>
National Representative (Migration Impact Forum - MIF)	WMSMP
Local Government (Member)	WMLGA
Local Government (Officers) (x2) – Urban and Rural	WMLGA
Trade Union Interests	WMSMP
Employment	Job Centre Plus (JCP)
Education / Training	Learning and Skills Council (LSC)
Health	Department of Health, GOWM
Police	Association of Chief Police Officers
UKBA – Regional Director	Border and Immigration Agency
Employers	West Midlands Business Council (WMBC)
Advantage West Midlands	Advantage West Midlands (AWM)
WMSMP - Director	West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership
GOWM	Government Office for the West Midlands
Faith Sector	CIGB

8.2 REFUGEE INTEGRATION AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES – (RIES)

The Refugee Council has secured a Contract with UKBA for the provision of advice and support to new refugees through the new Refugee Integration and Employment Services.

The RIES service which Refugee Council is the lead Contractor covering the West Midlands geographical area.

RIES support involves three elements:

1. An advice service for months.
2. An employment service for up to 12 months.
3. A refugee mentoring service which can be accessed at any point in the first 12 months and which lasts for 6-12 months.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (a). The Refugee Council will continue to support the Aims and Objective of the WMSMP, as one of its core members.
- (b). As directed by WMSMP Board Refugee Council will ensure representation at the Board in connection with RIES activities.
- (c). To provide opportunities for the Refugee Council and its Sub-contractors to feed into wider Partnership discussions and all planning in all areas of refugee integration as appropriate.
- (d). Regularly update and share information with Director and WMSMP Board on RIES service delivery, highlighting and reporting on areas of concern and development, in written and verbal form.
- (e). To ensure the RIES complements and adds value to the WMSMP Strategic Business Plan.

8.3 CONTRACT DELIVERY GROUP

Role & Function of Contract Delivery Group

- To ensure effective management of the dispersal programme under the formal Contractual arrangements in the West Midlands region
- To undertake the above by receiving regular information affecting asylum seeker dispersal through the Board and / or the Strategic Planning Groups

Frequency of meetings

- Minimum once a month

Membership

- UKBA West Midlands Regional Stakeholder Manager (Joint Chairs)
- UKBA Regional Contract Manager
- WMSMP Regional Director
- Local Authorities Providers
- Private Sector Providers
- One Stop Shop Provider (Refugee Council)
- Local Authorities “Enablers” (not in contract)

It may be appropriate at certain times to co-opt members onto the Contract Delivery Group to assist in the business of the group.

8.4 REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION GROUPS (RIGs)

Role & Function of RIGs

Each individual group has a key role to play in:

- Implementing the priority actions as identified and agreed in the WMSMP Regional Business Plan and Strategy
- Ensuring that organisations undertaking similar work across the region have an opportunity to come together to tackle specific issues collectively, share ideas and solutions, clarify policy with national bodies, exchange good practice
- To ensure that issues identified and discussed relating to Dispersal are fed into the Board via written reports as and when required, or into the Contract Delivery Group if any urgent action is necessary
- To prepare written reports bi-annually to enable actions of the Groups to be monitored by the Monitoring Group
- Make links with other relevant strategic bodies to mainstream the work being undertaken by the RIGs relating to asylum seekers and refugees

