

## Speaking Out Briefing No. 9

### Rural migrant children, families and young people

**Migrant families, children and young people from the eight accession (A8) countries that joined the European Union in May 2004 are the main focus of this briefing.**

**This briefing is part of the Speaking Out series.**

Speaking Out is a partnership between the National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations (NCVCCO) and the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS), which seeks to build a voice for the children and young people's voluntary and community sector across government.

The project aims to develop closer links between a range of government departments (Home Office, MOJ, DEFRA, CLG, Cabinet Office and HM Treasury) and the voluntary and community sector in delivering cross departmental policies such as *Every Child Matters* and *The Children's Plan* and the direct implementation of initiatives which affect children and young people.

Speaking Out aims to support children, young people and family voluntary and community organisations to better understand the impact on their users of a wider range of government policies and provide routes to influence them. The project is funded by the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office.

#### Who are these briefings for?

This series of briefings intends to provide members of both NCVYS and NCVCCO and other interested parties with background and analysis on specific policy items affecting the sector.

#### Other activities

In addition to these briefings the Speaking Out project is developing work streams around the policy themes which include:

- organising a series of seminars and events;
- establishing communities of interest amongst members and other organisations on specific policy themes linking them into email groups and bringing them together for small round table meetings with policy makers;
- making representations to government; and
- linking with wider NCVYS and NCVCCO campaigns.

For further information about the Speaking Out project or any of the issues raised in this briefing contact Sophie Wainwright, Policy and Information Officer at [sophie@ncvcco.org](mailto:sophie@ncvcco.org) or 020 7833 3319.



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# 1. Introduction

Migrant workers have been the subject of increasing media interest and public concern in recent years; however migration to the UK, particularly to rural areas, is far from new. Irish migrants for example travelled to England throughout the eighteenth century to carry out seasonal work at harvest time. The pattern of migration to the UK has undoubtedly changed in the last few years with increased visibility of migrant workers in rural areas and towns, leaving policy makers both unprepared and unaware of their needs, particularly those migrants arriving with children.

Migrants and their families living and working in rural areas of the UK have brought with them a range of opportunities and challenges for local authorities, central government, such as the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), and the voluntary and community sector and other organisations providing frontline services to communities. This briefing explores some of the key issues facing migrant children, families and young people in rural areas, including language barriers and access to housing, education, transport and childcare provision. The briefing also addresses issues facing young people from the host community in rural areas, such as community cohesion and potential tension over resources and employment opportunities.

Although this briefing focuses specifically on rural migrants, some of the issues mentioned also affect migrants living in urban areas. Whilst a wide range of migrants from varying countries and backgrounds are living in the UK, this briefing focuses on migrants from eight of the accession (A8) countries that joined the European Union in May 2004<sup>1</sup>, who form the majority of migrants in rural areas.

This briefing paper will examine:

- the policy context for rural migrant children, families and young people;
- the legal context;
- relevant findings from research and practice;
- possible implications for voluntary and community sector children and youth organisations; and
- useful resources in relation to this issue.

## Definitions

There is no universally agreed definition of a migrant worker, with different agencies, authorities and government departments all using a variety of definitions. A commonly accepted definition however, is someone who arrives in a host country

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<sup>1</sup> A8 refers to Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Hungary and the Czech Republic. Although Cyprus and Malta also joined the EU in 2004, they are not considered part of the A8 because as members of the Commonwealth, their nationals had less restrictive rights of entry to the UK before they joined the EU.

to do a particular job or with the intention of finding paid employment. The term 'migrant' can also include asylum seekers and refugees. It should be noted that although asylum seekers can be categorised as migrants, unlike refugees, they are not legally entitled to work whilst the Home Office is reviewing their case. Definitions of migrants are explored in more detail in Appendix 1.

### Statistics

Estimating the number of migrants living and working in rural areas is problematic and figures vary considerably depending on what definition of migrant is used. One of the main sources of statistical data on the number of migrants in the UK is the Workers Registration Scheme (WRS)<sup>2</sup>. The most recent WRS data from May 2004 to December 2007<sup>3</sup> indicates that the vast majority of migrant workers are young people themselves: 43% are aged between 18 and 24. 93% of migrants stated that they had no dependants living with them in the UK when they registered and 6% had dependants under the age of 17, which equates to 47,300 children arriving in the UK since May 2004. WRS data also provides figures on the number of A8 migrants applying for Child Benefit: 137,000 applications were made, 65% of which were approved. Available statistics are explored in more detail in Appendix 2.

