

# INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS IN BRIGHTON & HOVE

## KEY FINDINGS FROM LOCAL RESEARCH 2018

“Some people are isolated, they are not aware of the services in the city”

“We are desperate to find a job and use our qualifications”

“We receive support from each other”

ABOUT THE RESEARCH

### OUR DEFINITION

A migrant is any person who lives temporarily or permanently in a country where they were not born.



### RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How is the city's migrant population made up?
- What are their needs?
- How do migrants benefit the city?
- Does the city have suitable services?
- Are there barriers to accessing services?

### WHAT WE DID

Four research strands

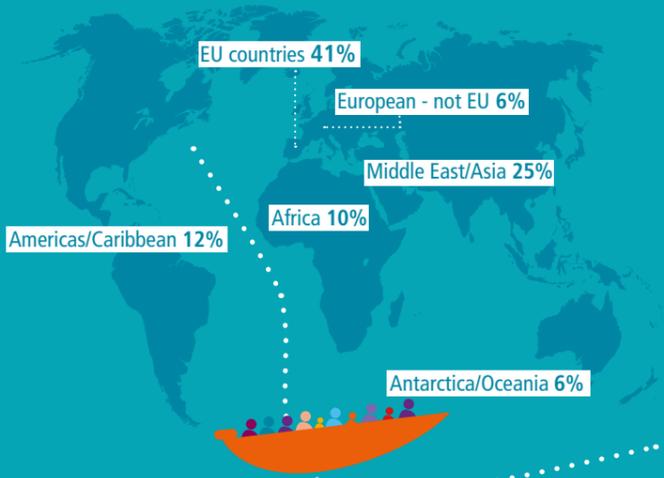
- Community research, involving: **22** community researchers from **14** countries and **26** focus groups with **198** participants from **24** countries
- Literature review
- Data analysis
- Research with organisations

A multi-agency group led the work.



MIGRATING TO THE CITY

### WHERE LOCAL MIGRANTS WERE BORN



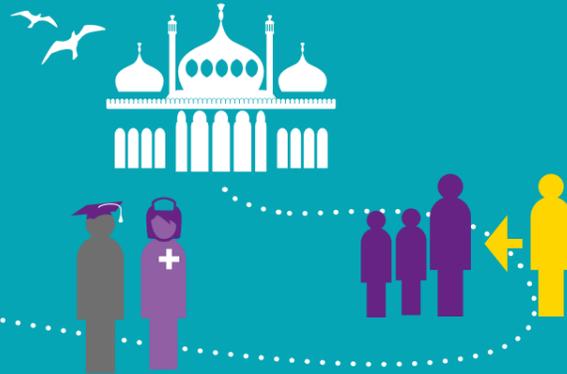
### VOLUNTARY MIGRATION

- study
  - work
  - joining family
- greater numbers - less vulnerable

### FORCED MIGRATION

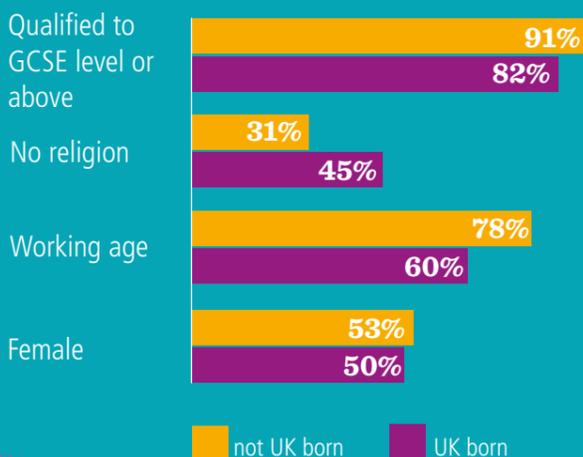
- asylum seekers/refugees
  - victims of trafficking
  - perhaps without official documents
  - more difficult journeys
- lower numbers - more vulnerable

About 18% of city residents (50,000 people) were born outside the UK. (ONS 2016) The number has roughly doubled since the 2001 census.



LOCAL MIGRANT COMMUNITIES

### SOME COMPARISONS



### LANGUAGE



of residents without English as their first language speak English well...  
...but nearly 2,500 residents do not speak English well, or at all.

Languages (other than English) most frequently spoken by residents:

- عربي Arabic
- Polskie Polish
- 中文 Chinese
- Español Spanish
- Français French

ASSETS

### Migrants contribute significantly to:

the city's economy



“We are a workforce, we bring our skills, we pay our taxes and we make investments here”

the local workforce, eg in health and care and other key employment sectors



cultural diversity



### CITY ASSETS

Brighton & Hove is a diverse city with a history of welcoming people of different backgrounds.

Many community groups support and involve local migrants.



### City of Sanctuary

Brighton & Hove's Sanctuary on Sea initiative seeks to be a welcoming place of safety for people fleeing violence and persecution. Sanctuary on Sea has compiled a directory of resources for refugees and migrants.