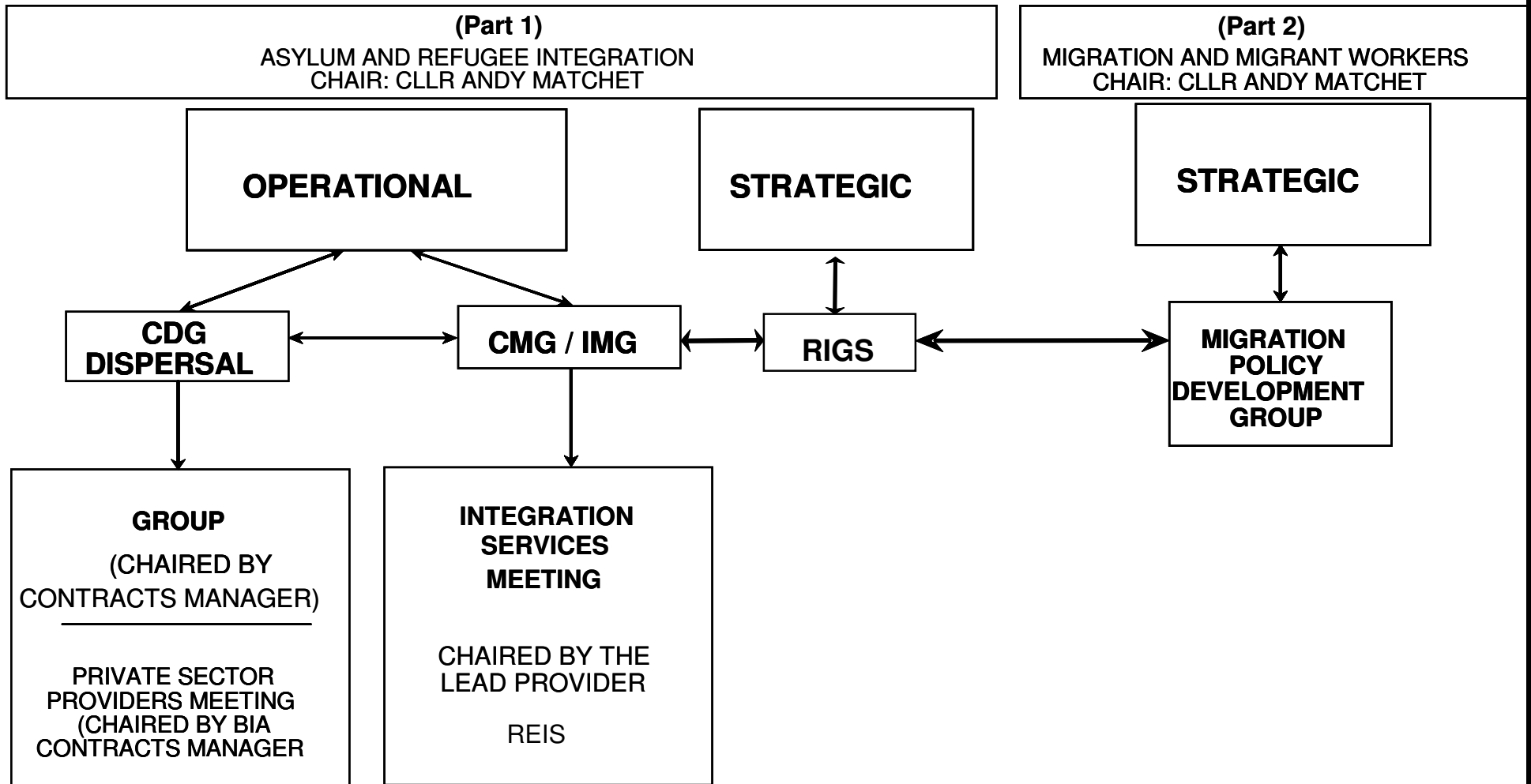
Frequency of meetings

- Monthly Meetings

Membership

- Includes representation from individuals in relevant bodies from each of the cluster areas
- Facilitated and/or supported by a member of the WMSMP Secretariat as appropriate

Diagrammatic Representation West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership Board



9. Priorities

The West Midlands Social Inclusion Strategy was published in 2006, following a process of development involving a wide range of partners across the Region.

The Strategy was developed to respond to and interpret the National Refugee Integration Strategy (Integration Matters: A National Strategy for Refugee Integration March 2005) and Asylum and Immigration Policy development and to provide a model for local integration strategies and their implementation within the Region. It also aimed to build increased Regional co-ordination and collaboration on refugee integration, add value to and share existing integration initiatives, and improve joint working to address common issues and gaps in support for refugees and asylum seekers.

During 2005-2006 the Home Office had established the National Refugee Integration Forum with a number of national thematic subgroups. Several members of the partnership sat on these national groups, however shortly after the launch of our regional strategy the NRIF was disbanded by the Home Office. Reference was also made to the "Sunrise pilots" in our original strategy, this programme was never rolled out nationally. The Home Office has subsequently developed the Refugee Integration and Employment Service which provides support and advice for those new asylum claimants who receive a positive decision from the NAM process. It has a major focus on employment with less emphasis on other aspects of integration.

