

# International Migrants in Brighton & Hove

## January 2018

Part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment programme

### Summary



Brighton & Hove  
City Council



The full report can be found at:

<http://www.bhconnected.org.uk/content/needs-assessments>

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# International Migrants in Brighton & Hove

## Summary

### CONTENTS

- 1. Introduction .....4
  - 1.1 About the report.....4
  - 1.2 Definition and scope .....4
  - 1.3 How the information will be used .....5
  - 1.4 Methodology .....5
- 2. Local migrant communities .....6
- 3. Socio-demographics of the local migrant population .....7
- 4. Community attributes, networks and integration ..... 8
- 5. Access to services .....10
- 6. Housing and homelessness.....11
- 7. Employment, skills and adult education ..... 12
- 8. Health and wellbeing ..... 14
- 9. Community safety and criminal justice ..... 16
- 10. Children, young people and schools ..... 18
- 11. Personal finances and financial inclusion..... 19
- 12. Immigration issues and legal advice..... 20

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 About the report

The report, *International Migrants in Brighton & Hove*, is part of the needs assessment programme being carried out in Brighton & Hove to provide an evidence base for use by service providers and anyone else who is seeking to improve the lives of different communities who live here. The aims are to:

- provide an overview of the needs of international migrants in the city and the assets they bring
- provide information and recommendations for commissioners, service providers and decision makers to use to improve the lives and outcomes of international migrants in the city.

This is a summary of the full 150 page report. Following this introduction, it provides the key findings and recommendations taken from the full report.

Section 2 of this summary document mentions the main reasons that people leave their country of origin and come to live in Brighton & Hove and provides an overview of migrant communities in the city, and Section 3 provides socio-demographic information about these communities. Section 4 then looks at community attributes, networks and issues around integration.

The remaining sections look more specifically the lives and experiences of migrants in the city under different topics. Section 5 looks at issues which present barriers to service access for migrants, while Sections 6 to 12 examine seven individual topics including: housing/and homelessness; employment, skills and adult education; health and wellbeing; community safety, children, young people and schools; financial inclusion; and immigration issues/legal advice.

## 1.2 Definition and scope

For the purpose of this needs assessment, the UNESCO description of a migrant has been used as a starting point to define what is meant by a migrant. The UNESCO definition is:

*“any person who lives temporarily or permanently in a country where he or she was not born”.*

Generally, those whose intention is to stay in the UK for at least twelve months have been included while short term visitors, short term students or tourists have been excluded. No end point has been set to specify when someone ceases to be a migrant, as some people will settle quickly into a new life in the UK while others may have needs arising from their migrant history and status for many years.

Among those included within our scope are:

- refugees and asylum seekers;
- those who have migrated voluntarily or who have been forced to do so; and
- those who are undocumented.

The children of migrants have also been included, even if they were born in the UK.

The range of topics examined is broad and covers the kind of situations and needs encountered by migrants as part of their daily lives as residents of the city. Our approach has been flexible and pragmatic and, while recognising that the migrant

population in the city is extremely diverse, our main focus has been on where vulnerability and need are greatest.

### 1.3 How the information will be used

The findings and recommendations in this report will be developed into a multi-agency action plan. Relevant partners and services will be assigned to deliver the work which will actually make a difference and the Equalities and Inclusion Partnership will oversee progress.

The full report is publically available on the [Brighton & Hove Connected website](#). It is hoped that it will be a resource for statutory, voluntary and community organisations to help them understand the needs and assets of migrants, and will provide migrant community organisations with useful information about migrants in the city and point to ways in which they can work with service providers.

It is acknowledged that financial resources to develop new work programmes are limited, so acting on the recommendations will also require exploring how services can respond better, or can engage new partners, including within migrant communities themselves. This research will provide a good evidence base for all partners to bid for external resources.

### 1.4 Methodology

The subject of international migrants for a needs assessment was proposed at the City Needs Assessment Steering Group and agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board in 2015.

The project was delivered by members of the Brighton & Hove City Council's Public Health Intelligence Team and Community Safety Team.

A steering group oversaw the production of the needs assessment. This comprised statutory, academic, voluntary, and community sector representatives, including experts on migration and also a number of members who had experience of being a migrant in the local area or of delivering services to vulnerable migrants in area. The project was delivered over an 18 month period, concluding in the autumn 2017.

