

**MIGRANT WORKERS IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE
(Report by Community Manager)**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Chief Officers Management Team received a report from the Head of Policy and Strategic services on the 24 July 2007 that provided initial information on the impact of migrant workers in Huntingdonshire. Huntingdonshire has an increasing number of migrant workers and their families. This is in line with other cities and areas in the UK. This trend is expected to continue for the foreseeable future.
- 1.2 New migrant worker arrivals are varied and not homogenous. As well as challenges migrant workers bring skills, economic and cultural benefits to Huntingdonshire and the wider area. The increase in the migrant population has led to community tensions in other parts of the country but these have been reduced in Huntingdonshire through the work of the Council and its Partners.
- 1.3 This changing nature of Huntingdonshire's population profile has taken place within the context of a national political immigration debate, often portrayed with considerable negativity. Many people in the wider community do not have access to accurate information on local immigration facts and issues. This can be a cause of tension and misunderstanding between communities hindering integration and inclusion.
- 1.4 This strategy is about ensuring fair and equal access to services for Huntingdonshire's migrant population. It requires a commitment from service providers to assess the effectiveness of the services they deliver to an increasingly diverse community and to specifically include integration as a key issue in all mainstream service strategies, plans and services.
- 1.5. It is about improving opportunities for new communities to effectively integrate in the district, and the wider community having access to informed and accurate information on migration issues and thus the reduction of any community tensions.
- 1.6 The basic principles of the strategy are:
- To ensure information led decision making
 - Sharing information on the changing profile of the new communities
 - Promoting community cohesion
 - Celebrating the diversity of the district
 - Improving Information and communication

It is proposed that "Thematic Action Groups" be established where required to develop and improve access to services, reducing exploitation, improving the ability to navigate organisational systems and avoiding

marginalisation. The thematic action groups will report back to the Health Housing and Social Care LSP thematic group.

- 1.7 Migrant workers and their families have formed the largest single group of new residents in Huntingdonshire over the last three years. Migration is a key theme of our age. Its role in a modern 21st century economy is likely to intensify not diminish. In 2004 the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) commissioned the first comprehensive piece of research into the number of migrant workers coming into the region and the economic contribution that they made.
- 1.8 At the same time, in some of the six counties that make up the region, multi-agency forums had been established to address the issues around migrant workers that were identified in their areas. In recognition of the range of issues confronting the migrant population Cambridgeshire County Council established the Cambridgeshire Migrant Workers Network which is made up of representatives from all the main statutory agencies and voluntary and community organisations that engage with migrant workers and their families.
- 1.14 There is no universally agreed definition of the term 'migrant worker' with different agencies, bodies and governments using their own slightly different definitions. However all the available definitions identify a migrant worker as someone who arrives in the host country to do a particular job or with the explicit objective of finding paid employment. Such a broad definition embraces a range of situations and circumstances such as the duration of stay, the validating mechanisms involved and the employment status of the migrant.

2. **The need for a Migrant Population Strategy**

- 2.1 The objective of developing a local strategy is to respond to the needs of vulnerable migrant workers and their families across Huntingdonshire. In doing this, the District Council is conscious that the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership can play a leading role on this work and the strategic partnership's ability to draw together appropriate agencies in the development of strategic responses to existing and emerging needs.
- 2.2 Migrant workers are perceived to be an urban phenomenon. In reality they make a significant contribution to both the rural and urban economies, often filling posts where there is no suitable or insufficient local labour. Without this labour force, many businesses would not be able to work at full capacity and may even look at relocating to remain competitive. In the East of England alone, the revenue gains from migrant workers have been estimated by EEDA at £360 million.
- 2.3 Today, the use of migrant labour is widespread and the migrant labour force is more ethnically and culturally diverse. No-one knows exactly how many migrant workers are contributing to our economy and society. In Huntingdonshire we are looking at the changing trends in the use of migrant workers in both rural and urban areas and the types of issues which they and we as service providers face. This document will identify the challenges for the District Council and our partners in the following areas:-
 - Employment
 - Housing

- Education and training
- Community Safety
- Benefits and Entitlements
- Immigration,
- Community Cohesion and
- Public Health

2.4 This change in profile of Huntingdonshire will impact on:

Statutory service providers in terms of varied and increased demands being made on services.

