



**Scottish Strategic Co-ordination Group**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

## COSLA Strategic Migration Partnership

### Scottish Strategic Co-ordination Group

The meeting took place on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008** at **11.00am** in **COSLA's Conference Centre, Rosebery House, Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh.**

#### AGENDA

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies (11.00-11.05)
2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising (11.05-11.10) Appended
3. Operations Group Minutes (11.10-11.15) Appended
4. Presentation from OISC (11.15- 11.35) Appended
5. Fife Survey on Migrant Workers (11.35- 11.50) Appended
6. CSMP 2008/09 Business Plan (11.50- 11.55) Appended
7. Border and Immigration Agency Update (11.55- 12.05) Appended
8. Case Resolution Update (12.05- 12.15) Update
9. Scottish Government's Equalities Update (12.15- 12.20) Update
10. UASC Reform Update (12.20- 12.25) Update
11. Lead Professional Model (12.25-12.35) Update
12. No Recourse to Public Funds (12.35- 12.40) Update
13. Response to Consultation on BIA Statistics (12.40- 12.45) Appended
14. Analysis of NINO Data: A Scottish Perspective (12.45-12.50) Appended
15. A.O.C.B (12.50- 13.00)
16. Next meeting: 21 May 2008, venue to be confirmed

## Minute of Meeting

### **Present:**

Cllr Jean Jones	COSLA: <b>Chair</b> (North Lanarkshire Council)
Cllr Ifran Rabbani	COSLA (Glasgow City Council)
Cllr Jaci Douglas	COSLA (Highland Council)
Cllr Jenny Dawe	COSLA (Edinburgh)
Cllr Margaret Toner	COSLA (South Ayrshire)
Cllr Allan Noon	COSLA (Renfrewshire)
Colin Mitchell	Border and Immigration Agency Scotland
Gary Sweeney	Border and Immigration Agency Scotland
Adam Scarcliffe	Border and Immigration Agency Scotland
Jane Black	Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland
Sharon Davidson	The Angel Group
Ravinder Jabbal	The Angel Group
James Pinkerton	Association of Directors of Social Work
John Donaldson	Glasgow City Council
Susie Parsons	Scottish Refugee Council
Allan Hogarth	CBI Scotland
Maria Walker	Glasgow City Council
Jean Wilson	Scottish Government
John Crawford	Greater Glasgow NHS Board

### **In Attendance:**

Derek Mitchell	COSLA
Mhoraig Green	COSLA
Lorraine Cook	COSLA <b>minute</b>
Andrew Ballingall	Fife Council
Suzanne McCarthy	OISC
Linda Allan	OISC

### **Apologies:**

Phil Taylor	Border and Immigration Agency Scotland
Lesley Irving	Scottish Government
Jim Mulholland	JobCentre Plus (Department for Work and Pensions)
Kenny Simpson	ALACHO
Cllr Iain Linton	COSLA (East Ayrshire)
Cllr Douglas Reid	COSLA (East Ayrshire)
Jim Jarvie	YMCA Glasgow
Tansy Main	Scotland Office

### **Item 1: Welcome and apologies**

Cllr Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted. Cllr Jones thanked Cllr Douglas for attending in place of Cllr McCallum. Cllr Jones recognised Sally Daghlian's contribution to the SRC and the wider policy area over the last 10 years and wished her well on behalf of the SSCG.

### **Item 2: Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising**

Minutes were agreed as an accurate record. In addition the following action points were addressed:

- MG has circulated the redrafted cohesion paper to the group for information.
- AS stated that lawyers did not attend the pension solution centre seminar on appeals but members of the judiciary did attend.
- DM has sent draft Terms of Reference for the NAM Monitoring group to NAM Team Leaders and DM has received a positive response; NAM Team Leaders will meet after the Operations subgroup on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 08.
- J. Donaldson informed the group that Kit Wyeth (Scottish Government) has reissued the Memorandum of Understanding on Lead Professional. J. Donaldson said that he would give more detail on the role of Lead Professional later in the meeting as this is an agenda item.
- LC informed the group that she will present a paper on migration impacts on key services to the April meeting of COSLA's Community Well Being & Safety Executive Group. **Action: LC will take a paper on migration impacts on key services to the April meeting.**
- CM said the simplification team has been invited to a one-off meeting to talk about the simplification of immigration legislation. DM said that any member of the SSCG is welcome to attend the meeting, but it is really targeted for practitioners.
- DM said that the Scotland Office has been invited and Tansy Main will attend future meetings.

### **Item 3: Operations Subgroup and Move-on Working Group Minutes**

The minutes from the Operations Subgroup and the Move-On Working Group were presented for information and were agreed as an accurate record.