There were four main components to the research:

- **Literature review:** Local and national literature.
- **Data analysis:** National and local data sources were used. There are some limitations to the data, particularly where undocumented and other populations of transient and marginalised migrants are concerned, as they will not always be represented:
- **Professional/stakeholder research:** This included an online survey, focus group discussions and interviews.
- **Community research:** The purpose of the community research was to hear the voice of migrant individuals and communities living in Brighton and Hove and allow them to express their needs and assets. Working with the University of Brighton, the community research involved recruiting and training 22 international migrants from Brighton & Hove from 14 different countries as community researchers. 26 focus groups were undertaken in which 198 participants from different communities took part.

## 2. Local migrant communities

### Key findings

#### **Reasons for migrating**

- People come to the city for many different reasons. These include:
  - to work (economic migrants)
  - to study (academic migrants)
  - to join family members or for other personal reasons
  - as asylum seekers or refugees
- Some may be 'undocumented' migrants and there are known to be some victims of trafficking

#### **Snapshot of the local migrant community**

- Between the 2001 and 2011 censuses, the number of international migrants (those born outside the UK) grew from 25,200 to 42,900.
- In 2011, Brighton & Hove had a higher proportion of residents who were born outside the UK (16%) than the South East (12%) or England (14%).
- Brighton & Hove has proportionately more 'pre-accession' EU migrants and fewer EU migrants from accession countries than the South East and England.
- Latest estimates suggest that there are more international migrants than at the time of the 2011 census. In 2016, 50,000 city residents (18%) were born outside the UK. Of these, 42% were born in EU countries, 6% elsewhere in Europe, 26% in Asia, and 28% in other countries.
- The wards with the highest numbers of people born outside the UK are in the city centre. The wards with University of Sussex and University of Brighton campuses also have relatively high numbers.
- There were over 7,000 students (21% of the city's student population) born outside the UK who were attending either the University of Sussex or University of Brighton.
- There was a long term increasing trend in national insurance number (NINO) registrations in Brighton & Hove to overseas nationals entering the UK until 2014/15 although this dropped slightly in 2015/16 when there were 5,806 NINO registrations.
- There is little local data on the number of other types of migrants who have come here for other reasons, although stakeholders have been able to provide a great deal of anecdotal evidence.

#### **Circumstances of migration**

- Migrants may have planned to come the UK for a long time, eg those who have come here to work, to study or to join family members. Others may have been forced from their country of origin under life-threatening situations and lived through very difficult experiences. Their needs can strongly relate to these circumstances.
- Some refugees in the city have come here through government resettlement schemes, the most recent of which relates to Syrian refugees. Refugees arriving under resettlement schemes receive government-funded support for five years, in contrast to refugees who have arrived here through different routes.

#### **Vulnerable migrants**

- Refugees, asylum seekers and undocumented migrants are likely to be among the more vulnerable migrant communities in the city. Immigration rules have been tightened steadily over the past two decades. The most recent immigration

legislation, the Immigration Act 2016, focuses on preventing migrants with no permission to remain in the UK from accessing housing, driving licences and bank accounts.

- Undocumented migrants, including victims of trafficking, have no recourse to public funds and may fear approaching services in view of their immigration status.
- At a rough estimate, at any one time there may be 200 asylum seekers living in the community in the city, some of whom may be receiving subsistence payment from the Home Office, while some are surviving in other ways.

#### ***Impact of the UK leaving the European Union***

- Local research found that EU nationals were worried about the impact that the UK leaving the EU might have on their lives, including on their financial arrangements.
- If migrants leave key roles in health and social care and other employment areas resulting in unfilled vacancies, this presents the city with vulnerabilities around being able to meet the city's needs in these areas.

#### **Recommendation: local migrant communities**

1. City services to consider the workforce implications of changing migration patterns following the decision for UK to leave the European Union.

### **3. Socio-demographics of the local migrant population**

#### **Key findings**

##### ***Data snapshot***

- At the time of the 2011 census:
  - 53% of non-UK born residents were females and 47% were males. (For the population who were born in the UK there is an equal number of males and females.)
  - 49% of non-UK born residents were aged between 25 and 49 compared with 33% of UK born residents. At the same time there was a lower percentage of children and those over 50 compared to UK born residents. This does not take into account children born in the UK to non-UK born parents; since 2013 over a quarter of births in the city have been to non-UK born mothers.
  - 12% of non-UK born residents have a long-term health problem or disability compared with 17% of UK born residents. (This may be related to the younger age profile)
  - 39% of non-UK born residents were White Other, 19% Asian and 18% White British.
  - 31% of non-UK born residents had no religion (UK born: 45%). 67% (n=3,970) of the local Muslim population and 65% (n=1,201) of the Hindu population were born outside the UK.
  - 11% of households had at least one person for whom English was not their first language. This included 5% where no-one had English as their first language. The three most commonly spoken languages after English were Arabic, Polish

and Spanish.