### Nature of migration

Migration to rural areas of the UK is distinct in several ways. Firstly, the recent increase in the number of migrants arriving in rural areas has been comparatively greater than the number of migrants moving into urban areas. This number has continued to rise rapidly in rural areas, although there are early indications that this growth is now beginning to slow down, as a significant number<sup>4</sup> of migrants are reported to be leaving the UK because they miss home or want to be with friends and family<sup>5</sup>. Secondly, a seasonal pattern of migration exists in rural areas, with September being the peak month of arrivals. This may coincide with the fact that many migrants in rural areas are part of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS), which recruits labour for peak periods of agricultural work.

New migrants in rural areas are predominantly young, reflecting the type of schemes that offer temporary work permits to migrant workers. According to figures from the Inland Revenue migrant workers are equally mixed between male and female, with the numbers of migrants accompanied by children increasing. Furthermore, newly arrived migrants in rural areas are geographically concentrated in specific counties, for example Lincolnshire, Yorkshire and Herefordshire and tend to be employed in specific sectors – particularly manufacturing and agriculture.

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2 The WRS was introduced in 2004 to coincide with the expansion of the EU and allows the Home Office to monitor how many citizens from the A8 countries are entering the labour market, the type of work they are doing, and the impact this has on the UK economy.

3 **Border and Immigration Agency, Department for Work and Pensions, HM Revenue and Customs and Communities and Local Government** (2008) *Accession monitoring report May 2004 – December 2007 A8 countries*

4 The IPPR estimate that a total of around 1 million A8 migrant workers have arrived in the UK since 2004, but that around half of this number have already left the UK. **Institute of Public Policy Research** (2008) *Floodgates or turnstiles? Post-EU enlargement migration flows to (and from) the UK*

5 **Institute of Public Policy Research** (2008) *Floodgates or turnstiles? Post-EU enlargement migration flows to (and from) the UK*

## 2. Policy context

Migration policy over the last decade has largely focused on the need to manage and control the flow of people entering the UK on the one hand, whilst taking advantage of the increase in migration to bolster the economy through an expanded labour market on the other. Migration currently falls under the remit of the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) at the Home Office and recent policies such as the *Borders, Immigration and Identity Action Plan*<sup>6</sup> confirm the continued intention of the Government to strengthen the borders of the UK, reduce illegal working and decrease the number of false benefit claims by introducing a range of measures including fingerprinting and recording biometric data of foreign nationals.

One particular policy which can impact negatively on migrant families, children and young people is the Habitual Residence Test (HRT), which excludes migrant workers from A8 EU accession countries from claiming any type of benefit, apart from child benefit, until they have worked in the UK for one year. This may cause financial difficulties for migrant families struggling to cope with the higher cost of living in the UK.

Government policy relating specifically to migrant children, young people and families in rural areas is scarce. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) does not offer any specific policy agenda on rural migrants; however the Commission for Rural Communities and the Rural Advocate<sup>7</sup> have both looked at the impact of migrant workers on rural communities and produced several policy papers and reports<sup>8</sup>. The most recent report by the Rural Advocate highlights some of the key concerns facing rural communities in relation to increased migration such as local tensions fuelled by confusion surrounding the status and entitlements of different migrants and perceived strains on public services, adequate housing and employment opportunities.

In terms of child-centred government policy *The Children's Plan and Every Child Matters* make little direct reference to migrant children. *The Children's Plan* simply recognises that migrant children and unaccompanied asylum seeking children are more vulnerable to harm than others, whilst *Every Child Matters* identifies the need to provide more comprehensive and consistent support for unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Issues affecting children in rural areas are however identified within the *Every Child Matters* framework, such as a lack of affordable transport and housing in rural areas, young people having to leave rural areas to follow a specific course or training opportunity, and relying too much on IT and web based solutions which can increase social exclusion.

6 **Home Office** (2006) *Borders, Immigration and Identity Action Plan* <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/borders-action-plan.pdf?view=Binary>

7 The Rural Advocate is a non-political appointment made by the Prime Minister and is currently held by Dr Stuart Burgess. The Rural Advocate is responsible for putting forward the case for rural people to central government and ensuring that rural people's needs are properly understood.