The West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership (then the West Midlands Strategic Partnership for Asylum and Refugee Support) has led on the development, implementation and review of the Social Inclusion Strategy. It was well-placed to do this being the Regional Strategic Partnership for asylum and refugee issues and co-located with other Regional Partnerships at the West Midlands Local Government Association.

Strategy Development

A multi-agency Regional Group was established in 2004 to develop the Social Inclusion Strategy. Existing local and Regional strategies, policy, research and reports on refugee and asylum issues were used as a basis for the Strategy and significant consultation was undertaken across the West Midlands. Partners from statutory, private and voluntary sectors and refugees themselves were involved in a series of consultation events held on key themes and the responses received were used to develop Strategy sections. The draft Strategy was circulated widely for feedback and significant amendments made before its final publication and distribution across the Region.

A decision was made that the Strategy be a Social Inclusion rather than an Integration Strategy. This was due to integration being a contested term that only includes refugees and more recently new migrants, whilst social inclusion covers all those who are disadvantaged and has been a key emphasis within Government policy. It was also agreed that the Strategy should apply to both refugees and asylum seekers as partners saw integration / inclusion as starting from arrival in the UK rather than from decision on status. The Strategy emphasizes the two way nature of inclusion, both the duties of mainstream organisations to respond to refugee needs and of refugees to play an active part in society.

However, despite the many achievements, one of the key challenges to delivering on the action in the Social Inclusion Strategy has been the limited capacity of WMSMP staff to lead on all of the themes and areas of activity. The WMSMP Secretariat has therefore

focused on the core themes of Health, Children, Cohesion, Media, Employment and Training together with addressing issues for particularly vulnerable groups such as those with No Recourse to Public Funding and Women.

The Strategy was for 3 years from 2006 – 2009 and a formal review process was started in October 2008 to review progress to date, identify new and outstanding issues and policy changes and develop new actions and priorities. The review also aimed to extend learning and practice from work on refugee and asylum issues to new migration and to consider the impact of economic migration in the Region and the findings were fed into the Regional Migration Matters Conference on 23 February 2009.

WMSMP held two Regional consultation events where partners from a range of sectors provided input on Strategy achievements, outstanding actions and new issues priorities.

Strategy Structure

The aims of the Strategy are to:

- Recognise the impact of poverty, inequality and discrimination on refugees
- Address the challenges faced in refugee integration
- Develop key links and actions for integration / inclusion
- Encourage mainstreaming of responses to refugee and asylum needs
- Support refugees to play a full, active and equal part in the Region
- Raise awareness of refugee contributions

The Strategy is divided into the following themes:

- Information, Advice and Language
- Accommodation
- Health
- Community Cohesion
- Adult Education and Training
- Employment
- Volunteering
- Media
- Community Development
- Culture, Leisure and Sport

Strategy Implementation

The implementation of the Strategy was seen as crucial from the development stage onwards; partners wanted to ensure that they were involved with a Strategy that was taken forward and made a difference in the Region.

WMSMP established an Inclusion Strategy Monitoring Group to oversee and monitor the Strategy and a number of Regional Implementation Groups (RIGs) to progress the key and cross-cutting themes of: Cohesion, Media, Employment, Children, Health and Women. The RIGs are made up of partners from statutory, private, voluntary and community sectors across the Region with an interest in the theme area and have developed and taken forward action plans based on the key action in the Strategy.

Refugees and asylum seekers themselves have been involved in this process through some of the RIGs and through the Regional Refugee Forum. This forum is convened quarterly by WMSMP to bring together Refugee Community Organisation and their

networks from across the West Midlands to ensure they are informed about the work of WMSMP and policy changes and to give them a stronger voice in this work.

A significant proportion of partners involved in the development and implementation of the Strategy were from the Refugee Sector or involved in Refugee specialist work. An important part of Strategy implementation has therefore been to the Strategy onto mainstream agendas, involve mainstream agencies and impact mainstream services, work programmes and action plans. In particular, Local Strategic Partnerships and statutory services for health, employment, cohesion and Children's Services have been targeted as key agencies for engagement and influence on refugee integration.

