
LAMBETH

Greater London

Recent population changes

Lambeth is inner London's most populated borough and is expected to remain so for some time. The population is expected to grow over the next years. According to the Community Strategy, "The extraordinary diversity of Lambeth will have increased by 2015" (London Borough of Lambeth Race Equality Scheme May 2005 – 2008). According to most of the key informants, while the number of refugees and other migrants may be controlled and limited, more people will come from Eastern Europe with new needs and demands for new services. Lambeth's population is forecast to grow to 341,000 by 2021. The key informants, who mainly base their awareness on their working experience, argued that this is due to a number of diverse factors such as the presence of settled migrant networks, a dynamic informal economy, the presence of effective services and of NGOs with national and international reputations.

Approximately 150 languages are spoken in the Borough and after English, the main languages spoken are Yoruba (a language spoken in southwestern Nigeria and other African areas), and Portuguese. According to the 2001 Census the main national groups were Jamaicans (9,995), Nigerians (6,121), and the Irish (5,984).

The registration for NINOs (National Insurance Numbers) from non British residents in 2005/06 shows a dramatic growth of new arrivals between 2002 (6,930) and 2006 (10,460). Polish registrations increased by eight times over the same years from 250 to 1,920, Australians doubled from 560 to 1,120, and Portuguese almost doubled from 360 to 590. These data confirm that the migrant population in Lambeth is likely to grow in future. This will include new migrant workers from established and new European Union countries and countries outside Europe.

In 2001 there were an estimated 8,000 to 12,000 refugees in Lambeth. In 2006, the main nationalities receiving NASS subsistence were Somali (80) and Jamaican (25). Long-term settled communities seem to be main factor in attracting new asylum seekers and refugees. There were 1,207 refugee children identified in Lambeth LEA schools in 2003. This figure doubled between 1998 and 2001 and then fell in 2003. Lambeth was also an area of significant settlement of refugees from Latin America in the 1970s and 80s.

Statistics

Total population: 2001 (Census): 266,169; 2005 (Pop. Survey): 269,100

Non UK born (2001):

Total: 83,194 (31.25%)

Top ten countries:

Jamaica	9,995
Nigeria	6,121
Ireland	5,984
Ghana	4,421
Portugal	3,915

India	2,307	
Australia	2,171	
Italy	2,154	
France	2,008	
Germany	1,720	Source: Census 2001

Non 'white British' population: 2001 (Census): 134,230 (50.43%)

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

2002/03	#	2005/06	#
Total:	6,930	Total:	10,460
Top ten countries:		Top ten countries:	
Australia	560	Poland	1,920
Jamaica	540	Australia	1,120
France	360	Portugal	590
Portugal	360	France	510
Italy	310	Italy	380
Ghana	280	Nigeria	350
Spain	260	New Zealand	320
New Zealand	250	Spain	300
Poland	250	Ghana	280
South Africa	240	Brazil	280

Number of refugee status granted in 2005: 212 (Source: Home Office)

Asylum seekers receiving NASS support (June 2006)

Dispersals	#	Subsistence only	#
Total:	75	Total:	320
Top 10 countries:		Top 10 countries	
Iran	10	Somalia	80
Nigeria	10	Jamaica	25
Congo	5	Ecuador	20
Algeria	5	Eritrea	20
Eritrea	5	Congo Dem. Rep.	20
Sri Lanka	5	Angola	10
Somalia	5	Ivory	10
Turkey	5	Congo	10
Uganda	5	Ethiopia	10
Congo Dem. Rep.	5	Iran	10

Top ten industries of employment

April 2001	#	%
K. Real estate, renting and business activities	32,058	24.5
G. Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	14,664	11.2
N. Health and social work	14,563	11.1
O. Other community, social and personal service activities	13,611	10.4
M. Education	9,570	7.3
J. Financial intermediation	8,665	6.6
D. Manufacturing	8,644	6.6
I. Transport, storage and communications	8,398	6.4
L. Public administration and defence, social security	7,789	6.0
H. Hotels and restaurants	7,391	5.7

Source: National Statistics 2001

Local employment and industry

The borough contains extremes of prosperity and deprivation. The north of the borough is its commercial, tourist and employment centre, home to the London Eye, and one of Britain's most important artistic sites. Lambeth is also a deprived area. It ranked 1st in London in the Index of Deprivation 2004 and the 23rd most deprived of the 354 English local authorities. According to the 2001 Census, Lambeth has a higher proportion of residents in fulltime employment (45.8%) than inner London as a whole (42.6%) and England and Wales (40.8%). However, it has a high unemployment rate of 9.8%, compared to 8.9% for inner London and 4.8% for England (Source: Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Summer 2003 – Spring 2004 figures).