The ability of Huntingdonshire to benefit from the contribution that people from new migrant communities can make to the local economy, civic, and cultural/social life

The key areas are therefore:

- To assist people from new and emerging communities to settle and integrate effectively into the district
- To enable service providers to ensure services are inclusive and responsive to increasingly diverse sectors of the community in the district
- To provide the established community with accurate information on migration issues that can promote inclusion and reduce community tensions
- To involve statutory partners, community and voluntary organisations, faith organisations and individuals in delivering the services and actions necessary to ensure inclusive communities.

2.5 The population dynamics of Huntingdonshire have changed recently because of the increasing number of economic migrants and their families who have come to work and settle in the area. It is widely recognised that the migrant population is vulnerable to social exclusion and there are many reports of exploitation and isolation. Partners such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, Police and Primary Care Trust are well placed to respond to these situations. In particular they can give visibility to the situation of the migrant population, develop good practice and models for action, lever more appropriate service provision from state agencies.

2.6 Migrants are perceived historically to work in horticulture, agriculture, food packing and processing, but they also work in many other sectors, including administration business & management, hospitality & catering, health & education, and manufacturing. Many migrant workers are professionals and have skills that are needed in other employment sectors that have shortages of skilled workers. Most migrant workers are in Britain legally and with the legal right to work.

3 **How many migrant workers are there in Huntingdonshire?**

3.1 Research has reaffirmed that it is difficult to estimate with any precision the number of migrants working in Huntingdonshire at any one point in time. Part of the problem derives from the difficulty in defining a migrant and especially the distinction between 'foreign born' (those born overseas but who may have UK citizenship) and 'foreign' (those who do not hold UK citizenship).

- 3.2 The difficulty in providing precise figures is the result of how the figures are categorised. Under the Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) figures provided by the Border and Immigration service show that the Anglia region for the period May 2004 to June 2007 had approximately 95,000, 15% of national total registrations. However, when considering the total provided by the Border and Immigration Service for National Insurance applications for the same period to total reduces to 61,813, 8.9% of the national total. The main reason for the difference being that under the WRS a new certificate is required for each job.
- 3.3 The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) estimates that in 2003, there were some 2,875,000 foreign nationals living in the UK compared with a figure of approximately 2,001,000 in 1993. This is an increase of 43 per cent. Of these, an estimated 1,396,000 were registered workers compared with a corresponding 1993 estimate of 862,000 workers, an increase of 61 per cent. Despite the apparently large increases, foreign workers still accounted for less than five per cent of all those in employment in the UK in 2003.
- 3.4 Migration has always been part of life in the UK. Outward migration from the UK to other countries and inward migration are part of the country's history, identity and economy. In 2005 the most recent year with full data, 383,000 people left the UK and 565,000 entered the country.
- 3.5 The IPPR went on to estimate that 40 per cent of foreign workers in 2003 were residents of the [then] 15 EU Member States with a further four and a half per cent coming from Central and Eastern European Countries. This compares with approximately nine per cent from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh and six per cent from Australia and New Zealand. The East of England Development Agency (EEDA) states that East Anglia has the highest number of migrant workers in England, around 90,000.
- 3.6 Whilst we don't have any exact figures for the number of migrant workers living in Huntingdonshire at any specific point in time, the figures set out in Table 1 attached to this report provides details of the number of National Insurance Number (NINO) registrations in respect of non-UK nationals living in Huntingdonshire in each of the years 2003/4, 2004/5, 2005/6 and 2006/7. However the figures set out in the table do not show when a migrant worker leaves the area or even the country to live elsewhere or non-UK nationals that have not registered for a NINO.
- 3.7 What we can deduce from the NIMO figures is that registrations increased significantly when the ten additional countries joined the European Union on the 1st May 2004. Huntingdonshire experienced an increase from around 500 registrations in each of 2002/3 and 2003/4 to more than double this at 1,040 in 2005/6 and 1,350 in 2006/7. This rise can be attributed to A8 nationals with the level of people from these countries increasing from 10 in 2002/3 to 930 in 2006/7.

4. **Future patterns of migrant labour in Huntingdonshire**

- 4.1 Patterns of labour migration are often analysed in terms of pull and push parameters. Pull parameters include factors such as wage levels and living conditions that make places particularly attractive to potential economic migrants. Increasingly, pull factors also include the policies and programmes of countries that encourage migrant labour as a means of

addressing skill shortages in the indigenous labour force that would otherwise act as a barrier to economic growth.

