

# Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership

## Briefing for Councils

The Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership (NISMP) works across the spheres of government and between the public, private and third sectors to ensure that Northern Ireland effectively welcomes, supports and integrates new migrants in a way which contributes to economic growth and vibrant, cohesive communities. It provides a regional advisory and consultative function, enabling our partners and other stakeholders to develop an appropriate approach to the management of migration in Northern Ireland. NISMP is hosted by NILGA.

[www.migrationni.org](http://www.migrationni.org)

### A briefing for councils on issues relating to migration

#### 1. NISMP Update

##### **Sustainable Communities & Demographics Subgroup**

NISMP is establishing a working group to help identify and address council needs and concerns relating to changing demographics, particularly in relation to migration. The group will map services available to migrants, provide an opportunity for sharing of practices and build a picture of economic and social contributions of migrants across councils.

NISMP has approached councils for councillor and officer nominations. For more information on this group, or on any of the NISMP working groups, please contact us.

#### 2. Brexit

##### **Settlement Scheme for EU Citizens**

In June, the Home Office published details of how EU citizens can apply for settled status. This is intended to be a straightforward process at a proposed fee of £65 for adults and £32.50 for under 16s. More details can be found [here](#). The Home Office has also developed a [toolkit](#) for employers which will enable them to more effectively support EU workers and their families in understanding and navigating the EU Settlement Scheme.

NISMP is working with the Home Office and The Executive Office to ensure that the Settlement Scheme is accessible to all and to produce a regional information sheet which will provide signposting to support and advice services in Northern Ireland. To this end, on 21<sup>st</sup> Sept we will be co-hosting a stakeholder engagement event to discuss potential barriers to applying for settled status faced by vulnerable EU nationals. Invitations to this event will be sent to relevant community and support organisations. For more information please contact us.

### **Brexit and EU nationals**

In June a cross-party event, hosted by Dr Stephen Farry MLA, and held in conjunction with the Institute of Conflict Research (ICR), focused on the impact of Brexit on EU nationals. ICR has developed a [website](#) which helps signpost EU nationals needing advice or further information.

## **3. Asylum and Refugee Issues**

### **Syrian Vulnerable People Relocation Scheme**

Councils in Northern Ireland have contributed significantly to the Vulnerable People Relocation Scheme by committing to supporting the relocation to the UK of some of the most vulnerable Syrian families living in refugee camps. Currently 1,096 Syrians have been relocated to Northern Ireland. Updated information on the scheme can be found [here](#).

## **4. Research and Reports**

### **Department for the Economy: EU Exit Analysis**

In March, the Department for the Economy published a [detailed analysis](#) of migrant workers based on information collected by the 2011 Census. They also published [a short paper](#) which summarises a range of evidence relating to migration, the labour force and skills.

### **Department for Communities: An Insight into Non-UK Nationals Access to Benefits**

In April the Department for Communities published an analysis of non-UK nationals who are claiming benefits in Northern Ireland. This research can be accessed [here](#).

## **5. Strategy Review**

### **Department of Education: Review of Newcomer Strategy**

The Department of Education is currently undertaking a review of its strategy to support Newcomer pupils. Through questionnaires and focus groups, it is seeking feedback from newcomer pupils and their families on their experiences in schools. It is keen that the feedback reflects all parts of Northern Ireland and all major newcomer nationalities. Letters for parents in 12 different languages with links to questionnaires can be found on the [Department's website](#).

If you would like to know more about this review or would like to help promote the questionnaires or facilitate a focus group, please contact us.