

East of England Strategic Migration Partnership Asylum and Refugee Integration Reference Group Terms of Reference

Purpose and remit

The Reference Group is a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary body that draws together a wide range of stakeholders. It is responsible for developing the asylum and refugee integration work programme of the East of England Local Government Association Strategic Migration Partnership (SMP). The Reference Group also acts as the regional strategic co-ordination group in the East of England, as stipulated in the Home Office Enabling Grant Agreement.

The Group's principal roles are:

1. To take a strategic overview of dispersal arrangements in the region and the wider impact on community cohesion, housing, education and health services;
2. To consider the impact of migration on the region, particularly issues relating to the support of asylum seekers and the settlement of refugees;
3. To identify and seek to address gaps in resources, service provision and delivery to asylum seekers and refugees;
4. To take a key role in informing and influencing regional strategies which have an impact on asylum seekers and refugees;
5. To support and promote integration and equality, and develop a positive vision of the cultural, social and economic benefits that asylum seekers and refugees can contribute to the region;
6. To develop an annual Business Plan for the operation of the enabling function in the East of England;
7. To monitor progress against the Business Plan Strategic Objectives;
8. To establish and monitor working groups for specific tasks within the Business Plan;
9. To ensure all stakeholders are consulted on the work of the SMP and that effective mechanisms exist for the dissemination of information.

At all times the Group will endeavour to reach a consensus and collective view on matters but individual members and their organisations are regarded as independent of the Reference Group and may take such positions in their own name as they may consider necessary.

Membership

Local authorities participating in asylum dispersal and refugee resettlement
UK Visas and Immigration (COMPASS Service Delivery Managers, Immigration, Compliance and Enforcement, Voluntary Returns Service, Resettlement Operations)
Asylum accommodation providers (G4S & Clearsprings Ready Homes)
Legal Aid Agency
Public Health England
DWP
Government Inclusive Economy Unit and Office for Civil Society East
Further education providers
Police
Voluntary sector organisations supporting asylum seekers and refugees (e.g. Migrant Help, British Red Cross)

Frequency of meetings

Meetings will be held quarterly at West Suffolk House in Bury St Edmunds.