International Migrants in Brighton & Hove

Key Findings from Local Research 2018

**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?

**Where Local Migrants Were Born**

- EU countries 41%
- Americas/Caribbean 12%
- Africa 10%
- Middle East/Asia 25%
- Antarctica/Oceania 6%
- Mobile European/Non-EU 23%

**Voluntary Migration**
- Study
- Work
- Joining family

**Forced Migration**
- Asylum seekers/refugees
- Victims of trafficking
- Perhaps without official documents
- More difficult journeys

About 18% of city residents (50,000 people) were born outside the UK. (ONS 2016) The number has roughly doubled since the 2011 census.

**Some Comparisons**

- Qualified to GCSE level or above 82%
- No religion 31%
- Working age 78%
- Female 53%

**Language**

89% 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:
- Arabic
- Polskie Polish
- 中文 Chinese
- Español Spanish
- Français French

**Migrants Contribute Significantly to:**
- the city’s economy
- 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

**What We Did**
Four research strands
- Community research, involving:
  - Literature review
  - Data analysis
  - Research with organisations

A multi-agency group led the work.

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

The full report, *International Migrants in Brighton & Hove*, is at www.bhconnected.org.uk/content/needs-assessments

email publichealth@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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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, e.g., with accommodation or work.

In addition, refugee or asylum-seeking children may have:
- a risk of poor outcomes
- prolonged absence from education
- low income and poor housing
- parental stress

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

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

NEXT STEPS
Set up multi-agency project group, draw up action plan and assign actions to different partners, monitor progress.