
date: **Friday 10 July 2009**
venue: **Keystone Innovation Centre, Thetford**
Time: **10:00 – 12:00**

1. Apologies

Trish Bugg	LSC
Steven Andrzejuk	TESCO
David Prince	ACAS
Bridget Plowright	Construction Skills
Andy Hebb	Cambs Police
Steve Vartoukian	Cambridge County Council
Andrew Seager	Citizens Advice
Keith Bennett	Social Inclusion Panel
Liesbeth Ten Ham	MENTER
Melanie Grey	Supporting People
Leonie McCarthy	New Link

Present

Sheila Childerhouse (SC)	EEDA
Mark Allison (MA)	EEDA
Martin Collison	Food and Farming Sector
Cristina Stroud (CS)	EEDA
Neil Stott (NS)	Keystone Development Trust
Simon How (SH)	Public Health Group (for Anne McConville)
Maxine White (MW)	Job Centre Plus
Ian Phillips (IP)	GO-East
Paul Henry (PH)	Business Link
Esther Cook (EC)	LSC)
David Head (DH)	HSE
Malgorzata Strona (MS)	EERA-SMP
Ian Beattie (IB)	EERA-SMP
Mark Mitchell (MM)	COVER
Richard Bindless (RB)	EEBG
Jenny Wood (JW)	ONS
Anthony Davis (AD)	New Link
Sharn Hastings (SH)	EEDA
Morgane Lefauchaux (ML)	CPC - guest
Judith Barker (JB)	CPC associate - guest

2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Overview of migrant activity to date

Mark gave an update on the proposed meeting with Rt Hon Michael Jack, chair of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee. Correspondence has been received requesting further information about what is to be discussed. A response will be sent next week.

4. Discussion on initial findings of MW evaluation

Morgane Lefauchaux and Judith Barker gave a presentation on the overview of the key issues from the review of migrant activity to date. It was stated that the review was initiated in early June and is to be completed at the end of July and is largely qualitative looking at processes and impact of activity. There have been 1:1 interviews with stakeholders - 33 people to date – with a few more to complete.

MA reported that EEDA is committed to this agenda within the corporate strategy (until March 2011) and that the evaluation was commissioned to help drive the programme forward and learn from what has been done to date.

The initial findings incorporated positive outputs which included the steering group itself, the National Portal, the 2005 Report and also a good functionality to influence through feeding issues from the Migrant Worker Steering Group through to the wider groups.

The negatives included a lack of clarity of purpose / objectives, the instigation of actions for all group member organisations and a lack of business engagement.

NS noted the importance of the inclusiveness of jobs, skills and economic participation work and that the economic focus of EEDA is narrower than the collective scope of the organisations represented on the MWSG

A discussion was held on the migrant worker objectives and some initial points were raised:

- The pressures on regional development agencies
- (Possible) Sectoral focus of migration
- The changing governance structures – e.g. how will any reporting to the social inclusion panel be affected?
- Business enterprise has not be well covered
- There is a need for clear outcomes
- Housing issues – what has been done?

Suggestion that objectives should consider competitive and globalised environment in which migration operates with rules on entry and exit to support the business agenda and that includes things such as housing support for workers. For the region to succeed it needs to be an open, inclusive 'trading' region. Business concerns are about a lack of a workforce or movement of workers to other parts of Europe.

Need to influence strategy across a wider field looking regionally and sub-regionally initially and then upwards. Objectives should be based on equality and justice and not on being competitive in order to coordinate information to influence relationships.

MA – with additional SMP funding for a two year period there is always an option to change the leadership of the group.

The SMP has always approached this with a view to social impact alongside the economic development focus of EEDA.

The purpose is to ensure that the individual is made welcome to fit into life here and be economically productive in order to have a 'boing' factor. A strong business sector needs community and political leadership

Counter view against the words competitive and global – the issue is how to make the most of a business' greatest resource – its people. The key is training and development.