8 See: **Commission for Rural Communities** (January 2007) *CRC Briefing paper: Migrant Workers in Rural Areas* and **Burgess, S.** (February 2008) *Report of the Rural Advocate 2007, Commission for Rural Communities*

Policy programmes proposed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), such as the extended schools programme and the play strategy<sup>9</sup> do not contain any specific reference to either children living in rural areas or migrant children. However, the implementation of these national policies at local level may go some way in offering migrant children and young people in rural areas improved services and environments. The *myplace*<sup>10</sup> programme recently announced by the DCSF, for example, creates an opportunity for rural areas to improve places for more children and young people to go in their leisure time to participate in positive activities that support their personal and social development and have access to information and advice from places they feel comfortable. Although no direct reference is made to rural migrant children, the *myplace* scheme is intended to transform places for the most disadvantaged children and young people in all areas of the country. It remains to be seen how much of the £190m allocated investment will trickle down to disadvantaged children and young people in rural communities.

### 3. Legal context

A proliferation of immigration legislation has been added to the statute books since the early 1990s largely in response to a continued increase in the number and type of foreign nationals entering the United Kingdom. Since the *Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act* in 1993 six further immigration laws have been introduced,<sup>11</sup> culminating in the most recent *UK Borders Act* which received Royal Assent in October 2007. Each piece of legislation has brought with it a further range of measures to control and monitor the inward flow of migration, for example the most recent Act will introduce identity cards for all foreign nationals living in the UK, including those from the European Union.

The Home Office recognises that the present immigration legal framework is over complex and can reduce the efficiency of decision-making processes, often resulting in delays and mistakes. Current immigration law makes it difficult for both migrants to understand how they can stay in the UK legitimately and for support staff at advice organisations to offer accurate immigration advice. In response to these legal complexities, the Home Office has established a *Simplification Project Team* whose mandate is to radically simplify the UK Border Agency's laws, including all primary immigration legislation, rules, regulations and guidance in order to create a more user-friendly and clearer decision-making process.

Legislation that directly affects migrant workers, especially those working in rural areas, is the *Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2004* and the resultant Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA). The GLA came into operation in April 2005 following the

9 Department for Children, Schools and Families (April 2008) *Fair Play: a consultation on the play strategy*

10 <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/youthmatters/aiminghigh/myplace>

11 These are the *Asylum and Immigration Act 1996*; the *Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*, the *Nationality Immigration and Asylum Act 2002*, the *Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004* and the *Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006*

death of 23 Chinese cockle pickers in February 2004 in Morecambe Bay. The authority is affiliated to Defra and is responsible for the introduction and operation of licensing arrangements for labour providers (commonly known as gangmasters) who supply labour to the agriculture, shellfish and food processing sectors. The legislation makes it a criminal offence for gangmasters to operate without a licence and is intended to reduce the exploitative work conditions that many migrant workers endure.

## 4. Findings from research and practice

### Service provision

The seasonal and transient trend of migrants coming to work in rural areas can make planning public services a difficult task for local authorities and other providers, including voluntary and community organisations. Rural areas have relatively little history of migration, therefore public services providers often have comparatively little direct experience of and capacity for responding to changes in service delivery.

Research by the Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR)<sup>12</sup> on the reception and integration of new migrant communities found that public authorities in rural areas were not well-informed about the scale and nature of new migration flows, which has led to a reactive response driven by pressures to meet demands of frontline services. Furthermore, the research identified that strains on resources are exacerbated because funding processes and structures used by government are often out of step with recent population changes. For example, in cases where funding for language support is calculated by ethnicity, rural areas with a high number of white non-English speaking residents have not benefited from extra funding. Interestingly, the IPPR research found that public authorities in rural areas did not report the problem of overstretched services as being one of new migrants per se, but more one of lack of experience in accommodating diversity within service provision.

Analysis by the National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations (NCVCCO)<sup>13</sup> of the issues for developing Children's Centres in rural areas highlighted that the needs of the children and families of migrant workers bring demands that rural centres are generally not currently well placed to meet.