- There were almost 6,000 households in the city where no-one had English as a main language, and this percentage (4.9%) is higher than both the South East and England (3.1% and 4.4%).
- 89% of people in the city without English as a first language speak English well, but just under 2,500 residents cannot speak English well or do not speak it at all.
- Those born outside the UK are more likely to have no dependent children in their family compared to those born in the UK (42% vs 30%)
- 91% were qualified to GCSE-equivalent level or higher and 42% had a higher education qualification (UK born: 82% and 36% respectively)
- In Brighton & Hove the number and proportion of births to mothers who were born outside the UK has been steadily increasing, from 370 (13%) in 1999, to a peak of 850 (29%) in 2014, dropping slightly to 800 in 2015, 27% of all births in the city. The most common country of birth for mothers born outside the UK has been Poland since 2007, before that it was Bangladesh.
- Migrants born in certain countries are more likely to live in deprived areas in the city. One in three city residents (33%) who were born in North Africa, and about one in four residents who were born in Central and Western Africa (26%), in Southern Asia (26%) and in South East Asia (26%) live in the 20% most deprived areas in England. This compares with one in five (20%) of all residents in the city. At the same time, proportionately fewer people who were born in Australasia and North America & the Caribbean live in deprived areas.
- There was a long term increasing trend in national insurance number (NINO) registrations in Brighton & Hove to overseas nationals entering the UK until 2014/15 although this dropped slightly in 2015/16 when there were 5,806 NINO registrations.

## 4. Community attributes, networks and integration

### Key findings

#### ***Contributions from migrant communities***

- It is generally recognised that migrants add to the diversity of the city and enrich and broaden cultural opportunities for all (through art, food and music, for example). The act of migrants uprooting their connections and successfully arriving in another country, whatever the driver for doing so, may itself represent a level of character and resourcefulness which can provide a strong basis for contributing to community life in Brighton & Hove.
- Participants referred to a range of attributes they brought to the city, including knowledge, experience, a willingness to work, social and behavioural values, cultural contributions, neighbourliness and community work.
- Migrant communities contribute considerably to the city's workforce and economy. This can extend to international trade links to migrants' home countries which could be considered a city asset.

#### ***Contributions from the wider community in Brighton & Hove***

- Brighton & Hove has a reputation for being a diverse city and one that is generally welcoming to people of different backgrounds. An example of this can be seen in the

many goodwill offers of support for refugees from Syria.

- The city is part of the national City of Sanctuary network which aims to “celebrate the contribution of those that have come here for safety” and “reduce isolation, fear and exclusion”. Linked to this is the city’s Schools of Sanctuary initiative, and the country’s first Club of Sanctuary.

### ***Community networks within migrant communities***

- Some migrants may live in isolation from any community, for example some women, unaccompanied asylum seeking children and irregular migrants.
- Involvement with social networks can provide an important source of support for new migrants, for example with accommodation or work. However, sometimes employment found within the small business sector is poorly paid and provides less scope for socio-economic mobility.
- Community organisations or faith groups, with which migrants may have previous contact, can provide a means of access to social networks. This happens more across some communities than others. However, under some circumstances, belonging to social networks may discourage integration and can lead to a sense of mistrust of other communities.
- LGBT people from some migrant communities in the city may find themselves isolated and unsupported by their own migrant community due to their identity. At the same time they may not feel welcomed by the local LGBT community either as someone from another country. This may compound other challenges associated with being a migrant.

### ***Integration into the wider community***

- Poor communication skills, especially language, can make integration more difficult and underpin isolation and loneliness.
- New arrivals to the UK are least likely to have their voices heard. Barriers to migrants participating in civic life include, for example:
  - not understanding decision-making processes;
  - a lack of resources, eg to attend meetings;
  - a lack of confidence, feeling uncomfortable in meetings; and
  - being sceptical that participation will make a difference
- Participating in and contributing to community life by migrants decreases isolation, and increases self-esteem and a sense of belonging.
- Racial harassment and other forms of hate incident, and a sense of exclusion can negatively impact on community involvement by migrants.
- Policies which are aimed at reducing deprivation and which provide opportunities and places where different communities will encounter one another are helpful in promoting integration.
- While many migrants are involved in volunteering, there may be scope for increasing awareness of volunteering opportunities. Volunteering may have a role in reducing isolation and improving integration.
- Social media has the potential to keep people in touch with one another and to make new connections. However, the 2014 government Digital Inclusion Strategy noted that members of the migrant community may be disproportionately affected by digital exclusion.