### **Item 4: Presentation from OISC**

SM gave a presentation on the Immigration Services Commissioner's role as regulator, ombudsman and prosecutor. SM stated that OISC give advice to 1673 premises in the UK; there are 98 OISC regulated premises in Scotland. Since 2001, OISC has received more than 3,000 complaints.

JP asked should social workers who are caring for UASC be classified as advisors and regulated by OISC, as they often have to provide immigration advice. LA said that social workers often stray into regulator matters. Therefore, they should be regulated by OISC to improve advice and to ensure that good advice is given. LA said that OISC provide training for advisors and an online training programme will be available shortly on their website. SP said that the SRC provide OISC training and if any colleagues are interested they should contact her.

J. Donaldson asked if the OISC hold a list of advisors. SM said that there is a list of advisors on the OISC website under the advisor finder.

J. Donaldson asked what the scope of OISC's work is and does their remit cover economic migrants? SM said yes, OISC deal with all matters of immigration and asylum. LA said that they

do not regulate welfare rights but immigration can often stray into this area. **Action: MG to ensure a link is added from CSMP website to OISC.**

#### **Item 5: Presentation on Fife Survey on Migrant Workers**

AB gave a presentation on Fife Council's research findings on their survey on migrant workers in Fife. AB said the research was commissioned by Fife Migrant Workers Group, a partnership of agencies, and the interviews were carried out by the Polish Association. The survey focused on the demographic characteristics and issues affecting migrant workers in Fife. AB said that the findings illustrated that the majority of migrant workers surveyed work at least a 35 hour week and earns the minimum wage. One in four has not registered with the Workers Registration Scheme and 13% do not have a National Insurance Number. Around one half have either a degree or under-graduate qualification, but most do not make any use of them in their current job.

AH said that we have to be careful of making quick judgements about migrant workers using their skills and qualifications. He gave some examples of people who had moved on from lower skilled jobs to posts that reflected their qualifications after 6-12 months. He asked if Fife Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise had been involved in the survey. AB said yes, Fife Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise was involved in the survey. AH said that the study of migrant workers in the Highlands and Islands noted the calibre of Polish workers and these workers were not low skilled and in low skilled jobs. AB said that their research had found that most of the migrant workers in the survey have only basic English language skills and this impinges on job opportunities. AB said many do not attend ESOL classes; the most common reason for this was due to work commitments. AB clarified that this is a survey on migrant workers and it is their perspective and opinions. AB agreed that it would be useful to carry out future research on employers.

CM asked if the survey identified why people are not registering with the Workers Registration Scheme. AB said that they had not gone into detail about why people were not registering but he would like to carry out some focus groups to gather more information on particular aspects, this includes WRS registration.

#### **Item 6: CSMP 2008/09 Business Plan**

JJ asked if there were any comments on the CSMP business plan. DM emphasised that the business plan should be read in conjunction with the 3 year strategic plan. **Action: DM asked that all written requests be forwarded to the CSMP team by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March.**

#### **Item 7: Border and Immigration Agency Update**

CM informed the group that the closing date for the RIES bid is 22 Feb 08. CM said BIA expects 3 bids and he will update the group as and when the successful tender has won.

CM stated that the Minister Liam Byrne made an announcement on 'A Compassionate System for Children' in which new measures will ensure that children are safeguarded in the immigration system and are dealt with humanely and compassionately. BIA will hold a consultation event in Glasgow on 25<sup>th</sup> April to discuss keeping children from harm and UASC reform.

#### **Item 8: Case Resolution Update**

J. Donaldson said that BIA Scotland should be applauded for their role in case resolution and the good partnership work that has occurred with a range of stakeholders. AS gave an update on the case resolution process post April 08, and said the programme will include families who have applied post 04 and single applicants. He informed the group that some work will be outsourced outwith Scotland and it will be two weeks before the decision is made on how much this will be. AS said he would like to thank all the stakeholders involved in case resolution for their positive work. DM said that COSLA's Chief Executive has sent a letter to Liam Byrne urging that future tranches of case resolution be dealt by BIA Scotland and that JJ has sent a letter to the Head of Jobcentre plus commending the fantastic role that Jobcentre plus has played in case resolution. DM said he hopes that future case resolution work will still have a targeted approach and local authorities are given forward warning. AS said he will request that family work stay in Scotland. DM emphasised the need for clarity as we are nearly in March. AS agreed there would need to be decisions made quickly.

### **Item 9: Scottish Government's Equalities Update**

JW gave an update on their Race Equality work. She said that the national statement and race equality action plan is still at the draft stage. There will be a statement announced tomorrow on race, religion and refugee; race and SRIF funding will be combined. DM asked the sum of funding? JW said it will be up to £2 million. J. Donaldson asked how this compares to previous years, is it an increase or reduction? JW said it is much the same there is no real change in the amount of funding.