### Schools

Teachers in rural schools may have very little knowledge of the educational backgrounds of migrant students and many rural migrant children will have a limited grasp of English, resulting in difficulties for teachers, pupils and support staff. IPPR<sup>14</sup>

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12 **Institute of Public Policy Research** (March 2007) *The reception and integration of new migrant communities*, IPPR: London

13 **National Council of Voluntary Childcare Organisations** (2006) *Developing Children's centres in rural areas*

14 **Institute of Public Policy Research** (March 2007) *The reception and integration of new migrant communities*, IPPR: London

suggests that additional resources and effective planning are needed in rural schools in order to respond effectively to an increase in the number of children from migrant families attending school.

According to findings from the IPPR research, many parents in rural communities also expressed reservations about the availability of school places and that the arrival of new migrant families had made it more difficult for local children to be offered places in desired schools. The IPPR research also found that local residents in rural areas were concerned that the language needs of migrant workers' children in local schools may lead to displacement of school resources to provide language lessons. Parents therefore felt that their children were being unduly disadvantaged. As a result, opportunities to promote integration and tolerance were thought of as being lost in some rural schools when children brought their parents' negative views about migration into the classroom.

### English language provision

The inability to communicate in English creates a huge barrier for migrant workers and can further add to their vulnerability in the workplace and local area. Knowledge of English is particularly important in rural areas where interpretation and translation facilities are less likely to be easily available. The provision and accessibility of English language classes for migrant workers is a major issue in rural areas: language courses are routinely not timed around shift work and few crèches or childcare facilities are provided for parents wishing to learn English. Research conducted by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation<sup>15</sup> found that migrants' experiences at work, including low pay and long working hours, can significantly impact on how much time they have freely available to attend English language classes. The research found that migrants working in agriculture were least likely to be taking language classes.

### Employment

Risk of exploitation in the workplace is high for migrant workers in rural areas and can have an adverse impact on their children, as well as young people who make up over 40% of the migrant population in the UK. Transient and unstable employment conditions can easily create problems for migrants, for example an irregular household income may give rise to increased child poverty for children in migrant families.

The Trades Union Congress<sup>16</sup> notes that the following types of exploitation are considered commonplace for migrants at work: receiving low wages; working excessive hours; working in dangerous conditions with inadequate health and safety provisions; being unfairly dismissed; receiving limited holiday and sickness entitlement; being overcharged for transport between homes and jobs; enduring

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15 **Joseph Rowntree Foundation** (May 2007) *The experiences of Central and East European migrants in the UK*

16 **Trades Union Congress** (2004) *Propping up rural and small town Britain: Migrant workers and the new Europe*

illegally high charges for accommodation and not receiving pay slips or contracts. Furthermore, employing migrant workers on less favourable terms and conditions compared to British counterparts can drive a wedge between workers and does little to foster a sense of integration and equality.

Migrant workers face numerous practical issues when embarking on employment in the UK, for example obtaining a national insurance number and knowing which foreign qualifications can be used within the UK and getting these recognised by employment agencies or employers. As the Rural Advocate<sup>17</sup> notes; there are a considerable number of rural migrants who are qualified professionals in their country of origin working in low-skilled positions whilst in the UK.

According to the Commission for Rural Communities<sup>18</sup> there is a dearth of information and research on the impact that rural migration has on local, comparatively unskilled early entry workers aged 16-19 years. However the most recent report by the Rural Advocate suggests that newly arrived migrants have taken up positions in both traditional seasonal rural jobs-such as fruit picking - and in low level jobs, such as hospitality - that that were previously undertaken by rural young people, which may partly account for the increased number of local young people leaving rural areas. In the past 20 years the proportion of local young people aged 15-24 in rural areas has fallen from 21% to 15%, which amounts to 400,000 fewer young people.<sup>19</sup> This figure does not factor in the number of migrant young people arriving in rural areas and reflects that migrants are routinely considered in terms of their immigration status over and above their age.

A recent report by the House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs<sup>20</sup> on the economic impact of immigration indicated that competition from migrants has had a negative impact on training and apprenticeships for young UK workers.

## Housing

Findings from research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation<sup>21</sup> on the housing pathways of new immigrants revealed that the restricted rights of migrants to welfare benefits means that migrant workers are overly reliant on the private rented sector for a place to live, often with their families. Privately rented accommodation available for migrant workers is largely unregulated and typically extremely overcrowded.