## **Recommendations: Community attributes, networks and integration**

2. Ensure measures to promote migrant integration are included in the Brighton & Hove Sustainable Communities Strategy (or its successor).
3. The development of the Brighton and Hove Framework for Arts and Culture should consider how migrant community assets, involvement and engagement can be maximised.
4. Providers and commissioners of cultural, sports, arts activities and other public festivals and events to maximise opportunities for migrants to develop social bonds, and to promote wellbeing and integration into the wider communities.
5. City and community leaders to continue to promote the integration of migrants into the life of the city.
6. Maintain and develop local commitment to City of Sanctuary status.
7. Statutory and voluntary sector organisations, including migrant organisations, to provide and promote volunteering opportunities to local migrants.
8. Community and voluntary sector infrastructure organisations to work with migrant community organisations, to develop capacity and leadership skills and explore how they can find meeting places in the city.
9. Migrant community researchers (such as those employed for this needs assessment) to feed into service design as sources of knowledge about their communities.
10. Use opportunities for migrants to build confidence in local democratic processes, understand their rights as local residents, and participate in, for example, local elections, local residents associations, etc.
11. Explore how the city could harness potential opportunities provided by migrants' commercial links with their countries of origin.

## 5. Access to services

### Key findings

#### **Enablers and barriers to accessing services**

- Key issues that can help or hinder access to services were identified as:
  - Language proficiency
  - A lack of understanding about how services work in the UK
  - Cultural differences and services' understanding of migrant communities
  - Trust and confidence in services, which is sometimes related to concerns regarding services' roles in enforcement of national immigration policy
  - Depending on immigration status, not all migrants are eligible for all public services.

#### **Access to information**

- Migrants need to know where to find information and who they can contact about services they need. Migrants living in social isolation do not have access to informal information channels and, in any case, information obtained from community members can sometimes be unreliable.
- Migrant communities may be more likely to be digitally excluded. Local research

suggested online and printed information is utilised although there is a strong preference for face to face interaction in some circumstances.

- Libraries are potentially a trusted setting to provide information.

#### ***Interpreting and translation***

- Arrangements for access to interpreters are in place in public services although the research suggested that there would be value in the council publishing a policy and conducting monitoring to provide more information on service access and residents needs.

#### ***Other issues for services***

- Records of the migration status, nationality or country of birth of clients are not systematically recorded by services in the same way that ethnicity is (as a protected characteristic). This reduces the opportunity for acquiring a better understanding of migrant clients and their needs.

### **Recommendations: Access to services**

12. Public services to consider what further they can do to increase the trust and confidence of migrant communities in using their services.
13. Frontline staff in public services to receive training so they understand the needs and current rights of migrants, and respond to these, for example, through the appropriate use of interpreters.
14. Brighton & Hove City Council to review and publish their policy on interpreting and translation services and monitor service usage to identify trends in service uptake and demography.
15. Consider the needs of migrants within the local digital inclusion work programme.
16. Equality Impact Assessments carried out across the local public sector to consider the needs of migrants (using the information in this needs assessment where appropriate).
17. Explore how existing local projects using volunteer advisors and linguists can develop their work with migrant volunteers to provide advice and information on accessing local services
18. Explore options for creating and maintaining a 'welcome pack' for new migrants to the city, based on national best practice.

## **6. Housing and homelessness**

### **Key findings**

- Regardless of immigration status, housing costs are high and difficult to afford for those on lower incomes or on benefits. Demand for social and affordable housing in Brighton & Hove far exceeds supply.
- Migrants are more likely than others to live in private rented accommodation, are more likely to live in overcrowded households, and poor housing conditions, and have higher risks around homelessness.
- While the risk factors behind homelessness for migrants may be similar to UK born

people, issues for migrants may be more complex due to factors associated with migration, eg lack of eligibility due to immigration status, no accommodation on arrival, or needing to manage difficult experiences in their home country or on migratory journeys.

- Immigration status is a key determinant of access to housing and housing benefit and getting the correct legal advice can be essential in maximising the chances of a satisfactory outcome.
- The 'Right to Rent' legislation requires that everyone must prove to landlords and letting agents that they have a right to live in the UK prior to being allowed to rent. There is concern by some that the effect of this legislation may impact more broadly on migrants if landlords are discouraged from renting to them, making it more difficult to access the housing market on an equal basis.
- Due to pressures for temporary accommodation, people can live in locations distant from the city. They may therefore be geographically isolated from both members of the community they may identify with, and also generally from city life.
- Stakeholders felt that migrants often do not know enough about housing rights and responsibilities, while similarly, frontline staff needed better and regular training to provide basic advice and to signpost appropriately.

