

Partnership bulletin

Spring 2010

Welcome

to the first edition of our new e-bulletin

It provides a very quick way for all of our members and stakeholders to see, at a glance, the 'big issues' that we are tackling in the region.

The start of 2010 sees the Partnership in pretty good shape. Over the past year we've worked hard to clarify what the Partnership does and how it can both help support the delivery of local partners and articulate any concerns and issues identified by partners back to Government.

In this issue we highlight key pieces of work for the first quarter of the year. In addition to these, we'll be starting work on our business plan for 2010-11, and building upon recent decisions of Local Authority leaders to establish a more robust political structure to oversee all of our work.

There are significant challenges ahead – around delivering the accommodation contract, negotiating a new contract and dealing with the changing patterns of migration in the region. We'll be working with partners to make sure we meet these challenges.

New regional migrant databank

We'll soon be able to produce local and regional migration information for Yorkshire and Humber, using our new 'Regional Migrant Databank'.

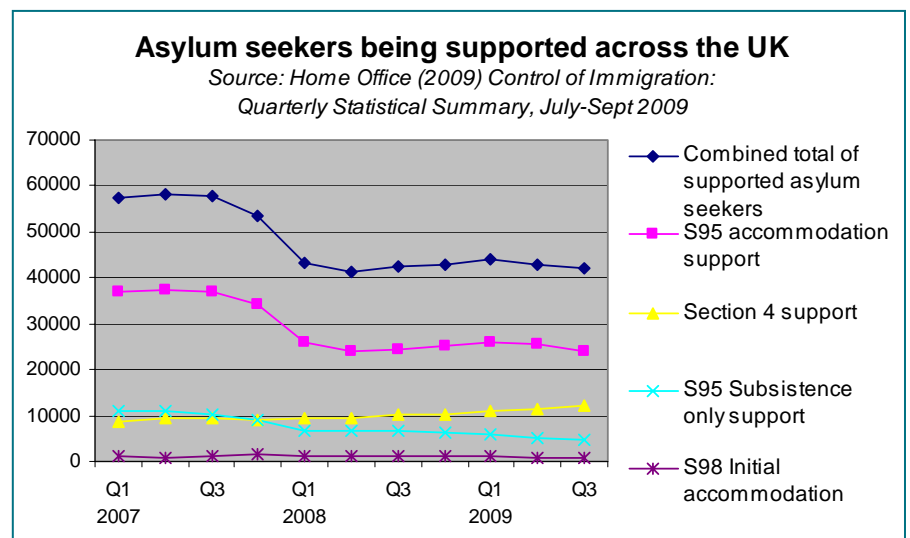
The chart below gives an example of the national migration trends we can describe at the moment, using publicly available data. It shows how many asylum seekers have been supported across the UK under different support categories until September 2009.

We'll soon be able to go further, and describe a wide range of migration trends at a local and regional level in Yorkshire and Humber, as we finish the initial work to create a regional migrant databank. This brings together 10

different sources of data about migrants - from those seeking protection to international students and migrant workers. We'll share this by producing migration profiles for each local authority and the region.

We're not allowed to share unpublished official data, so not all data will be available to everyone. We'll share as much as possible within these limits.

We plan to start disseminating the local migration profiles in March this year.



Policy and research

We're helping our stakeholders respond to the UK Border Agency's plans to simplify immigration law, by presenting these developments as clearly as possible, and explaining how this might affect them.

Organisations from across the whole region attended the 'Reforming Asylum Support' regional consultation event we hosted jointly with UKBA in January. Discussions on the day were

thoughtful and detailed, based on local practice experience. They'll form the basis of our regional response to the consultation.

We've also launched a new regional 'Migration Research Database', which provides summaries of research studies about migrants undertaken in our region. You can search the database by migrant group, theme, topic or place.

Delivering the accommodation contract

Each of the ten local authorities that make up the Public Sector Group faces a challenging year ahead, as lower numbers, pressure from Government to reduce costs and the accelerated settlement of older cases all impact on the contract.

The UK Border Agency [UKBA] is re-tendering for all asylum services through the COMPASS programme. This region is at the forefront of national discussions about

the future shape of delivery, and we will continue to work with UKBA to develop new ways of working.

Quicker decisions are now being made on legacy cases. Because of this, we expect to lose up to 1600 individuals by June 2010 - this will need to be managed sensitively by all partners. We'll be working with UKBA to minimise the impact of these decisions on local authorities and local communities.

And finally...

This bulletin doesn't aim to tell you everything about our work – you can find much more detail on our website. Highlights this quarter include the new Migration Impacts Fund bulletin www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/mifbulletin

New role at the Partnership John Donegan has taken up the new post of MIF Coordinator. John works Mondays to Thursdays - you can contact him by phone 0113 395 2448, or by email at john.donegan@migrationyorkshire.org.uk

Integration and RIES

The Refugee Integration and Employment Service [RIES] has now seen over 1,000 refugees, and we marked the end of the successful first year with an event for staff and volunteers from the nine partner organisations.

In October 2009 we issued the action plan for the regional refugee integration strategy. The plan and the strategy are available on our website.

Sixty people attended our 'Destitution in Yorkshire and Humber' event in December, listening to national and local experts and working together to improve how we respond to refused asylum seekers.

Migration Impacts Fund

Migration Impacts Fund [MIF] projects are now starting to deliver real benefits across our region, helping communities cope with the impact of migration on services. A network of projects has been developed, to share learning, and we're organising a workshop on communications and media in February 2010.

Late in 2009, Government confirmed the second year of funding for MIF projects, with just under £3m coming into the region for 2010-11.

Please contact us if you'd like a copy of the text of this bulletin in large print.

