Integration and social inclusion as a means of addressing and mitigating migrant vulnerabilities

Councillor Hibaq Jama
Bristol City Council
United Kingdom
• Largest city in the South West England Region – 450,000 citizens
• At least 45 religions, 187 countries of birth represented and 91 main languages spoken
• Bristol has a relatively young age profile with more children aged 0-15 than people aged 65 and over.
Migration

- International in-migration peaked in 2004/5
- Births are now the main driver of population growth
- Migrants are concentrated in inner city wards

People living in Bristol who are not born in the UK
(2011 census)
Prosperity

• Bristol is the 7th most successful city in Europe in attracting inward investment.
• Bristol has the 2nd highest number of business start-ups
• 71% employment/7% unemployed
• Globally recognised clusters in aerospace and advanced engineering, high tech creative and digital, low carbon technologies and financial and professional services.
Economic Inclusion

Research: Bristol Economic Migrants: needs and strategies (UWE 2016) eprints.uwe.ac.uk/30570/

We are seeking partners to attract investment to

• work with employers and
• tackle barriers to the labour market

Welcome Pack for Economic Migrants translated into ten languages
Vulnerable Groups

- 800 asylum seekers in Bristol
- 250 new refugees each year
- 50 no recourse to public funds (Trafficked)
- 100 people on the Syrian Resettlement Scheme
- 71 Unaccompanied asylum seeking children
- 30% of women using Refugee Women of Bristol Drop In have lived in UK 5 years or more but still need help
- At least 663 non UK rough sleepers in Bristol
• The Haven Health Clinic is a special clinic run by GPs and nurses who offer a service adjusted to better meet the needs of asylum seekers and refugees, joining families and unaccompanied asylum seeking children and victims of human trafficking.
Co-ordinated Community Response

- Four drop in refugee welcome centres, one women only
- Two hot lunch homeless centres (EU)
- 100 units of accommodation for new refugees
- Every new refugee has a case worker
- 30 households give a room to destitute asylum seekers long term, 150 offer a room short term
- A free Shop for refugees
- Trafficking victims - Male Safe House and women only Safe House in Bristol
- 1100 students each year at college studying English as another language
- 80 community English classes each week
Voluntary Community Support

- Housing advice
- Family reunion
- Emergency accommodation
- Crèche
- Health Checks
- Food bank
- Lunch
- Cross Cultural understanding
- Reading practice
- Legal support
- Information

Advocacy
- Massage/nail care
- Reading your post/mail
- Free Barber
- Stop smoking
- Mental well-being support
- Befriending
- Free clothes, toiletries, food, household goods
- Help with reporting Hate crime

Opening of the Free Shop
Promoting Inclusion

- 2011 City of Sanctuary
- 2015 Rockefeller Resilient City
- 2016 Research into support needs of Economic Migrants
- 2017 Inclusive Cities

Bristol Refugee Week celebrations and the arrival of Syrian Refugees for the Resettlement programme
Specific Projects funded in 2017

UK Government Controlling Migration Fund
- Vision and Values
- Bristol ESOL for living together project
- Employment Navigator for Migrants
- Rough Sleeping and returning home
- Tackling Rogue Landlords
- Improving outcomes for migrant children
  - Specialist Leader in Education for Early Years
  - Specific Education officer to support refugee and asylum seeking children to find school places
• In an annual Quality of Life Survey % respondents who agree people from different backgrounds get on well together has risen from 58% in 2010 to 63% in 2015 [www.bristol.gov.uk/QoL]

• 1602 hate crimes recorded between March to December 2016
  Bristol Strategic Partnership Against Hate Crime April 2017

• Improved outcomes measured through the Welcoming Asylum Seekers and Refugee Strategy