### **Recommendations: Housing and homelessness**

19. Ensure that migrant communities, landlords and letting agents understand the rights of migrants in private sector housing through RentSmart and other means.
20. The new Community Led Housing Hub to consider opportunities for innovative ways to involve migrants in developing community and co-op housing provision.
21. Local action on preventing homelessness (eg Trailblazer programme) to consider the needs of local migrants.

## **7. Employment, skills and adult education**

### **Key findings**

#### ***Economic activity and unemployment***

- Those with a right to work in the UK include residents of EEA (including EU) countries and Swiss nationals (as long as the UK remains in the EU), those from Commonwealth countries and those from other countries who have acquired a visa to work, usually in highly skilled and well-paid jobs which require 'sponsorship' from employers.
- From 2011 census data Brighton & Hove residents born outside the UK were less likely to be economically active than UK born residents (72% compared with 77%). A slightly higher percentage of economically active residents born outside the UK were unemployed than those born in the UK (8% compared with 7%).
- National research reports that unemployment rates for refugees are high, with language barriers and health difficulties making it more difficult to find employment.
- As well as having material benefits, employment may fulfil other important roles for migrants, including reducing social isolation.

### ***Employment and industry sectors***

- Residents born in mainly western EU countries are more likely to be in 'professional' occupations than other non-UK born residents, and those born in mainly eastern EU countries are more likely to be in lower level or more routine occupations.
- At the time of the 2011 census:
  - Accommodation and food services engaged proportionately more residents from all non-UK born groups.
  - People born in non-EU countries were slightly more likely to work in health and social care than people born elsewhere.
  - Those born in western EU countries were more likely to be employed in finance/insurance work than people born elsewhere.
  - Those born in eastern EU countries were more likely to be employed in administrative/support work than people born elsewhere.

### ***Barriers to employment***

- Employers may not always be clear about eligibility to work across all categories of migrants, including those on spousal visas.
- Qualifications gained abroad and employment history were not always valued by potential employers. Refugees in particular were often employed at a level below their potential, but the situation may improve as language skills develop.
- There was a lack of knowledge about how to find jobs, about job application processes, and concern that BME job applicants were sometimes discriminated against.

### ***Conditions of work***

- Migrants may not know where to get advice around their rights and working conditions.
- Not all employers may understand cultural or religious needs of migrants and not all may operate within equal opportunities policies.

### ***Adult education***

- Barriers to furthering education for adult migrants included: language issues; the cost of language classes; caring responsibilities; a lack of recognition of previous qualifications; inadequate access to information, advice and guidance; and on-course support.
- Many migrants do not appear to have undertaken work-related training beyond a minimum level.

### ***English language skills***

- A working knowledge of English is needed by everyone who lives in the UK and who needs to engage with services, with local communities, and with society more broadly. However, ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) provision, especially at a higher level and relevant to employment and at the most basic 'pre-entry' level was felt to be in need of improvement.
- Current state funded provision to learn English is restricted. Although English classes and other help with accessing employment are available for those on Job Seekers Allowance, for those in low paid work the cost was prohibitive and it was difficult to access for those working long hours.
- There is a role for informal provision of opportunities to learn English language and this should be integrated with formal funded classes.

## Recommendations: Employment, skills and adult education

These recommendations have been formulated to complement the action plan derived by the BME Working Group, a subgroup of the wider City Employment and Skills Plan (CESP), which was written following research carried out in 2016.

22. The City Employment and Skills Plan BME Working Group to consider the findings of this needs assessment in their ongoing work to break down barriers to employment and skills opportunities for the city's BME populations.
23. An ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Network should be established as a sub-group of the Adult Learning and Skills Partnership to ensure better co-ordination of the current provision.
24. Explore how childcare for pre-school children and support for other carers can be provided to enable access to ESOL for these groups.
25. The findings of this report, including the additional barriers to employment faced by vulnerable migrants, should be used to inform action underway to ensure the public sector workforce is representative of the local population.
26. Ensure that work to improve the city's Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) offer for BME populations in the city also includes resources and training to advise migrants about how to convert and make best use of qualifications gained in another country.
27. Use the city's Social Value Framework to ensure migrant-owned businesses can benefit from action to increase supplier diversity, eg the Ride the Wave programme.

## 8. Health and wellbeing

### Key findings

- Good health and healthcare is seen as a priority by migrants in the city.