The "Migration Matters" Conference represented a new stage in the development of improved coordination on migration matters within the West Midlands. Links between the range of themes and organisations undertaking specific work on migration issues within the Region have been forged and strengthened. The Recommendations coming from out of the "Migration Matters" conference are being taken forward through the establishment of the West Midlands Migration Task Group (WMMTAG). The principle aim of this Group is to examine and catalogue the current priorities within the Children's, Cohesion, Health and Skills agenda and to identify the people and mechanisms through which issues can be championed and services delivered. It is anticipated that an additional post for the WMSMP Secretariat will be secured through the Migration Impacts Fund to develop, amongst a range of other Migration activities, a framework for the evaluation of the Migration Impacts Fund projects. It is evident that no single organisation or partnership can take this agenda forward on its own.

The Review of the Social Inclusion Strategy and the Recommendations for the Conference Report have formed the basis of the WMSMP Business Plan in addition to the Report to D.O.H. relating to Health needs of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants.

POLICY AREA AND OBJECTIVES	AIM	ACTION	LEAD
COMMUNITY COHESION	To build positive community relations between refugees, asylum seekers, other migrants and long term residents in the Region.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide accurate myth-busting information on dispersal and asylum to local communities together with safe spaces for open dialogue and inter-group contact. 2. Improve induction and welcome programmes for asylum seekers and outline rights and duties. 3. Ensure refugee needs and issues are included in community cohesion plans and race equality schemes and develop refugee involvement in local structures. 4. Collate and share information in the region about existing cohesion projects and develop new projects where needed. 5. Improve joint working to promote cohesion and equality for refugees and asylum seekers. 6. The further development and maintenance of the “Welcome to Birmingham” web-site into a Regional resource through Migration Impacts Fund. 7. WMSMP Cohesion Regional Implementation Group to consider Migration Conference recommendations and actions from WMSMP Social Inclusion Strategy. 	<p>Cohesion RIG / Migration Matters task gp.</p> <p>Cohesion RIG</p> <p>Cohesion RIG</p> <p>Cohesion RIG</p> <p>Cohesion RIG / Migration Matters task gp.</p> <p>‘Welcome to the West Midlands’ Steering Group</p> <p>Cohesion RIG</p>

POLICY AREA AND OBJECTIVES	AIM	ACTION	LEAD
MEDIA	<p>To increase balanced and accurate media coverage of refugee and asylum and economic migration in the Region.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop good local links with journalists to provide accurate objective and timely information on refugee, asylum and economic migrant issues. 2. Provide information for journalists on refugee issues and for refugee voluntary and community organisations on dealing with the media. 3. Encourage development of media information in a range of languages in the Region provided by refugees for refugees. 4. Improve joint working and information sharing between those involved in refugee media work in the Region. 	<p>WMSMP</p> <p>WMSMP</p> <p>WMSMP / Regional Refugee Forum</p> <p>WMSMP Secretariat</p>
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING	<p>To increase the number of refugees in employment that is appropriate to their experience, skills and qualifications. To monitor the pathways to employment for economic migrants and encourage the appropriateness of the employment opportunities available.</p> <p>To improve English language learning for refugees and asylum seekers and increase the number of refugees accessing further and higher education.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote positive experiences of employing refugees and migrant workers to employers and recruitment agencies and emphasise the economic benefit of using refugee and migrant worker skills in the Region. 2. Develop appropriate work placement schemes and fast-tracking procedures for refugees with employers and influence employment policy frameworks. 3. Develop ESOL courses that link with work placements, job search skills and specific vocations. 4. Provide refugee training and support on job searching, interviews and with employment rights, culture and systems. 	<p>Employment RIG / Migration Matters Task Gp</p> <p>Employment RIG / Migration Matters Task Gp</p> <p>Employment RIG / Migration Matters Task Gp</p> <p>Employment RIG / Migration Matters Task Gp</p>