Employers in rural areas commonly provide accommodation for young migrants, for example in caravans or temporary accommodation on farms whilst a migrant is employed by them. Therefore homelessness can easily occur in cases where a migrant loses their job and accommodation simultaneously. Young migrant workers are also less likely to have support structures in place and may struggle to cope with the high cost of living in comparison to the countries they have left.

17 **Burgess, S.** (February 2008) *Report of the Rural Advocate 2007*, Commission for Rural Communities

18 **Commission for Rural Communities** (January 2007) *CRC Briefing Paper: Migrant Workers in Rural Areas*

19 **Burgess, S.** (February 2008) *Report of the Rural Advocate 2007*, Commission for Rural Communities

20 **House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs** (April 2008) *The economic impact of immigration*, Authority of the House of Lords: London

21 **Joseph Rowntree Foundation** (November 2007) *The housing pathways of new immigrants*

IPPR research<sup>22</sup> revealed that in some rural areas the arrival of new migrants is blamed for local young people not being able to get onto the housing market because they are not getting salaries that match the cost of housing. There are also concerns amongst local residents that family housing is being bought by gangmasters to house large numbers of migrant workers in overcrowded accommodation. This has resulted in increased hostility from local residents unhappy with both the changing face of their community and witnessing families being unable to remain in the area.

### Access to information

Research on the experiences of central and east European migrants in the UK<sup>23</sup> found that a lack of information on arrival left many migrants unaware of the conditions attached to their immigration status, how to access health care and where to acquire advice about employment rights. A lack of essential information for migrant families and young people in rural areas leads to isolation and confusion regarding how services operate in the UK and can increase tensions in the local community. For example, tensions over high number of migrants using Accident and Emergency services in rural hospitals may be reduced if migrant workers are given correct and clear information about how to register with a GP on arrival.

### Community cohesion

Hostility from local residents towards migrant workers can range from general misunderstanding to more severe distrust and dislike. IPPR research<sup>24</sup> on the integration of new migrants found that local residents in rural areas feared an increase in the number of migrants would result in a loss of English culture, with other cultural values being forcibly imposed on their communities. The research suggested that rural communities are less able to absorb cultural diversity than areas with more experience of immigration and this increases the likelihood of harassment and abuse. Furthermore, residents in rural areas are less likely to differentiate between different migrant groups, which may cause confusion over the different levels of rights and benefits that different categories of migrants are entitled to.

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22 **Institute of Public Policy Research** (March 2007) *The reception and integration of new migrant communities*, IPPR: London

23 **Joseph Rowntree Foundation** (May 2007) *The experiences of Central and East European migrants in the UK*

24 **Institute of Public Policy Research** (March 2007) *The reception and integration of new migrant communities*, IPPR: London

IPPR researchers recorded incidents of resentment targeted specifically at children of migrant workers. One participant reported:

**‘My kids were in the garden speaking in our language and our neighbour shouted to us “in England, we speak English”.’<sup>25</sup>**

The Rural Advocate<sup>26</sup> has found that media blurring and confusion between categories of migrants is particularly unhelpful and can lead to significant misunderstandings within local communities regarding the rights and legal status of non-UK nationals in their local areas.

The Commission for Rural Communities<sup>27</sup> asserts that a lack of direct contact and communication with migrant workers is believed to be the cause of intergenerational tensions in rural areas; older residents are increasingly faced with an influx of younger migrants with no real opportunities provided for dialogue and engagement between the two parties. This is coupled with the increased outward migration of local young people from host communities in rural areas.

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25 Ibid, p.16

26 **Burgess, S.** (February 2008) *Report of the Rural Advocate 2007*, Commission for Rural Communities

27 **Commission for Rural Communities** (January 2007) *CRC Briefing paper: Migrant Workers in Rural Areas*

## 5. Possible implications for Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) children and youth organisations

Voluntary and community sector (VCS) children and youth organisations play a key role in supporting and strengthening communities in rural areas. Their role is especially important given the rising complexity and diverse impact of migration on local communities although this brings both opportunities and challenges.

VCS organisations are experienced and well placed to meet the needs of potentially disadvantaged and vulnerable people, including migrant workers in rural areas. The sector has the potential to provide a safe place and a gateway for migrant families and young people seeking advice and information, particularly because the immigration status of migrants is not routinely questioned by voluntary organisations and is not a condition for receiving support. Children and youth VCS organisations are therefore in a strong position to explore how they engage with migrant parents and evaluate the extent to which services can be improved and tailored to meet the needs of the children of rural migrants, in line with the Government's 'think family'<sup>28</sup> agenda, which aims to ensure adult services support whole families not just individuals. Equally the VCS needs to ensure that it is inclusive of young migrants as well, even though they may not typically be thought of as part of the remit.

