

SOUTH WEST REGION

STRATEGIC MIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

BUSINESS PLAN

2007/08

HALF YEARLY REPORT

OCTOBER 2007

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 ten Unitary Authorities, Plymouth, Torbay, Poole, Bournemouth, North Somerset, Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, South Gloucestershire, Swindon and the Isles of Scilly.**
- **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 3rd 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. The Business Plan for 2007 - 08 was written in the light of this change.**
- **The 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 South West Local Government Association.**
- **This report is a half-year update on progress made on meeting the key objectives contained in the Business Plan.**

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.

KEY OBJECTIVES

These are based on the requirements of the new Enabling Grant Agreement and are as contained in the Business Plan 2007 – 08 with a six month progress report.

Objective	Detail	Target	Lead	6 Monthly progress
<p>1. To facilitate regional strategic co-ordination discussions.</p>	<p>To establish a regional structure to meet the requirements of the EGA.</p> <p>To review the membership and terms of reference of the RSCB.</p> <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>RSCB to meet 1/4ly.</p> <p>Review membership to ensure it is still fit for purpose.</p> <p>Establish and support subgroups re migrant workers and asylum seekers / refugees. Agree membership, t.of.r. etc.</p> <p>31/12/07</p>	<p>Proposals to be presented by Regional Project Manager.</p> <p>To be agreed by RSCB Sept.2007</p> <p>Proposals to be drawn up and presented to RSCB by Regional Project Manager.</p>	<p>The regional structure has now been realigned to take account of the new Enabling Grant Agreement.</p> <p>A Regional Board, RSCB, structure has been agreed with terms of reference.</p> <p>In addition two sub groups, one in regard to asylum the other migrant workers, are being established and dates for all these groups to meet have been set up.</p> <p>On target</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>Lead to be agreed through work programme of relevant groups.</p>	<p>Management information is received from BIA on a monthly basis regarding asylum figures.</p> <p>Work is ongoing with a range of regional partners to ensure more robust data on migrant workers. This will be brought together through the Regional Migrant Worker Forum.</p> <p>We have also submitted a regional impact assessment to BIA which is informing national</p>

Objective	Detail	Target	Lead	6 Monthly progress
		31/03/08		policy through the Migration Impacts Forum. On target
3. To promote community safety and cohesion through a multi-agency approach.	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.	To ensure RSCB and other relevant bodies are informed on community cohesion issues. Ongoing	GOSW and BIA	The restructuring of the RSCoB and BIA will enable a better regional approach to community cohesion. At a county / local level there is evidence of close partnership working. This is providing models of good practice that can be shared across the region. On target
4. To identify and seek to address gaps in resources, service provision and delivery to migrants.	To identify gaps through the locality groups and the regional forum and provide support in resolving these.	To support and advise existing locality groups and encourage establishment of additional where required. Ongoing	Chairs of relevant forum.	Local authorities are doing a lot of work on this, e.g. Cornwall, Gloucestershire. Many examples of good partnership working which will be brought together through the Migrant Worker Forum. On target
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 recognized in Local Authority plans. 31/12/07	Regional Project Manager in conjunction with Local Authorities.	This has been done in the past but a further update will be communicated to Local Authority Emergency Planners. Outstanding

Objective	Detail	Target	Lead	6 Monthly progress
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. Ongoing	Regional Project Manager with Regional Assembly Secretariat.	Information and briefings are circulated as and when required. This occurs through the RSCB, the two subgroups and regular reports to the Multi Agency Locality Forum. On target
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 RSCB respond as required. As required.	Regional Project Manager.	We have responded to all BIA consultation exercises. This has involved all relevant partners as appropriate. On target.
8. To provide training and awareness regarding migrants and migration to Local Authorities and other organisations.	Through RSCB, subgroups and locality forum to identify training / awareness raising.	To collate training issues and respond by providing relevant training / briefing etc. Ongoing.	Chairs of locality fora.	This is provided through briefings, seminars and talks. The CRM has given talks/presentations at Conferences including a Regional Faith Conference, Regional Conference on Migrant Workers, Somerset College, Regional Homeless Conference and South Glos. European & International Forum. On target.

Objective	Detail	Target	Lead	6 Monthly progress
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 Group	To ensure there is appropriate representation and those attending are adequately briefed. Ongoing		The Region is always appropriately represented at national forum. On target.