- 4.2 By contrast, push factors are analysed in terms of the perceived disadvantages of the migrant's home country including unemployment, low wage structures, limited opportunities for career progression etc. Push factors can also include wider considerations such as political instability, poverty and underdevelopment. In the current Huntingdonshire labour market, employers continue to identify problems in recruitment that prevent them from keeping abreast of the market and/or adapting to new technologies.
- 4.3 Whilst the most acute shortages are recorded in the skilled trades and associated professions, vacancies are not confined to high-skilled areas alone. Increasingly, vacancies are being recorded in unskilled sectors including land work, food processing, construction, and hotel and catering. Although it is unlikely that migrant labour will be capable of filling all such vacancies, in the short term, it is clear that local companies regard migrant workers as key components in their strategy for the current and future economic prosperity of Huntingdonshire.
- 4.4 The extent to which this can be sustained will invariably depend on conditions and circumstances prevailing in labour exporting countries and the objectives and aspirations of potential migrant workers. Personal aspirations, ambitions for self betterment, broadening horizons, and new challenges will remain a driving force in the decision of many individuals to migrate. In some circumstances, the decision is also influenced by enhanced earning capacity that allows remittances to be sent back to the country of origin to support a wider family network.
- 4.5 A significant determinant of future patterns of labour migration to the UK will also be the economic fortunes of labour exporting countries especially the European Economic Area countries. In this context, a major unknown is the future economic conditions that are likely to prevail in the newest EU Member States. A number of studies argue that following an early period of increased labour movement, migration from East European Member States to the UK will slow down, partly due to improving economic and social conditions in their home country.
- 4.6 On the 1 January 2007 both Romania and Bulgaria joined the EU and it is anticipated that nationals from these two countries will come to the UK to seek employment details of specific numbers and areas chosen to reside have still to be provided. Central Government has placed employment restrictions on migrants from Romania and Bulgaria up to the end of 2008.

5. **Employment**

- 5.1 Migrant workers range from the highly educated and skilled, to those who are highly motivated but have no formal education; from migrants who come as seasonal workers, to those recruited by overseas companies to work in international or local businesses, to others who came with their families, because there were no employment opportunities in their countries of origin.
- 5.2 The East of England Development Agency (EEDA) have conducted research into this and their survey report seeks to convey the scale and demographics of migrant workers in the East of England, their age and

gender, the workers' levels of education and skills and the transferability of these skills, issues related to language and communication, as well as a range of work related issues.

- 5.3 Some of the recent migrants to the region possess high levels of skills and qualifications but they are unable to offer these to the region's labour market, for example because the schemes under which they enter the labour market confine them to working in particular types of employment. The EEDA research in 2005 states that most migrant workers are working in the region at below their skill level even though the skills they possess can be in areas where there are major skill shortages.
- 5.4 Migrant workers bring £360m to the Region's economy (EEDA). Most are employed in food, agriculture, construction, hotels, catering, cleaning and manufacturing, making them a highly significant element within Huntingdonshire's local economy. Additionally migrant workers play a key role (as temporary or seasonal staff, skilled workers and supervisors) in parts of the food and farming supply chains. Increasingly, skilled and professional migrant workers are recruited to such sectors as health and social care
- 5.5 It is perhaps obvious that employment and employment-related issues should feature prominently on the agenda of migrant workers. Migrant workers can face a number of problems and difficulties in the labour market.
- 5.6 Problems with employment agencies and gangmasters include issues such as:
- Inaccurate representation of the nature of jobs available to the migrant worker, levels of pay the Immigration Agency in their May 2004-June 2007 A8 monitoring report state that 77% of migrant workers were earning £4.50 – £5.99 per hour, and holiday entitlements;
 - inadequate information provided on matters such as the migrant worker's rights, entitlements and obligations;
 - a lack of transparency and proportionality surrounding salary deductions made by the employment agencies and gangmasters from earned income to cover costs of housing, transport, administration etc.;
 - failure to honour commitments on matters such as skills development and training;
 - refusal to honour holiday and sickness entitlements and statutory wage rates;
 - provision of poor quality working conditions and standards;
 - refusal to recognise qualifications and work experience of migrant workers in terms of the status and wage levels of the jobs allocated;
 - unfair dismissal, and;
 - denying migrant workers the small privileges enjoyed at work by local workers.
- 5.7 It is important that new arrivals from overseas understand about life in Britain, including key aspects of the law and of the operation of public services. This is not only about the benefits the person coming to live in the UK is entitled to but their obligations to the host country. This

knowledge reduces the risk of misunderstandings that can cause problems or concerns for existing residents and migrant workers. For this reason we have begun to look at how all service providers can communicate more effectively with migrant workers. Huntingdonshire District Council is in the process of developing a welcome pack for migrant workers that sets out rights and obligations and information on support agencies.