### **Factors affecting health and wellbeing**

- There is a wide variation in health and wellbeing within migrant groups that may relate to factors such as the reason for migration or country of origin: at one end of the spectrum, 'economic migrants' tend towards good health, while those who are fleeing their home countries as refugees may have multiple health and social vulnerabilities.
- The wellbeing of resettled refugees is affected by a number of positive factors (eg social capital; social contact with and understanding of people of own and other cultural backgrounds; satisfaction with job, house and education) and negative factors (eg perceived discrimination; negative contact experiences with other people/groups.)
- Some lifestyles and behaviours which may be more common in some cultural backgrounds can impact on health and wellbeing, for example, alcohol/drug consumption, smoking, gambling, eating and physical activity. The longer migrants live in their new environment, the more they may adopt health behaviours typical of the UK born population.
- A lack of proficiency in English is associated with poor health status and this association is strongest in women.

## ***Health inequalities***

### Mental ill health and emotional wellbeing

- Mental health is widely described as the most important health problem for migrant populations, with the issue being particularly acute for asylum seekers and refugees who may have experienced extreme events before leaving their home country, on their journey to the UK, or when in the UK due to separation from family or detention. The need to manage issues linked to immigration status may further impact on mental health.
- Evidence from western Europe indicates that approximately 1 in 10 resettled refugees experienced PTSD.
- Young male migrants in particular, especially those who were isolated and living alone, may have unrecognised and unmet needs around mental ill health.
- Migrants may not necessarily understand the concept of mental ill health as being something they were experiencing or it may be difficult to talk about. Language and cultural barriers and stigma mean that it may be difficult to communicate feelings and 'open up' in counselling sessions.
- There is insufficient specialist mental health support to meet the needs of migrants, especially asylum seekers and refugees. Limits to the number of sessions for mental health treatment were felt to be insufficient to meet the level of need of some patients.

### Sensory impairment

- Migrant communities from lower or middle income countries may have a higher prevalence of hearing loss and visual impairment. These may impact on the ability to communicate with services, and lead to disadvantages in other ways, eg in education or employment.

### Communicable and non-communicable diseases

- According to national data, the prevalence of disease for migrants can be different compared with the rest of the population. The prevalence of diabetes, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections, hepatitis A & B, malaria and enteric fever can be higher for some migrant communities and dental health tends to be poorer.

### ***Entitlements to healthcare***

- There are many legal restrictions to free NHS care in place for different migrants and different NHS services.
- GP consultations are free to all residents. Emergency treatment and services related to some communicable diseases (incl. TB and HIV) are also free of charge to all residents, as is treatment for physical and mental health conditions related to torture, female genital mutilation, and domestic or sexual violence.
- Stakeholders reported that some migrants had experienced difficulties with GP registration due to uncertainty around eligibility, non-acceptance by the practice, or the inability to provide required documentation.

### ***Other issues around access and barriers to healthcare***

- Lack of trust is a factor that affects migrants' access to health services. This applies in particular to undocumented migrants, including asylum seekers, refugees, those who have been trafficked to the UK, or those who have overstayed their visas. Some migrants may want to remain unknown to statutory services, including health services, as they fear their information may be shared among agencies. They only make contact with health services in situations of emergency.
- Registration with a GP may not be a priority for new migrants, and this may

subsequently result in them accessing A&E when medical attention is subsequently needed, when GP services would have been appropriate. This also limits access to preventative work at GP surgeries.

- Migrants, including children, may not have received vaccinations, and uptake of screening programmes when in the UK may be lower.
- Migrants may have a lack of knowledge around how the NHS is structured and how to access it appropriately. In particular, they may not be familiar with the concept of primary care. While there is information available online, this might not be easily accessed or people may lack sufficient language skills to understand the information.

### **Recommendations: Health and wellbeing**

28. Ensure eligibility for GP registration for all migrants is understood by both migrants and health service staff.
29. Ensure that current rules around entitlement to free secondary NHS health care are understood by health service providers and migrants and implemented by providers.
30. Improve access to appropriate mental health services, in particular to meet the needs of refugees and other vulnerable migrants who may, for example, be suffering from trauma.
31. Consider how appropriate use of urgent care services can be promoted to migrant communities, including for example improving awareness of services with support, such as the 111 telephone line).

## **9. Community safety and criminal justice**

### **Key findings**

#### ***Feeling safe***

- How safe someone feels can impact greatly on their health and quality of life.
- There are disadvantages for both migrant and other communities if migrant communities do not feel safe enough to integrate with other communities.
- Research participants tended to feel safer in commercial areas (including the city centre and the marina) and the seafront. They enjoyed use of parks and open spaces (during the daytime), and of cinemas and other cultural facilities.
- After dark, parks and areas close to licensed premises were mentioned by community research participants as places where they felt unsafe. Evidence of drug use or drug dealing also affected their sense of safety.

