

**SOUTH WEST REGION**

**STRATEGIC MIGRATION PARTNERSHIP**

**BUSINESS PLAN**

**2007/08**

## **1. THE SOUTH WEST REGION MIGRATION PARTNERSHIP**

- **The South West has the largest land area of the English regions and is co-terminus with the areas covered by GOSW and the South West Regional Assembly. It encompasses the counties of Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall.**
- **Administratively it covers those six County Councils and the nine Unitary Authorities, Plymouth, Torbay, Poole, Bournemouth, North Somerset, Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Swindon.**
- **The Partnership was established in its present form in April 2004 to co-ordinate activities regarding the dispersal, accommodation and support of asylum seekers, unsuccessful asylum seekers and new refugees in the Region. The first meeting of the Executive Board was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2004 and quarterly meetings have been held since that date.**
- **In March 2007 the terms of the Enabling Grant Agreement, EGA, changed to include migrant workers and migration. This Business Plan is written in the light of this change.**
- **This business plan relates only to the enabling activities engaged in by the Partnership, including the developing role under the terms of the new EGA relationships with the Regional Strategic Co-ordination arrangements (RSCA)**
- **Membership is open to all local authorities, other statutory authorities, voluntary sector organisations and private sector organisations that are involved in these activities in the South West Region.**
- **The Regional Strategic Board reports to the South West Local Government Association. The Board is currently chaired by Cllr Roger Hutchinson who is also the Chair of the S.W. L.G.A.**

## **2. OUR OVERALL AIM**

The South West Regional Partnership has as its main aims:

- To provide a regional advisory, development and consultation function for partner organisations from the statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors for the co-ordination and provision of advice, support and services for migrants.
- To respond positively, effectively and with equity to Government policies regarding the support of asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants in the South West Region.
- To adopt a multi-agency approach in meeting the diverse needs of asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants.
- To actively seek the views of all its stakeholders including refugee groups and organisations.
- To ensure its policies and strategies are led by the principles of best value and anti discriminatory practice.

## **3. OUR PARTNERS & OUR CUSTOMERS**

### **Partners**

We recognise that the Consortium cannot exist in isolation, and must work in partnership with many others if we are to achieve our Aims. Key partners are:

- Border and Immigration Agency
- Local Authorities across the region.
- Other statutory service providers across the region
- The voluntary and community sector – both locally within the region and nationally.
- Migrant and Refugee Community Organisations and Refugee support agencies.
- Accommodation providers.
- Job Centre Plus
- Regional CBI and TUC

## **Customers**

We also recognise that to achieve our aims successfully we must listen and react to our customers. We attempt to achieve this by a network of locality forum, which includes all those working with and directly representing the voice and views of asylum seekers and refugees.

Our key customers are asylum seekers , unsuccessful asylum seekers, refugees who have recently received permission to remain and other migrants .

## **4. THE FRAMEWORK FOR OUR ACTIVITY**

- Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- Nationality & Asylum Act 2002
- Race Relations (Amendment Act) Act 2000
- National Assistance Act 1948
- NHS & Community Care Act 1990
- Children Act 1989
- Immigration & Asylum Act 1996
- Asylum & Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004
- The Enabling Grant Agreement.
- BIA operational responsibilities.

## **5. THE SIZE OF OUR CURRENT BUSINESS**

### **Asylum Seekers**

There are currently about 1500 asylum seekers accommodated and supported in the region supported under the BIA dispersal scheme, by the local authorities (UASC), and Section 4 support. In the main these are concentrated on the 5 dispersal areas within the region. The new Target Contracts mean there will be two accommodation providers in the region, ClearSprings and Astonbrook Housing. The wrap around support is provided through a variety of means; Refugee Action who have a contract with NASS to provide a one stop service, other voluntary sector organisations, the accommodation providers through their NASS contracts and the local authorities within the parameters of their statutory responsibility.

- The South West Region accommodates about 950 asylum seekers under the BIA dispersal scheme and 250 on “subsistence only”.
- The region has a UASC population of 120.
- The region has a Section 4 population of 250.

## **Migrants**

At present it is not possible to give accurate figures relating to the number of migrant workers in the region and one of the challenges for the Partnership will be to clarify this and work towards having robust statistical information.

### **6. KEY AIMS**

The Enabling Grant Agreement requires the Lead Organisation to:

- Provide a regional, multi-agency Strategic Migration Partnership structure to deliver the requirements of the enabling role.
- Facilitate and promote the effective contact, co-ordination and partnership working between the Strategic Migration Partnership, Local Authorities, police, health authorities, employment and career services (including Job Centre Plus), Government Regional Offices, the regional CBI / Employers Forum, the Regional TUC, local and regional voluntary groups (including One Stop Service Providers), and the private sector (principally the BIA contracted accommodation providers) – working across localities and service providers.