ML responded that there are numerous outputs and the need is to strengthen the impacts. The group seems to have two themes; one of inclusion and one of being competitive.

RB stated that it isn't easy to influence the business sector as it is on a different engagement level. If business input is required, have that as a separate agenda item. Need to deliver something that businesses need – they will put in time if their views are noted and addressed in some way.

MC mentioned an action plan developed for the food and farming sector through two groups which have dual meetings / roles - one to focus and another to advise. This allowed for a published action plan behind which sits additional detail about the contributions from across the public sector, business organisations and the third sector.

AP - PH to access existing information about support requirements of businesses

AP - MA to arrange a meeting / phone conversation with MC, PH & RB to consider ways to engage businesses. SEEE, JCP and the NHS (as large employer) also to be invited to participate.

Other points about objectives, structure of the group and impacts of the work were captured on flip charts for the evaluation team to work into their report. A copy of those sheets is attached.

It was agreed that the membership of the group needs to be reviewed.

5. Review of the Terms of Reference

MA reported that once the minutes have been circulated views about the ToR can be fed back by end of July in order to feed into discussions by the executive group. It was raised that the membership and roles of the group should be examined.

AP – All to send comments to MA by end of July Please include your thoughts about the purpose, the objectives, membership, working arrangements, scope, beneficiaries. The final report from the evaluation will also be used to feed into this review.

6. Round Robin Updates

- Migration impact fund announcement is now on the CLG website. Purpose was to offset pressures caused by migration with activity providing benefit to the whole community. In this region support from the LSP's is good; 63 bids were received for £6.5 million of funding (against budget of £3.5m). 31 projects approved with ESOL no 1 issue. Grants are non-ring fenced, a point which gave some cause for concern.

AP – Approved projects list to be circulated with minutes

- IB – SMPs have been awarded an additional 24 months funding (to March 2012) and there is

- an expectation of linking to regional political leadership.
- CS – Local Immigration Teams are being rolled out across the region.
 - MM – circulated a document about a transnational project in which they are a partner – led by AFIES of Spain - Quality Information Needs of policy makers and citizens on EU and interculturality (QUIN)
 - NS - Undertaking research on migration health issues (similar to previous housing research) - will be published in about three months.
 - AD No of clients is increasing (120 per month) but no of new clients has halved. Many people do not want to work. Research is being undertaken to support the population figures. Homelessness is a significant problem.
 - PH representing Business Link on the SME taskforce which is currently focusing on enterprise.
 - EC 'A New Approach to ESOL' was published by DIUS in May. Focus is on social cohesion and responsibility will sit with the new Skills Funding Agency.
 - SH A lifestyle survey is being conducted and has looked at those in the criminal justice system as a specific group, migrant workers will also be addressed.
 - JW Short-term migrant statistics are being developed (0-3 months this year and 3-12 months in 2010) New population estimates are due in May 2010
 - DH There is a new pay and work rights helpline and an agricultural minimum wage was reported.
 - MW reported a shift in workload with more emphasis on supporting redundancies and getting people back to work.
 - MC Desire to grow the ag & food sector but where will the workforce come from? There are issues about research and development and higher skills. Also changes undertaken to address climate change.
 - MA – SE region has secured funding to join myUKinfo.com (the national portal) – a major success. Also a bid was submitted to PROGRESS (programme for employment and social security) that would involve Lantra and the national portal consortium to help employers find the skills they need and support individuals to find work. Will address a number of sectors, probably linked to low carbon industries etc as outlined in New Industry New Jobs, and support geographically mobile as well as disadvantaged groups such as long-term unemployed, and economically inactive.

7. AOB

There was no other business.

8. Date of the next meeting

Friday 16 October 2009, 10am Keystone Innovation Centre.

The next Executive Group meeting will be on Thursday 27 August at 2pm, EEDA offices in Histon (Victory House, Board Room A)