
DONCASTER

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE

Recent population changes

After years of depression and stagnation, Doncaster has been improving its performance. Employment increased by 10% between 2000 and 2004, making the transition to a more competitive economy with the industrial structure shifting from manufacturing to the service sector. According to the 2001 Census the total population was 286,866, the non UK born population was 8,206 (2.86%) and the non 'white British' 10,038 (3.49%).

Doncaster has a newly opened international airport (Robin Hood Airport), and its town centre has recently benefited from the opening of a major new, regionally significant retail centre. Changes in the local economy together with a good transportation network, have attracted many migrants in the last five years. The total registrations for national insurance numbers from non British residents have grown dramatically from 830 in 2002/03 to 2,670 in 2005/06. In 2005/06 the top three countries of national insurance number registrations were Poland, Slovak Republic and Lithuania. Doncaster also has the second highest refugee population within the sub region. In 2004, this was estimated to be 1,860. The predominant groups of dispersed asylum seekers are from Turkey, Iraq and Pakistan. Current changes in migration patterns have yet to be reflected in council structures or services: non-English speakers are directed to the Asylum Seeker Support Team.

According to some key informants the impact on the existing community of new arrivals has created misunderstandings and antagonism. EU migrants move there because it is the most affordable area close to key transport connections. However, the low wage levels have forced them to concentrate in wards which are among the most deprived in the city.

Some local people perceive positive impacts of the presence of new migrants and refugees on the housing market, citing their contribution to increased property prices and neighbourhood popularity. Migrant workers have brought empty private properties back to use without the need for local authority resources and intervention. There are residents who positively want new migrants to remain.

Statistics

Total population: 2001(Census): 286,866; 2005 (Pop. Survey): 289.600

Non UK born (2001)

Total: 8,206 (2.86%)

Top ten countries:

Germany 1,322

Ireland	1,182	
India	750	
Pakistan	620	
Hong Kong	283	
Jamaica	258	
Poland	236	
South Africa	198	
Non EU Countries in Western Europe	193	
Cyprus	186	Source: Census 2001

Non 'white British' population: 2001 (Census): 10,038 (3.49%)

Registration for NINOs (national insurance numbers) from non British residents

2002/03	#	2005/06	#
Total:	830	Total:	2,670
Top ten countries:		Top ten countries:	
Iraq	270	Poland	1,520
India	60	Slovak Rep	190
Afghanistan	60	Rep of Latvia	140
Zimbabwe	60	Rep of Lithuania	80
Pakistan	30	Iraq	60
Australia	20	India	50
South Africa	20	Iran	50
Germany	20	Czech Rep	50
Turkey	20	Rep of Belarus	40
China Peoples Rep	20	Pakistan	30

Number of refugee status granted in 2005: 52 (Source: Home Office)

Asylum seekers receiving NASS support (June 2006)

Dispersals	#	Subsistence only	#
Total:	515	Total:	30
Top 10 countries:		Top countries	
Turkey	115	Iran	5
Pakistan	105	Iraq	5
Iran	60	Nigeria	5
Zimbabwe	45	Pakistan	5
Afghanistan	20	Turkey	5
China (P.R.)	20	Iran	5
Sudan	20		
Guinea	10		
India	10		
Iraq	10		

Top ten industries of employment

April 2001	#	%
G. Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	23,069	19.5
D. Manufacturing	19,479	16.5
N. Health and social work	13,841	11.7
F. Construction	10,686	9.0
K. Real estate, renting and business activities	9,822	8.3
I. Transport, storage and communications	9,332	7.9
M. Education	8,562	7.2

L. Public administration and defence, social security	6,970	5.9
H. Hotels and restaurants	5,404	4.6
O. Other community, social and personal service activities	4,630	3.9

Source: National Statistics 2001

Labour market

According to the Learning and Skills Council, "total employment is forecast to grow by 2,070. Key growth sectors will be Health, Wholesaling, Transport, Personal Services, Business Services and Education. Areas of employment decline are Energy and Utilities, Metal Related Manufacture and Public Administration. The majority of the employment growth will be in part-time employment, but there will also be a significant increase in the self-employed. Full-time employment will decline marginally. Occupations that will increase in demand are Managers and Corporate Administrators, Clerical and Administrative Staff, Health Staff, Transport Drivers, Caring and Sales Staff. Areas of occupational decline will be Skilled Manual Trades and Process Operators."

All informants agreed that the number of migrant workers will increase, especially those from the Baltic states, but there is concern about the availability of services for the new arrivals. According to the Confederation of British Industry Yorkshire "government has to be responsible for managing immigration, not employers. Migration brings skills to Britain and helps the economy. Immigrants do jobs that people here do not want to do and keep inflation down. But we have to be careful that we manage that flow. The scale of recent migration from eastern Europe took everyone by surprise." Both migrant workers and refugees are most likely to face discrimination in the labour market.

Local activities and developments

The council and local community have set up a number of initiatives and redirected their existing activities to promote successful communication between new arrivals and local residents and improve access to services by new arrivals. Some examples are:

- **Doncaster Service Centre** was set up in summer 2001 by the Doncaster Asylum Team in partnership with other local service providers and has become a springboard for the development of local refugee community organisations. It has supported the establishment of a Turkish-speaking Committee, a Turkish/Kurdish-speaking Committee, a Kosovan Committee, an Albanian and an Iranian Committee.
- The **Advice Information Multicultural Service (A.I.M.S.)** in Doncaster is a partnership between Doncaster College, The Department for Work and Pensions, Northern Refugee Centre and Doncaster Council. It provides information and guidance to asylum seekers and refugees in relation to education and employment.
- **Community Empowerment Network (CEN)** set up, as in other local authority areas, to enable the voluntary and community sector to influence the decision making process through representation on Doncaster Strategic Partnership and other key strategic partnerships, in order that the view(s) of the sector are highlighted and acted upon. This should bring together a range of organisations from large 'professional' voluntary agencies to the smallest community or

residents group. They are responsible for getting information about Local Strategic Partnerships out to all sections of the community and for providing ways in which people most affected by poor service delivery can get realistically involved in discussing and planning how the services should be changed.