### **Item 10: UASC Reform Update**

J. Donaldson gave an update on UASC reform. He said that Glasgow care for approximately 100 UASC at one time. The present situation is local authorities can submit bids to support UASC; this can be individual, consortium or partnership bids. One of the main issues concerning UASC is the potential removal of under 18s, which leaves local authorities in an uncomfortable position. It is not a given that Glasgow will sign up due to capacity issues; Glasgow do not want to be in a situation where services can be taken away from indigenous children. Glasgow would like to work in partnership with other local authorities. J. Donaldson said that the UASC reform timetable is letters of interest should be submitted by spring, the negotiation process will take place in the summer and the first decision will be made in October.

DM said that BIA had asked CSMP to hold a seminar for any local authorities interested in UASC and CSMP hosted this. J. Donaldson and DM broadly outlined recent discussions and agreed that BIA is moving away from a fixed cost per child approach to investigating real costs. JJ said that politicians need to talk to Chief Executives about how they will engage with this process. JC said that there is an impact on health costs that is being ignored in terms of funding. JJ said that these issues need to be discussed in council partnerships. J. Donaldson said that Gateway has included funding for health but agrees that other issues, including interpreting and housing, need to be taken on board. JP said that due to capacity issues Edinburgh has been reluctant to engage but they will be meeting with BIA to discuss this matter. JP said he is unsure whether they would be looking at an individual or consortia agreement. DM said it is crucial to have a consistent Scottish perspective on UASC reform.

### **Item 11: Lead Professional Model**

JD provided an update and outlined the Lead Professional is moving beyond pilot stage into the implementation stage. The Lead Professional role will look at issues in terms of removal, e.g. children sitting exams, people receiving health treatment, domestic violence and child protection

issues. JD said that in general Lead Professional has been well received and any comments are welcome.

#### **Item 12: No Recourse to Public Funds**

MG gave an outline on the developing position on NRPF. MG stated that NRPF is a growing issue for Scottish local government and other partners. Given the complexity of the issue CSMP propose convening a short-life working group with some Scottish local authorities to establish a position on the issue. This position paper will be brought to a future SSCG for discussion and will be a starting point for exploring sustainable solutions to the issue in Scotland. **Action: MG will convene the NRPF group and feedback to future meetings.**

DM said that this is an incredibly politically sensitive area. DM and MG will visit Islington Council's national NRPF network in April. JC asked if it is helpful or not to have guidance, e.g. clarifying if we should treat a sick person or not if they have no access to public funds? JP agreed that it is a misnomer as we are spending funds on people with NRPF. DM said that on a practical and policy level this item will rise up the agenda as more people enter the UK for work; JB identified that this could lead to people being forced into criminality and/or prostitution. JB said that on a low level of criminality the police are seeing an increase in begging. SP said that MG might be interested in the SRC's destitution research. **Action: SP will share this information with MG and bring it to a future meeting.**

#### **Item 13: Response to Consultation on BIA Statistics**

MG gave a summary of CSMP's response to Border and Immigration Agency's Review of Statistics on "Control of Immigration". MG stated that CSMP took this opportunity to press for the quality and scope of information recorded and disseminated by BIA to be improved in order to facilitate the planning of appropriate services by all partners

#### **Item 14: Analysis of NINO Data: A Scottish Perspective**

LC presented a paper on Scottish National Insurance number registrations in respect of non-UK nationals during 2006/07 by Local Authority area and country of origin. LC stated that the purpose of the paper is to look at the patterns of settlement in Scotland generated from NINO registration data, and it will be used as a starting point to build a national picture of migration.

#### **Item 15: A.O.C.B**

DM said that the next NMG meeting will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> March and will focus on ESOL and skills. DM said that it is crucial to have strong representation on this group, which will ensure that the Scottish interests are heard at the UK level. Jon Harris (COSLA) sits on this group, as Sally Daghlian is leaving Dave Moxham will sit on this group on a temporary basis. SP said the group should consider asking for another place, as the voluntary sector voice needs to be heard. DM said that the SRC and Scottish Government attend the NASF meetings. DM said that COSLA's Chief Executive has also written to Mathew Coates about local authority representation on NASF, as the LGA are the only local government representatives on this forum. CM asked if N. Ireland is represented on this group. DM said he believes that N. Ireland has not been invited.

J. Douglas asked about the issues of EAL services. MW said that figures from the 2007 Scottish schools census has recently been released and in many local authorities Polish is the 2<sup>nd</sup> language. MW said that there are gaps in information concerning the census. She is working

with LC and the Scottish EAL Coordinating Council to create a pro-forma for all EAL services to complete at the end of each term and, if local authorities comply, this will provide us with more in-depth information on the impact on EAL services. LC said that she has written a short report on the school census, which highlights the key issues regarding children from EU accession states. **Action: LC will forward this report to J. Douglas and any other member of the group who requests it.**

**Next meeting: 21 May 2008, venue to be confirmed**