POLICY AREA AND OBJECTIVES	AIM	ACTION	LEAD
VOLUNTEERING	To increase the number of refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers accessing appropriate volunteering opportunities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage with Voluntary Service Councils, volunteer centres and specialist volunteer organisations about including refugee and migrant workers needs in their volunteering strategies. 2. Encourage development of formal links with RCOs and volunteering agencies to enable RCOs to benefit from support offered. 3. Work with key organisations that engage volunteers to develop accessible information and awareness volunteering events for asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers. 4. Publicise positive stories of asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers volunteering through the local media. 5. Encourage refugees and migrant workers to access, and employers to make available volunteering opportunities. 	<p>Employment RIG</p> <p>Employment RIG</p> <p>Employment RIG</p> <p>Employment RIG</p> <p>Employment RIG</p>
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	To empower refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers both individually and collectively to develop their own needs and aspirations and participate strategically at a local and regional level.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bring together existing mapping of RCOs within the Region and their needs for funding, support, development and links. 	Cohesion RIG / Regional Refugee Forum

POLICY AREA AND OBJECTIVES	AIM	ACTION	LEAD
CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT	To facilitate the participation of refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers in mainstream and culturally specific activities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop appropriate and recognised cultural training and mentoring for refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers in Region. 2. Broaden cultural sector policy and practice to embrace the diversity of refugees and migrant workers as audiences and participants. 	<p>Cohesion RIG</p> <p>Cohesion RIG</p>
CHILDREN	To ensure that refugee and asylum seeking children are able to achieve their potential in a safe, secure and healthy environment.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to develop the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) sub group to identify good practice and provide a UKBA Regional response to UASC reforms. 2. Organise an action planning session looking at children's issues and identify agencies who will take the work forward. 3. Set up a regional strategic group to look at issues, share good practice, identify priorities and monitor key action surrounding children and young people. 4. Ensure that the needs of refugee and asylum seeking children are identified within children and young peoples plans in the region, and accounted for in the rolling out Every Child Matters and the common Assessment Framework. 5. To continue to work with UKBA and Regional Local Authorities in the implementation of the UASC Reform Programme. 	<p>UASC RIG / David Barnes</p> <p>WMSMP Secretariat</p> <p>WMSMP Secretariat</p> <p>WMSMP Secretariat</p> <p>WMSMP Secretariat / UASC RIG / David Barnes</p>

POLICY AREA AND OBJECTIVES	AIM	ACTION	LEAD
CHILDREN		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Identify a champion for newly arrived children at a Regional level from within the Children's sector. 7. Clarify existing arrangements for sharing information within LSCB arrangements at a local and Regional level. 	<p>WMSMP Secretariat</p> <p>WMSMP Secretariat & GOWM</p>

POLICY AREA AND OBJECTIVES	AIM	ACTION	LEAD
HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the general health and wellbeing of refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers within the region by reducing the health inequalities that this group experience. • To inform and influence the health sector within the West Midlands of local and regional work on the impact of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees on health and identify links within current or new health policy and key performance targets. • To continue work on Infant Mortality and engage with the health sector and other agency's to implement recommendations from the Maternity, Mortality and Migration report. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Form a strategic group to identify and prioritise key areas and responsibilities in connection with the health needs of refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers. 2. Ensure attendance at the National Asylum Support Forum and National Asylum Support Operational Forum to engage on the Asylum and Refugee Health Agenda. 3. Identify the level of training needs within the health sector around refugee, asylum seeker and migrant worker entitlement and requirements, and identify best practice nationally and regionally which may address these areas. 4. Address some of the barriers to accessing primary health care for refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers in conjunction with the Regional Health Partnership and other key agencies e.g. standardization of the GP registration process for new arrivals. 5. Increase awareness amongst the wider health sector of the regional work being undertaken on refugee, asylum seeker and new migrants and identify relevant links to health policy. This may take the form of a regular health sector update on migrant, refugee and asylum issues and sharing of good practice within the region and beyond. 	<p>WMSMP Secretariat / Refugee & Asylum Seekers Group</p> <p>Migrant Workers Health Group /Dave Newall</p> <p>Dave Newall</p> <p>Dave Newall</p> <p>Regional Refugee, Asylum Seeker & Migrant Health group / Migrant Health Workers Group</p>