<https://brighton-and-hove.cityofsanctuary.org/local-resources>

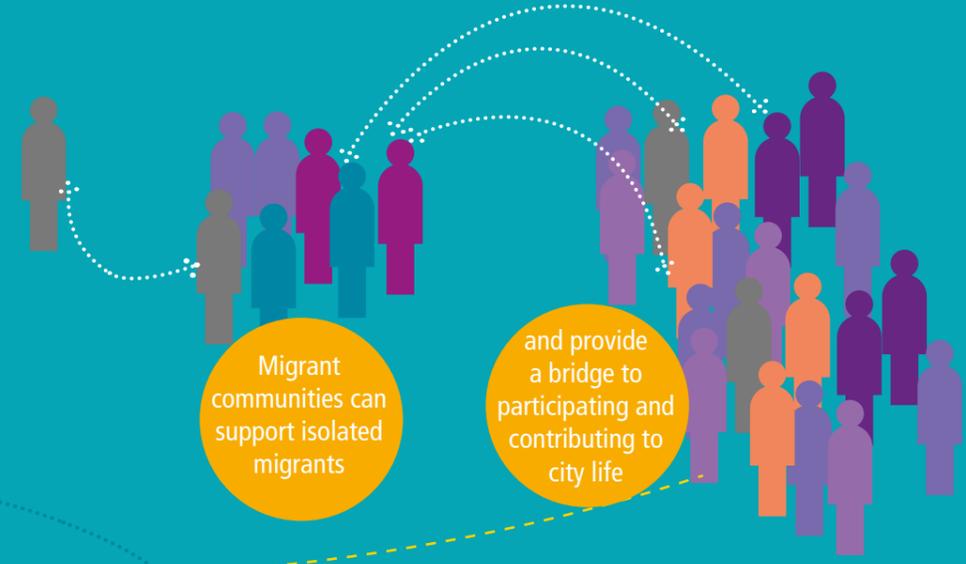
PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSION

Some migrants may

- live in isolation and be lonely
- not have good language skills
- not participate in decision-making

Knowledge of English is needed to engage successfully in city life.

Social networks and interpreting can be important in supporting new migrants, eg with accommodation or work.



- What could help?**
- Further co-ordinated language support and interpreting
  - More opportunities for different communities to meet, eg common meeting spaces, volunteering, sport, cultural exchange.

DAILY LIFE

AT SCHOOL

Compared with secondary school children born in the UK, those born elsewhere report:

- enjoying coming to school more (82% vs 77%) but
- more experience of bullying (17% vs 13%)

A similar percentage report feeling safe (85% vs 84%).

EMPLOYMENT

Barriers to employment:

- language barriers
- not knowing how to find jobs
- qualifications not recognised
- employers not understanding migrants' eligibility to work
- discrimination



At work

Employers may:

- not understand cultural or religious needs

Migrants may:

- not know where to get advice about employment rights
- feel unable to report exploitation

HOUSING

Migrants are more likely to live in:

- private rented housing
- overcrowded households
- poor housing conditions

... and may be at higher risk of homelessness.



- What could help?**
- Improved access to advice

DAILY LIFE

MONEY

Some migrants:

- spend more on bills than necessary
- need to pay for visas, immigration tests, etc.
- lack the documents needed to open a bank account
- are at risk of illegal money lenders
- need financial advice
- use food banks.



SAFETY

Migrant residents report

- being targets of hate incidents
- feeling a need to modify their behaviour, eg not talking aloud and disclosing their background in public.

Victims of violence, exploitation and trafficking need to have



**"Muslim women [worry that] with hijab they might become a target"**

- What could help?**
- New ways of engaging with migrants and building trust
  - Community organisations helping migrants feel safe to report crimes

VULNERABLE AND ISOLATED MIGRANTS

Refugees and asylum seekers may have poor mental health due to:

- difficult or dangerous experiences in their home country or on their migration journey
- separation from family
- detention in the UK

**"[There is] depression among young male migrants... they are isolated and scared of seeking help."**



Language, cultural differences and stigma may make treatment more complicated.

In addition, refugee or asylum-seeking children may have:

- prolonged absence from education
- low income and poor housing
- parental stress

a risk of poor outcomes

- What could help?**
- Better mental health support for all ages
  - More long term specialist support to recover from trauma

ACCESS TO SERVICES

- Insufficient English skills
- No access to the internet
- Not knowing how to access services
- Being ineligible for services
- Fear of deportation
- Cost

can be barriers to

accessing information and services

**"I find it difficult dealing with paperwork like bills and letters due to a lack of English skills"**

INSECURE IMMIGRATION STATUS

Immigration rules in the UK are complex and have been getting stricter. Some migrants do not yet have permission to stay in the UK.

Insecure immigration status

can mean

- being unable to live with family
- no access to employment
- no access to housing
- exploitation by landlords, employers and criminals
- feeling insecure

- What could help?**
- More local immigration legal advice
  - Frontline services and migrants better understand migrants' rights to services and how best to access them

**NEXT STEPS** Set up multi-agency project group → Draw up action plan and assign actions to different partners → Monitor progress