#### ***Hate incidents and crimes***

- Recent national and international events were reported to have affected inter-community relations, with concern that some people in society may feel that expressions of racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia, now have some legitimacy.
- Although difficulties in being able to interpret police and other recorded data on racist and religiously motivated incidents mean that the actual underlying levels and trends in incidents is not known, anecdotal reports and national data suggest that incidents have increased, particularly in response to the EU referendum and national terrorist events.

- There were local anecdotal reports of an increase in Islamophobia. Women wearing the hijab were cited as a particular target.

### ***Vulnerable people and hidden crimes***

- Migrants, in particular migrant women, may present a set of vulnerabilities around domestic violence which differs from others in the country. Migrants may envisage that the domestic violence support system in the UK and legal context is similar to their country of origin, where in fact it can be quite different.
- The extent of crimes relating to harmful practices and traditional beliefs (eg forced marriage, FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) and honour-based violence) locally is unknown. However, the small number of cases that do come to light are of concern and victims can be very vulnerable. Brighton & Hove is host to a number of communities from countries where FGM is practiced.

### ***Serious and organised crime***

- The number of people who have been subject to trafficking and/or modern slavery locally is unknown. People who have been trafficked, asylum seekers and irregular migrants may be, or may have been, particularly vulnerable to labour or sexual exploitation or other forms of exploitation.

### ***Accessing services***

- Access to statutory services (police and other services) and the reporting of incidents by victims is very important, but may be inhibited for a number of reasons:
  - Trust in the services is crucial. Some migrants may bring with them negative views of statutory services if they come from countries where corruption or abusive practices are common.
  - Some migrants may be concerned that reporting to services may affect their status and lead to deportation.
  - Some may be living under the control of others and fear that reporting to services may jeopardise their links with those on whom they are depending
  - Migrants may not know how to access services and how to report effectively or may not want to spare the time to do so.
  - Migrants may come from cultural backgrounds where it would not be seen as acceptable to report crimes under some circumstances, eg intimate partner violence.
- Once services receive reports, they need to ensure these are listened to and receive a response. Without this future reporting may be jeopardised.

## **Recommendations: Community safety and criminal justice**

32. The Community Safety (Safe in the City) Partnership to share good practice and find new ways of engaging with migrant communities to increase trust and confidence across the range of community safety services and activities, for example local work on the Prevent agenda, the delivery of neighbourhood policing and responses to organised crime.
33. Sussex Police and the local authority to support community led efforts to develop third party reporting mechanisms, and help migrants feel safe in reporting any incident or concern, including racist and religiously-motivated incidents.
34. Ensure information on how to report and safely challenge hate incidents is made available to the public.

35. Review provision of services to provide victim support and longer term recovery in relation to hidden crime to ensure that services are meeting the needs of our migrant populations.
36. Transport operators to consider how they can help migrants feel and be safe when travelling on public transport.

## 10. Children, young people and schools

### Key findings

#### **Health and wellbeing**

From the Brighton & Hove Safe and Well at Schools Survey in 2016, compared with UK born secondary school children, non-UK born children:

- were more active
- similar in some lifestyle aspects (eg around healthy diet, smoking or having had sex), but reported having drunk alcohol less
- reported enjoying the school environment more, felt a sense of belonging at school, and a sense of cohesion between those from different backgrounds
- generally felt safe at school (85% compared with 84% in UK born children), but
- 17% reported having been bullied, compared with 13% of UK born children.

#### **Education and schools**

- At school reception age, 14% of children in city schools (2,456 children) were speakers of English as an Additional Language (EAL). 66% of 'EAL children' had achieved a 'good level of development'<sup>a</sup> by the end of reception classes, below the average for England (69%).
- There was a gap of 18 percentage points between EAL and non-EAL children in those achieving a good level of development at reception age, but there was no gap seen in educational attainment at GCSE level.
- Migrant pupils may be seeking entry to schools in the middle of the school year, with implications for both choice of school and joining the educational programme when it is already underway.
- In general, community research participants reported good experiences with the quality of education in schools. When local migrants experienced problems with schools, these were often associated with understanding and navigating school systems/processes and with communication. Good communication was seen as key to overcoming cultural barriers.
- Some migrant parents may be working unpredictable hours and on low wages, making it more difficult to support their children's education and schooling.
- Regarding those in higher education, international students generally felt well catered for and life on campus was regarded as a positive experience.