- 5.8 The magnitude of the impact of the migrant population on the 'indigenous community' can become an issue, when existing local services may already be under pressure.

6. **Housing**

- 6.1 The impact of the migrant population on housing demand is cushioned by the fact that agencies and employers often arrange initial accommodation. However these practices often pose challenges and can result in substandard or even illegal provision. Housing issues figure prominently on the list of problems that migrants experience. Housing options available to migrant workers can be classified under the following headings:

- Tied housing (housing that is only provided so long as you work for
- your employer)
- Private rented/social housing
- Owner occupation.

- 6.2 The available evidence identifies a number of permutations in the tied housing arrangements experienced by migrant workers. These range from the conventional model where the employer is also the landlord through to circumstances where the landlord is an independent third party and the employer acts as a facilitator between worker and landlord. In circumstances where the migrant worker operates through an agency, the agency either provides the accommodation directly, or acts as the manager/rent collector for a property that is owned by an independent third party.

- 6.3 The problems and issues associated with tied housing are many and varied and include:

- the job/house tie means that loss of job results in loss of accommodation/ homelessness for the migrant worker
- a lack of continuous employment often leads to rent arrears and debt with associated harassment, and threat of eviction.
- accommodation provided is often poor quality, sub-standard and overcrowded
- available accommodation is most commonly suitable only for single adults and, as such, inappropriate to the needs of families
- with agency managed housing, the absence of a tenancy agreement undermines security of tenure
- rent levels are often well above the equivalent in the private rented sector and especially so in situations where rent is deducted from wages on a fixed pro rata basis. In such circumstances, rent becomes a variable which increases when the worker earns more money, e.g. because of overtime.

6.4 Rented Accommodation

6.4.1 Migrant workers seeking accommodation, especially the lower paid, share some of the problems experienced in the housing market by indigenous unskilled and semi-skilled workers including:

- the affordability of private sector rents, especially in relation to eligibility for or limits imposed on Housing Benefits
- the need for a deposit and the payment of rent in advance (usually one month)
- insecurity associated with tenancy agreements that usually specify one month's notice
- the quality and standard of housing being made available to migrant workers in the private rented sector
- in the social housing sector, issues surrounding eligibility for housing depending on the status of the migrant including the right to reside.

6.5 Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's)

6.5.1 HMO's have been one of the most visible features of the presence of the migrant population and one of the main flashpoints with the local population. However, while there may be causes for concern regarding the over-occupation of housing, the real issue lies in the fact that HMO's are one of the most obvious symbols of the marginalisation and exploitation of the migrant population. People occupying these properties are usually unable to engage in the local housing market on an equal footing, so they are, at best, subject to significant over-charging. At worst, their accommodation is tied to their employment, leaving them open to illegal deductions from their wage packets, immediate eviction if laid off, arbitrary demands for money and threats or actual violence.

6.5.2 This has impacted on the housing market in Huntingdonshire in the following ways:

- there are currently 10 Houses of Multiple Occupation that the Council are in the process of licensing in response to the new mandatory licensing powers which came into force in 2006, however we do not know what proportion are occupied exclusively by migrant workers
- estimates indicate that there are 50 plus houses in non-mandatory licensable HMO use with the vast majority occupied exclusively by migrant workers
- the authority are receiving reports on a regular basis of properties been converting to HMO and our experience suggests that migrant families and workers are taking up the housing
- there have been several serious fire incidents in HMOs in the eastern region over the last few years and there are on-going concerns about fire safety within this tenure
- there appears to be a landlord preference to let to migrant workers to increase profitability as it is done on a per head basis.
- there is anecdotal evidence of an increase in migrant families accessing private rented accommodation.