### **KEY OBJECTIVES**

These are based on the requirements of the new Enabling Grant Agreement. At this stage they are “broad brush” objectives that will be fleshed out in greater detail as new structures come into place.

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Lead</b>
1. To facilitate regional strategic co-ordination discussions.	To establish a regional structure to meet the requirements of the EGA.  To review the membership and terms of reference of the RSCoB.	RSCoB to meet 1/4ly.  Review membership to ensure it is still fit for purpose.  Establish and	Proposals to be presented by Regional Project Manager. To be agreed by RSCoB Sept.2007

	<p>To establish subgroups to focus on the two main areas of work i.e. asylum seekers and new refugees, and migrant workers and their families.</p> <p>That individuals within those groups have clear understanding of their role and obligations.</p>	<p>support subgroups re migrant workers and asylum seekers / refugees. Agree membership, t.of.r. etc.</p> <p><b>31/12/07</b></p>	<p>Proposals to be drawn up and presented to RSCoB by Regional Project Manager.</p>
<p>2. To gather regional data and trends.</p> <p>To monitor and evaluate the impact of asylum and other immigration policies on the dispersal process and provision of support and services for migrants.</p>	<p>To work closely with BIA in developing the management information and its presentation.</p> <p>To explore with partner agencies availability and robustness of migrant worker statistics.</p> <p>To work with partner agencies in identifying what information is needed for planning purposes.</p>	<p>Through continuing work with relevant partners to be able to provide RSCoB and subgroups relevant and robust information for monitoring and planning purposes.</p> <p><b>31/03/08</b></p>	<p>Lead to be agreed through work programme of relevant groups.</p>
<p>3. To promote community safety and cohesion through a multi-agency approach.</p>	<p>To work with and to be part of the GOSW Community Cohesion Network, BIA community Cohesion Officer, the Police and other relevant bodies in developing and coordinating regional knowledge on community cohesion in relation to migrants.</p>	<p>To ensure RSCoB and other relevant bodies are informed on community cohesion issues.</p> <p><b>Ongoing</b></p>	<p>GOSW and BIA</p>
<p>4. To identify and seek to address gaps in resources, service provision and</p>	<p>To identify gaps through the locality groups and the regional forum and provide support in</p>	<p>To support and advise existing locality groups and encourage</p>	<p>Chairs of relevant forum.</p>

delivery to migrants.	resolving these.	establishment of additional where required.  <b>Ongoing</b>	
5. To ensure that Local Authority emergency planners and other relevant organisations are aware of the existence of and additional needs of migrants.	To link with the relevant Local Authorities to ensure they have the relevant information and that the needs of migrant workers are reflected in Emergency Plans.	To ensure that needs of migrants are recognised in Local Authority plans.  <b>31/12/07</b>	Regional Project Manager in conjunction with Local Authorities.
6. To manage information regarding migrants by translating for local and regional use policies and current trends / thinking.	To forward information as appropriately to relevant partners.  To prepare briefing papers as required.	To create and maintain databases / email lists of relevant contacts within partner agencies.  <b>Ongoing</b>	Regional Project Manager with Regional Assembly Secretariat.
7. To coordinate participation in and response to BIA consultation exercises regarding migrants and migration.	To engage with stakeholders and coordinate response to BIA, etc.	That RSCoB respond as required.  <b>As required.</b>	Regional Project Manager.
8. To provide training and awareness regarding migrants and migration to Local Authorities and other organisations.	Through RSCoB, subgroups and locality forum to identify training / awareness raising.	To collate training issues and respond by providing relevant training / briefing etc.  <b>Ongoing.</b>	Chairs of locality fora.

9. To ensure the Region is appropriately represented at national forum.	To ensure the region is represented at national forum e.g. LGA Members' Task Gp	To ensure there is appropriate representation and those attending are adequately briefed.	
		<b>Ongoing</b>	

## 8. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### 8.1 Summary of income and Expenditure

<b>Income</b>		<b>Anticipated Expenditure</b>	
<b>Detail</b>	<b>Amount £</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
<b>Enabling Grant 2007 / 08</b>	<b>100000</b>	<b>Salaries +on-costs</b>	<b>66000</b>
		<b>Travel etc.</b>	<b>10000</b>
		<b>Management, Admin, rent etc.</b>	<b>15000</b>
		<b>Consultancy (1)</b>	<b>3000</b>
		<b>Meetings, Conferences etc.</b>	<b>6000</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>100000</b>		<b>100000</b>