POLICY AREA AND OBJECTIVES	AIM	ACTION	LEAD
HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and develop the capacity of the PCT asylum leads group and other relevant health networks within the region in relation to migrant health issues • Ensure the effective development and delivery of initial health screening at Initial Accommodation and that systems of transition and referral between the IA health team and PCTs in the wider UKBA region are understood. • Identify barriers to health services for specific vulnerable groups within refugee, asylum seeker or new migrant community and develop potential solutions. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Support the network of PCT asylum leads and increase engagement with a wider number of PCTs in the region, other key health stakeholders and relevant regional health networks in relation to the health needs of new migrants. E.g. SHA, HPU, Perinatal Institute, CSIP, DH West Midlands etc. 7. Continue to work on the identification of barriers to health care and seek to develop appropriate responses with key stakeholders. 8. Work with PCT leads group, the West Midlands Refugee and Asylum Seeker Mental Health Consortium and Regional Health lead to influence the commissioning process. To include the provision of better data collection and information on asylum dispersal and migrant patterns. 9. Continue work on the development of Initial health screening services and the development of and monitoring referral pathways to PCTs in areas of dispersal. 10. To continue work on children's health issues, focusing on links to child and maternal health, the needs of UASCs, impact of any UASC reform programme and the wider safeguarding agenda for these communities. The work on the Initial Health screening process should also support this output. 	<p>WMSMP Secretariat / Dave Newall</p> <p>WMSMP Secretariat</p> <p>Dave Newall / Regional Development Centre</p> <p>Dave Newall & HOBtPCT</p> <p>Regional Refugee, Asylum Seekers & Migrant Health Group, DH West Midlands and DCSF</p>

POLICY AREA AND OBJECTIVES	AIM	ACTION	LEAD
HEALTH		<p>11. Continue work on the Infant Mortality agenda; support the implementation of key recommendations from the 'Maternity, Mortality and Migration' report at a regional and local level. This may include specific work on the development of training, data sharing and joint working at a local level between key agencies.</p> <p>12. Ensure that the needs of new migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are reflected in the development of relevant West Midlands' regional health care strategies and ensure regional response to the forthcoming consultation on charging for primary health care for overseas visitors.</p> <p>13. Undertaken specific work to identify and highlight the health needs of specific vulnerable groups within the refugee, asylum seekers and new migrant communities. This may include specific work on the health needs of older refugees in conjunction with Age Concern.</p>	<p>Regional Health Group on Maternity Care & DaveNewall</p> <p>Women's Issues RIG & DH Regional Group</p> <p>Women's Issues RIG, Regional Refugee, Asylum Seeker & Migrant Health Group, Dave Newall & Clare Daley</p>

POLICY AREA AND OBJECTIVES	AIM	ACTION	LEAD
INFORMATION, ADVICE & LANGUAGE	To provide accessible (translated) information about statutory and voluntary services which can facilitate the integration of asylum seekers, refugees and migrant works and assist Refugee Community Organisations, advisers and service providers.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide an information service open to all in a range of formats. 2. Develop training for those advising asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers who are not formally qualified. 3. Encourage service providers to work together to develop language services. 4. Train frontline staff in the communication issues faced by refugee and migrant worker clients to enable effective dialogue. 	<p>Women's Issues RIG / Welcome to the West Midlands' Steering Group</p> <p>WMSMP</p> <p>WMSMP</p>

POLICY AREA AND OBJECTIVES	AIM	ACTION	LEAD
ACCOMMODATION	<p>To ensure the sensitive dispersal of asylum seekers to appropriate accommodation, and to improve access to move-on accommodation enabling refugees to make informed choices about where they live.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure relevant local statutory and voluntary agencies are consulted before procurement of new UKBA properties. 2. Put in place measures to minimize homelessness and use of temporary accommodation for new refugees such as enabling them to stay in their dispersal accommodation. 3. Ensure the housing needs of new refugees and economic migrants are included in local and regional housing strategies. Ensure relevant local statutory and voluntary agencies are consulted before procurement of new UKBA properties. 4. Put in place measures to minimize homelessness and use of temporary accommodation for new refugees such as enabling them to stay in their dispersal accommodation. 5. Ensure the housing needs of new refugees and economic migrants are included in local and regional housing strategies. 	<p>Contract Delivery Group</p> <p>Contract Delivery Group</p> <p>CRD, Contract Delivery Group, David Barnes & Steve Forest</p> <p>CDG, CRD, David Barnes</p> <p>David Barnes & Steve Forest</p>