6.5.3 The increasing migrant population locally may be impacting on the ability of the indigenous population to find accommodation in the private rented sector. For many this is not tenure of choice but tenure of necessity whilst

waiting for affordable housing. However if the pressure for affordable housing becomes greater and if more households are living in overcrowded accommodation, as a result of reduced access to the private rented sector, there may well be an impact upon the provision and occupation of mobile homes within the district.

6.6 Owner occupation

6.6.1 Higher income, often professional, migrant workers wishing to enter owner occupation can face problems from banks and building societies which are reluctant to provide loans to clients on a time-limited work permit with no guarantee of extension or renewal.

6.7 Social housing

6.7.1 National regulations restrict access to Social Housing for migrants. If not in employment Migrant workers cannot access the housing register to be considered for affordable housing (social rented accommodation or shared ownership). To access the Housing register residents from the EU nationals from the eight (A8) East European accession countries (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia and Slovak Republic) Cyprus and Malta are not included in the scheme. Need to be in continuous full time employment and presently employed, and also have a Home Office Worker Registration Scheme document. Other EU states including Portugal have less restriction to accessing the housing register.

7 **Education and training**

7.1 Migrant workers who are unable to speak English face significant barriers in relation to employment, accessing services and integration within local communities. There are common challenges in the provision of language (ESOL) and other courses to migrant workers. These include:

- many migrant workers work a shift pattern and return home for visits regularly. Therefore, regular attendance at courses can be difficult
- delivering courses is relatively expensive and providers are often unable to find funding to support appropriate courses that are short and non-accredited
- for some courses, students require a National Insurance number, which prevents some of them from attending classes
- in addition to adult education, there are some migrant workers who bring dependants of a school age with them. This trend is increasing. Teachers at local schools may have very little knowledge of many of their students' educational backgrounds, and many children will have a limited command of the English language.

8. **Community Safety**

8.1 Recent research by the Institute of Public Policy and Research into 10 rural and urban areas experiencing recent rapid arrival of significant numbers of new migrants found that "issues such as crime, anti-social behaviour and access to services were the most important issues for all communities, migrant and non-migrant alike".

- 8.2 There is evidence of racist views and hostility in some areas of the country. In some areas which have experienced a large influx of migrants, far-right groups have gained ground. Undoubtedly, migration poses challenges for community cohesion and the possibility of hate crime. Overcrowded and physically insecure shared living conditions mean that migrants can be victims of other crimes such as theft and assault.
- 8.3 Small incidents, such as tensions over other residents parking spaces if HMOs do not have adequate parking, can escalate. Cohesion and community safety cannot be taken for granted. The main issues are to:
- ensure continued engagement to build relationships with permanent and transitional migrant communities by all partner agencies. This will also give the migrant communities confidence to report any perceived hate crime to the appropriate agencies.
 - continue to improve access to information via one stop shops, police, libraries, web sites etc.

9 **Benefits and entitlements**

- 9.1 EU Regulations enable workers and members of their families who move within the EU to take with them their acquired rights to social security and health care. Such arrangements also apply to members of the EEA and Switzerland.
- 9.2 In the context of the current EU Member States, the Government introduced the Workers' Registration Scheme in May 2004, for EU nationals from the A 8 countries. Nationals from these eight accession countries coming to work in the UK are required to register which will prove that they have permission to reside and work in the country. Entitlement to benefits such as income support, job seeker's allowance, state pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit for Accession 8 Countries is governed by the need to satisfy the right to reside conditions.
- 9.3 Work permit holders and working holidaymakers are admitted to the UK on the condition that they do not have recourse to public funds. In effect, this means that they cannot claim certain benefits that include child benefit, disability living allowance, working tax credit, housing benefit, income support and allowance. Work permits for these workers are stamped 'No recourse to public funds'.
- 9.4 The issues surrounding access to and eligibility for benefits and entitlements are often a source of problems and challenges for migrant workers. These include:
- difficulties in understanding the full range of benefits and entitlements available and the eligibility criteria and procedures for accessing them
 - employers' lack of understanding/refusal to acknowledge a range of employees' rights in relation to work and related issues

10 **Immigration issues**

- 10.1 Given the diverse range of criteria and conditions governing the rights (or not) of migrants to work in Huntingdonshire, issues surrounding their immigration status can sometimes feature prominently on the agenda of migrant workers. Although many of the reported issues surrounding immigration status often relate to undocumented workers, a number of situations and circumstances can present problems to those who are in the country legitimately.
- 10.2 Key issues and concerns include:
- problems with getting change(s) to a work permit and associated difficulties of changing jobs
 - provision of incorrect information/advice about the immigration status of a worker
 - lack of clear and concise explanations from departments and agencies
 - communication problems due to insufficient command of English
 - insufficient understanding of procedures, practices and legalities of matters such as motor insurance and certification
 - a culture of fear which often prevents the worker from seeking help lest it results in loss of job, accommodation etc. and
 - a work-dominated existence which curtails opportunities to develop social interaction with local communities who themselves are sometimes cautious of or even hostile to any such interaction.