- **South Yorkshire Network for New Migrants (SYNNM)** brings together all projects and organisations that work with and provide services to refugees, asylum seekers and economic migrants in South Yorkshire. The network was established in 2005 as the South Yorkshire Refugee Network, and after consultation with the membership, they changed their name in 2006 to reflect their work better. SYNNM is a sub regional network of the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Refugee Network and aims to:
 - o Act as a means of exchanging experience, support and good practice and seek practical solutions to local problems;
 - o Collate and disseminate information about services for the client group from around the region;
 - o Promote positive case studies regarding the client group;
 - o Highlight attention to key issues and gaps in service provision which need to be addressed at strategic level by statutory organisations – locally, regionally or nationally. SYNNM will set up specific task groups to address the issues raised;
 - o Identify possible sources of funding which can be accessed by members of the network, either jointly or individually, and support the bidding process.
- **Refugees Extending Awareness through Communication and Training (REACT)** promotes positive images of refugees and asylum seekers and raises awareness of issues they face. It is managed by the Northern Refugee Centre and offers free training and awareness sessions to organisations such as schools, statutory and voluntary sector service providers, employers and community groups
- **Refugee Employment Project**, managed by the Northern Refugee Centre, aims to facilitate refugee integration through developing better pathways to appropriate employment for refugees in the Yorkshire and the Humber region. This project relates closely to the aims of the Regional Refugee Integration Strategy.

However, some informants emphasized the major limitations faced by many service providers

- Lack of financial support for the majority of voluntary organisations, affecting both the current activities and the planning or extension of new ones;
- Lack of projects for migrant workers, absence of migrant communities both in the service provision and in the strategic partnership; whilst the refugee communities are very well represented;
- Lack of information about how to access services.

Local Network

In the past five years, great effort has been spent to create a local network connecting statutory bodies and voluntary sectors, using the national templates provided by “compact” and the Community Empowerment Network. **Compact** is a “written understanding” drawn up jointly between local public bodies, voluntary and community sector organisations, social enterprises and businesses that is designed to provide a framework for defining, enhancing and developing good and productive relationships between the different sectors in Doncaster. Doncaster Compact was published and launched in November 2005.

It has been written to complement and enhance other existing partnership arrangements between partner organisations, such as the agreements between the Community Empowerment Network and Doncaster Strategic Partnership. Similar aims are shared by the council White paper (2003) for BME communities that reaffirms the commitment to equality of opportunity in Doncaster.

However, when contacting different organisations, the actual scenario appeared much less proactive. There is a very low degree of interaction between the different agencies working with migrants and all council departments and the majority of voluntary organisations contacted seem to rely mainly on the support of the Asylum Team of Doncaster Council. The council appears unaware of the changes happening in the area or to understand the different realities experienced by migrants in Doncaster. Migrants, refugees and anyone not speaking English are all directed, by council staff, to the asylum team if they seek help or information. Apparently, there is nobody in the Council working specifically and exclusively on migrant workers.

Needs, gaps and priorities

Advice

- Lack of immigration specialists to support failed asylum seekers to appeal against the decision;
- Majority of private landlords do not want to deal with both migrants and refugees;
- Many housing providers seem not to be interested in getting involved with refugees or new migrants. They are not obliged to do it and they do not do it;

English Language Courses

- Provision for ESOL has increased in recent years, though barriers to access remain. Most provision is organised around a term timetable. This means there are significant periods of the year when clients cannot gain access to classes.
- Cuts in funding for ESOL classes will make the use of the service more difficult;

Employment and Advice

- Difficult to get a degree recognised via NARIC (National Academic Recognition Centres).

Health

- There is no coordination for helping new arrivals. It is hard to get people registered, especially for mental health problems;
- Lack of interpreting and translation services.

Documents

- **Doncaster Compact, 2005**
(http://www.thecomcompact.org.uk/module_images/Doncaster%20Compact%202005.doc)
- Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council,(2003) **Towards a Better Understanding The BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) White Paper**
(http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/mayor/Images/bme_whitepaper_tcm6-20014.pdf)

- EKOS Consulting (UK) Limited, (2006), **Doncaster: Emerging Policy Priority Areas** (http://www.yorkshire-forward.com/asset_store/document/roth_profile_9th_jan_164028.pdf)

- Pip Tyler, Khan Nahida (July 2006), **Funding for Refugee and Asylum Related Projects: Availability & Access**

- Yorkshire and Humberside Consortium for Asylum Seekers and Refugees, **Regional Integration Strategy 2003-2006**, (http://www.yhassembly.gov.uk/p_contentDocs/308_2.pdf)

- Yorkshire and Humberside Consortium for Asylum Seekers and Refugees, **Asylum Newsletter**, (<http://www.refugeeaccess.info/default.asp?step=4&pid=25>)

- Yorkshire Futures, **Newsletter** (<http://www.yorkshirefutures.com/cb.aspx?page=AD027763-B3B2-4AD5-AA53-E518BDA2B383>)