As the Rural Advocate<sup>29</sup> observes, the VCS can conceal a lack of statutory provision in rural areas, which may create additional pressures on voluntary organisations in areas experiencing rapid inward migration. Appropriate and adequate statutory provision is required in order to alleviate organisational pressures and allow the VCS to both challenge and work in partnership with local authorities to meet the needs of migrant children, families and young people. VCS organisations can, for example, play an important role in helping local authorities to challenge any misinformation surrounding migrants in rural communities, provided that they are properly informed themselves.

VCS children and youth organisations can deliver appropriate services to migrants, for example employment training and ESOL classes, often through migrant community organisations or larger voluntary organisations. However these services are often underfunded and are not consistently available in all rural areas.

Children and young people's VCS organisations and local authorities need to recognise that participation may be minimal when organising events for young migrants. Many young migrants reside in rural areas on a temporary basis and are

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28 **Cabinet Office Social Exclusion Task Force** (June 2007) *Reaching Out: Think Family, Analysis and themes from the Families at Risk Review*

29 **Burgess, S.** (February 2008) *Report of the Rural Advocate 2007*, Commission for Rural Communities

primarily concerned with financially supporting their families rather than attending events to help them integrate into local communities. However, VCS organisations need to be careful not to exclude migrant young people and to initiate more inclusive practices to engage young migrants based on their needs. VCS organisations that currently only offer advice to a particular client base may also need to consider the extent to which their service users reflect the local community and expand service provision to include new migrants. There is a danger that young migrants are seen primarily as migrants first and not as young people, thereby receiving little consideration within existing service provision.

In relation to employing migrants, child protection issues have emerged for VCS organisations due to the difficulty of accessing the suitability of a potential employee or volunteer to work with children when they have only recently arrived in the UK. At present the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) is unable to access overseas criminal records, which makes a CRB check of any migrant incomplete. This barrier exists for many VCS organisations when determining how and whether to employ migrant workers with limited Criminal Records Bureau checks and is likely to remain a difficulty despite the advent of the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

Ultimately the children and youth VCS is well placed to look ahead and plan for implications and changes in future patterns of migrant working; to share information and examples of good practice amongst organisations and other services working with migrants; and to engage in partnership work to provide tailored advice for rural migrant children, families and young people. The sector can also play a vital role in cultivating a sense of belonging and participation amongst all the children, families and young people living in rural communities.

## 6. Resources

In addition to the material referenced in this briefing, the following online resources are useful for those wishing to know more about migrant workers in the UK:

The **Commission for Rural Communities** has a useful webpage relating to migrant workers in rural areas:

<http://www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/themes/~migrant-workers>

The **Audit Commission** offers a range of resources and information on migrant workers. The Commission's report *Crossing Borders* looks at the impact that the increase in migration for work has had in different parts of England. The website expands on the information in the report, with particular focus on data issues and on engaging with migrant workers themselves:

<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/migrantworkers>

The **Improvement and Development Agency** website hosts a migration programme on sharing good practice. The programme aims to identify existing migration status and build sector expertise and capacity in local government and associated sectors:

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=5961509>

The **Home Office** publishes quarterly statistics on migrant workers from the eight accession countries that joined the European Union in 2004:

[http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/accession\\_monitoring\\_report](http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report)

The **Joseph Rowntree Foundation** has published a practical guide to commissioning migrant and refugee community organisations (MRCOs) to deliver public services. This guide reviews the commissioning process, why it should include bodies like MRCOs, what MRCOs are and what they can offer to commissioners of public services:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2166-migrant-service-provision.pdf>

The **Institute of Public Policy Research** (IPPR) have published extensively on the issues of migration and integration:

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/research/themes/?id=3093>

## 7. Appendices

### Appendix 1 – Definitions

A wide range of migrants are working in the UK including:

- **European Economic Area (EEA) nationals:** These are nationals from any of the 27 EU member states, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein. This category of migrant does not require a work permit, is entitled to public funds and has full residency rights. From the 1 May 2009 all EEA nationals will be able to live and work freely between all EU member states.
- **Work-permit holders from non-EEA countries:** There are a number of different schemes available for non-EEA nationals which are run by Work Permits (UK) at the Home Office.
- **A sector based scheme for non-EEA nationals to fill low-skilled vacancies:** These migrants are aged 18-30, are permitted to work for one year and are not entitled to bring dependants with them.
- **Highly skilled migrants programme:** This scheme enables highly skilled migrants to live in the UK and seek employment. Applicants do not need a specific job offer to apply, with successful applicants being granted permission to stay in the UK for a year to seek employment. After a year, migrants can apply to stay further provided they are in employment.
- **The Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS):** This quota scheme provides agricultural and horticultural businesses with additional labour during peak periods, whilst enabling overseas students to experience life in a foreign country, earn money, and learn about agriculture. The scheme is available to non-EEA nationals, as well as nationals from Romania and Bulgaria, who are full-time students, aged 18-25. During 2008 the Home Office has allocated six-month visas to 16,250 students. Traditionally students came from countries that became part of the EU in 2004. To account for this change in legislation, a Seasonal Workers Programme (SWP) was set up in 2004 to enable eligible applicants from the A8 countries to work in the UK. This particular programme is not restricted to students, and migrants can work longer than six months.
- **Illegal and undocumented migrant workers:** These can be migrants who have a visa that does not allow them to work, an asylum seeker or failed asylum seeker or someone who has breached an entry condition to the UK and arrived illegally.
- **Refugees:** an asylum seeker who gains refugee status is then eligible to work in the UK and can therefore be classed as a migrant worker.

Other groups that can be categorised as migrant workers include overseas students who are eligible to work part-time; Commonwealth working holidaymakers aged 17-30 who can work in the UK for two years; nationals from Switzerland and British Overseas Territories; and nationals of other countries who require a work permit which is obtained by UK employers that are unable to find a suitable UK national to fill a particular position.

In theory all of the above categories of migrants may work in rural areas of England, however in practice the most common groups of rural migrants consist of those under the SAWS and SWP schemes; EEA nationals from the A8 countries and illegal/undocumented migrant workers.

## Appendix 2 - Statistics

### **Workers Registration Scheme (WRS)**

Under the WRS, 120,000 rurally based migrant workers (23% of the total WRS) registered between May 2004 and September 2006. The WRS is not obligatory for A8 workers who intend to work in the UK for less than a month or who are self-employed. Furthermore, the WRS data only records the self-reported inward flow of migrants and does not register the number of migrants leaving the UK. As a result, it is estimated that fewer than half the total number registered may be residing in the UK at any one time.

### **Other sources**

Other statistical sources on migrants in the UK include the Labour Force Survey, National Insurance number registrations and Census data from 2001, although this is fairly out of date and does not account for the more recent EU expansion. It is worth noting that none of the above statistical data sources account for the number of illegally working migrants in the UK.

According to the latest report by the Rural Advocate Dr Stuart Burgess, rural areas have experienced a 200% growth in the number of migrant workers since 2004. This is over three times the growth rate of migrant workers in urban areas. In particular, several rural districts including Lincolnshire and the Wash, have seen a 500% increase in the number of non-UK migrant workers in this time period, with Herefordshire experiencing a 933% increase.<sup>30</sup>

Statistical data on migrants will become more accurate in 2009 as the Border and Immigration Agency (part of the Home Office) will introduce a new exit monitoring system recording the number of migrants leaving the UK.

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30 Commission for Rural Communities (2007) *The state of the countryside 2007*, CRC, Cheltenham

## 8. Other briefings

- Briefing 1** Knife, gun and gang crime
- Briefing 2** The Government's Social Exclusion Agenda
- Briefing 3** Access to Services in Rural Areas
- Briefing 4** Public Service Delivery
- Briefing 5** Community Cohesion
- Briefing 6** Local Government Reform
- Briefing 7** Placeshaping
- Briefing 8** The Comprehensive Spending Review
- Briefing 9** Rural migrant children, families and young people
- Briefing 10** Gang, Gun and Knife Crime: Seeking Solutions (Part 2)

All the briefings are available at [www.ncvcco.org](http://www.ncvcco.org) or [www.ncvys.org.uk](http://www.ncvys.org.uk)