11 **Community cohesion issues**

- 11.1 Positive interaction between migrant communities and existing residents is crucial to promoting cohesion. However, a range of practical and attitudinal barriers to interaction are likely to exist. At the practical level, language is all important. Many migrants arrive with little or limited English.
- 11.2 The arrival of significant numbers of foreign language speaking migrant workers in Huntingdonshire's market towns can be a source of tension and conflict with the host community. Other practical barriers to interaction between migrants and existing residents stem from separation that comes from busy and separate working and social lives. Tensions between new and settled communities are often caused by myth and misinformation circulating and gaining currency. In the absence of any other information, media reporting can define local perceptions about migrants.
- 11.3 EEDA research in December 2005 highlights issues relating to migrant workers sense of well-being and accepted integration in the region can be affected by a number of factors;
- their financial situation, together with their ability to send remittances to their family
 - the availability for contact with family members
 - their concern at their inability to adequately provide for family members who have travelled with them
 - inadequate and expensive accommodation, which is sometimes unsafe and insecure and
 - difficulty in accessing English language courses designed to meet their needs.

12 **Public Health**

- 12.1 Public Health is concerned with the health of the community as a whole. It is an approach that focuses on the health and well being of a society and the most effective means of protecting and improving it. It addresses the root causes of illness and disease, including the inter-acting social, environmental, biological and psychological dimensions, as well as the provision of effective health services. Public Health is addressed through two main areas of activity: health protection and health improvement.
- 12.2 Health protection involves identifying threats to health and intervening to reduce those threats. Population movements around the world continue to increase and migration affects virtually all countries of the world. Global infectious disease epidemiology is changing as a result. Migrants arrive in the UK from a wide range of countries for a wide variety of reasons. Most are young adults and many come from countries with no higher risk of infectious disease than the UK. Some however arrive from countries which have a high burden of infectious disease compared to the UK (Migrant Health. Infectious diseases in non-UK born populations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. A baseline report – Health Protection Agency, 2006). Statistics show the burden of certain infectious diseases now falls on particular groups of people who were not born here. Much of this disease is likely to have been acquired prior to arrival in the UK, in countries with a high incidence of disease. There is little evidence to suggest that the general population is at risk of acquiring disease from migrants, especially during normal social contact. This needs to be conveyed to the general public since the fear of a perceived health threat can lead to prejudice which increases stigma and may have untoward public health consequences.
- 12.3 Migrants have a range of health needs reflecting the diversity of the group but affected by three key determinants: their individual characteristics (e.g. age, sex, ethnicity), their country of origin and the circumstances of migration, and the socioeconomic conditions in the host country. Currently there is no single comprehensive system for collecting data on the movement of migrants into and out of the UK and the data available have limitations in the analysis of health needs.
- 12.4 For the purposes of health protection there is no evidence the existing population is at risk from acquiring disease from migrants however the health of some migrant populations may require intervention. Once migrants arrive in the destination country, their health will be determined by physical, social, economic and cultural factors in the receiving country. Ill health and disease transmission may continue to occur, and may be exacerbated by difficulties in accessing health care.
- Some migrants may suffer from malnutrition due to limited finances, language difficulties and a lack of culturally familiar and acceptable foods available locally.
 - Some migrants live in poor housing conditions and consequently may be at increased risk of infections transmitted by close association and related to deprivation such as TB, other respiratory diseases and possibly blood borne infections.
 - Some migrants work in potentially dangerous situations, they may be at greater risk of accident or occupational ill-health where language difficulties inhibit instruction or training.