#### **Refugee and asylum-seeking children**

- Refugee and asylum seeking children may have arrived in the UK together with their family or on their own. They may have lived through a range of difficult and dangerous experiences in their home country (violence in war, bereavements, etc.),

<sup>a</sup> 'Good level of development' is a performance measure and relates to expected levels in the early learning goals. <https://www.gov.uk/early-years-foundation-stage>

on arrival in the UK, or anywhere in transit. Some may be living with health problems and/or exhibit behaviour related to these experiences.

- They are likely to have experienced a period where they have been totally disconnected from an education system.
- Research suggests that factors which are important for these children in schools are specialist teachers, support from friends and a positive 'whole school' attitude.
- Asylum-seeking children may be disadvantaged in a number of ways, including low income and hardship, poor housing, parental stress and these contribute to poor outcomes, including health outcomes, in the short and longer term.

#### ***Unaccompanied asylum seeking children***

- Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are likely to have significant additional needs, having potentially experienced long and dangerous migration journeys, been subject to labour or sexual exploitation/abuse, poor physical and mental health, etc. before arriving in the UK.
- In August 2017 there were 40 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, an increase from seven in 2011. There were also about 40 care leavers being worked with by social care services, but recent legislation may potentially curtail the ability to provide this work with care leavers.

#### **Recommendations: Children, young people and schools**

37. Consider whether more can be done to support unaccompanied asylum seeking children and those who care for them, including the mental health and wellbeing of children.

38. Schools and colleges, and Brighton & Hove City Council (including the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service), in partnership with faith and other communities, to continue to focus on reducing bullying and supporting integration.

39. Continue to support the Schools of Sanctuary programme and increase the number of schools and educational settings which are awarded Schools of Sanctuary status.

## **11. Personal finances and financial inclusion**

### **Key findings**

#### ***Income***

- Nationally, UK born male workers earn 3.4% more than males born outside the UK. Earnings for UK born and other females were similar. Males earn more than females in both UK born and non-UK born populations. Eastern Europeans and females from Pakistan earned the lowest average hourly wage.
- Some migrants will send a proportion of their earnings back to families in their country of origin to contribute towards everyday costs (including food), education, housing and healthcare. They sometimes make contributions to charitable projects to support victims of circumstances they have themselves left behind when migrating from their home country.

#### ***Costs of living***

- The cost of living for migrant communities was reported to be a real issue, especially in relation to housing and fuel bills. Family reunion may lead to increased household

size without necessarily more income.

- Migrants are more likely to live in fuel inefficient homes and some may have less knowledge about how to minimise fuel bills.
- Among people making use of food banks are refugees, asylum seekers and migrants with no recourse to public funds.
- Asylum seekers are not allowed to work and Home Office financial support to asylum seekers is currently just below £37 a week.

#### ***Benefits and money advice***

- Migrants may have difficulties in understanding the benefits and tax system in the UK.
- The benefit cap is impacting on local migrant families. High housing and fuel costs could lead to difficulties in paying bills.
- Migrants living with financial pressures need appropriate money advice. They may be at risk of debt and vulnerable to illegal money lenders ('loan sharks').

#### ***Specific issues faced by migrants***

- Immigration advice, for example those linked to family reunion, can be costly.
- Despite often having scarce resources, migrants are obliged to pay for visa renewals, UK immigration tests, and so on and those with low literacy levels or who are less educated are more likely to need to pay for resits.
- Requirements to provide documentation in order to open a bank account can be difficult for some migrants.

### **Recommendation: Personal finances and financial inclusion**

40. Work on financial inclusion and welfare reform continues to recognise the needs of vulnerable migrants

## **12. Immigration issues and legal advice**

### **Key findings**

- There is a lack of affordable immigration legal advice in the city, from the most basic to the most specialist. This includes both legal aid funded advice and that which is not funded by legal aid. This issue should be dealt with at a strategic level alongside other advice provision in the city.
- Without good quality and affordable immigration legal advice, the more vulnerable cohorts of migrants may become stuck in a situation which is detrimental to their health and wellbeing and where they are unable to access basic public services.
- Sometimes this has an indirect cost to public services as migrants present in crisis and require housing and care. While local providers offer valuable services, resources are severely strained and they cannot meet all immigration and asylum legal needs.
- Local agencies are not necessarily well informed about the immigration advice which is currently available locally.

**Recommendations: Immigration issues and legal advice**

41. Develop a strategic approach to the provision of immigration legal advice for the city in partnership with mainstream advice agencies and the University of Sussex Law School.
42. As the implications for EU national residents become clear the need for immigration advice for local residents should be assessed.



**Brighton & Hove  
City Council**