12.5 Improving the health of migrants in the UK is important because they represent a small but diverse proportion of our population that contributes to our economy and culture. Some migrants may have difficulty in accessing health improvement programmes or may not be reached through standard means:

- Some of the marketing of programmes is through primary care providers. Where migrants have not registered with a GP they will not be included in this catchment.
- Some migrants may not access programmes such as healthy eating because the foods or cooking methods recommended are not culturally familiar.
- Some migrants may not be able to access services, advice and support because of language difficulties, lack of support structures, a lack of awareness of what is available or what their entitlements are.
- Some migrants may be isolated and lack social networks locally this can impact on both their mental health and well being.

13 Recommendations

13.1 It is requested that a multi agency task group be convened to respond to the issues identified above and report findings and proposed actions to the LSP Health and Housing Thematic group.

13.2 A welcome pack for migrant workers setting out rights and obligations is produced (a draft outline is in hand and contact has been made with a regional information project to progress this if there is a will to proceed).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Local Government Association/Institute of Community Cohesion November 2007 report – Estimating the scale and impacts of migration at a local level.

Home Office Border & Immigration Agency – Accession monitoring report May 2004 – September 2007.

East of England Development Agency Autumn 2005 report – Migrant workers in the East of England.

Contact Officer: Dan Smith – Community Manager


 **8377**

Table 1

Figures from National insurance Number Regulations in respect of non-UK Nationals (2003/4, 2004/5, 2005/6 and 2006/7) by local authority area and country of origin						
Country	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	Total
Australia	20	20	20	20	20	100
Bangladesh	10	10	10	20	10	60
Canada	0	10	10	10	10	40
China Peoples Rep	10	10	0	10	20	50
Cyprus	0	0	10	0	0	10
Czech Rep	0	0	10	20	10	40
Denmark	0	0	10	0	0	10
Finland	10	0	0	10	0	20
France	20	10	10	20	10	70
Germany	10	10	10	10	20	60
Ghana	0	10	10	10	10	40
Greece	0	10	0	0	0	10
Hungary	0	0	0	10	20	30
India	30	30	30	30	30	150
Iran	10	0	0	0	0	10
Italy	10	10	10	10	10	50
Jamaica	0	10	0	0	0	10
Malaysia	10	10	10	0	0	30
Netherlands	10	10	0	10	10	40
New Zealand	10	10	10	10	10	50
Nigeria	0	0	0	10	0	10
Pakistan	20	20	10	20	20	90
Philippines	90	60	30	40	20	240
Poland	10	20	210	370	730	1340
Portugal	40	60	50	30	20	200
Rep of Estonia	0	0	0	10	10	20
Rep of Ireland	10	10	10	10	10	50
Rep of Latvia	0	0	30	40	40	110
Rep of Lithuania	0	0	50	90	90	230
Romania	0	0	10	0	10	20
Russian Fed	10	0	0	0	10	20
Slovak rep	0	0	20	40	30	90
South Africa	40	40	20	50	30	180
Spain	10	10	10	10	10	50
Sir Lanka	0	0	10	0	0	10
Sweden	0	0	10	0	0	10
Thailand	10	10	10	10	10	50
Turkey	10	10	0	0	0	20
Uganda	10	10	0	10	0	30
USA	30	40	20	30	50	170
Zambia	10	10	0	10	0	30
Zimbabwe	10	20	20	10	10	70
Total	510	500	720	1040	1350	4120

These totals do not sum exactly due to rounding,

Notes:

1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding
3. Numbers are based on 100% data from the National Insurance Recording System (NIRS)
4. Local authority is assigned by matching postcodes against relevant postcode directory
5. Local authority counts are based on the most recently recorded address of the NINO recipient.

Continent/Region	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	Total
North Africa	30	60	30	40	170
Africa	70	90	50	100	310
Asia: Far East	120	90	50	60	320
Asia: South Asia	60	60	60	70	250
Asia: Middle East	10	0	0	0	10
South America	0	0	10	10	20
Oceania	30	30	30	30	120
<u>Europe:</u>	150	160	460	690	1460
• <i>Europe: A 8 Countries</i>	10	20	320	580	930
• <i>Europe: Other Accession</i>	0	0	10	0	10
• <i>Europe: other EU</i>	120	130	120	110	480
• <i>Europe: Rest</i>	20	10	10	0	40
Totals	470	490	690	1000	2660

These totals do not sum exactly due to rounding.

Note: The Accession countries joined the EU on the 1st May 2004.

Note: Romania and Bulgaria joined the EU on the 1st January 2007.