Employment of new arrivals depends not only on qualification and skills but also language. The Polish are usually well qualified and look for well paid jobs in the construction sector. Others, mainly women, are working in the city as cleaners or in the catering sector. According to some key informants, Portuguese migrants do not seem to be highly educated; their English is often poor, and they look for cleaning or unskilled jobs. Refugees vary: some are well qualified others are not. Their expectations are very high. Chinese migrants have a shortage of skills in terms of IT and English so they can only work in catering or the manufacturing industry. Broadly speaking, all informants agreed that new arrivals' occupation depends mostly on their knowledge of English.

Local activities and developments

Services to new migrants. The migrant population grew between 2000 and 2005 and is expected to grow in the next few years. According to a key informant "The explanation of their [migrants] mobility and of Lambeth's attraction is multi-factorial. There is a big and sustainable informal economy in Lambeth, which provides undocumented migrants the opportunity to work quite easily. There are also a lot of services that are available, such as education and health that you can tap into. There are also NGOs that have access to solicitors and legal advice and services with an international reputation such as the Refugee Council".

Lambeth is thus a site of a number of organisations that provide a range of health, employment, education and training, and advice services to new migrants. Examples are:

- The Lambeth College: offers a Community Interpreters Training Course where "up to 50% of students may be refugees and asylum seekers".
- The Learning and Integration Unit of the Refugee Council's Training & Employment Section: it provides work-related training, vocational advice, ESOL, IT and job search training at locations throughout London.
- The Lambeth Young Refugee Development Project: it offers information on education, and education and study skills support.
- Lambeth, along with Southwark and Lewisham PCT services, hosts a Refugee Health and Clinical Team.

The Local Strategic Partnership. Plans for the future of the area are included in the "Lambeth Community Strategy 2004-2015" issued by Lambeth First, the Lambeth

Local Strategic Partnership, which brings together the Council, the Police, the Primary Care Trust, the community and voluntary sector, Lambeth College, local businesses, Jobcentre Plus, faith organisations, the Tenants' Council, housing associations and resident representatives of the five town centres in the borough. Reducing inequality by cutting unemployment, tackling crime, improving the environment, raising educational achievement, improving the quality and accessibility of housing and reducing ill-health are key aims for the partners in Lambeth First: "This long-term vision and action plan are designed to promote the social, economic and environmental sustainability of the borough and the well being of residents".

Good practice. According to some research, schools in Lambeth are generally considered an example of good practice and school achievement of pupils from ethnic minorities is higher in Lambeth than in other areas. Twelve Lambeth primary and secondary schools were used as case studies for the analysis. They stand out as effective in raising achievement of African heritage pupils, with the improvement rate between 2000 and 2005 faster than in other groups nationally:

- the KS2 performance in the case study schools improved from 74% to 82% - up 8%.
- 79% of African heritage pupils in the case study schools achieved 5+A*-C in GCSE in 2005 compared 48% nationally and 57% in Lambeth.
- there has been a substantial and impressive rise in GCSE performance of African heritage pupils in the case study schools from 57% to 79%, with an improvement rate of 23% compared to 7% nationally.
- black African pupils in Lambeth achieve better than White British pupils at national level.
- black African pupils in the case study schools achieve better than White British and Indian pupils at national levels.
- Ibo speaking pupils in Lambeth achieved better than other ethnic groups including Indian and White British at national level.
- Yoruba and Twi speaking pupils in Lambeth achieved better than White British pupils at national level.

According to Feyisa Demie, the author of the study, it is what he calls the "Lambeth factor": a community based education and curricula that have adapted to the cultural heritage and needs of local population. In more detail, there are a number of reasons why African heritage pupils are doing so much better. The research identified the following factors:

- strong leadership with emphasis on raising expectations for all pupils and teachers;
- the use of performance data for school self-evaluation and tracking pupils' performance;
- a commitment to creating a mesmerising curriculum where teachers use their creative intuition to deepen the quality of pupils' learning;
- a highly inclusive curriculum that meets the needs of Black Caribbean pupils;
- a strong link with the community and a clear commitment to parents' involvement;
- good and well coordinated support to Black Caribbean pupils through extensive use of learning mentors and role models;
- an inclusive curriculum and a strong commitment to equal opportunities with a clear stand on racism.

Needs, gaps and priorities

English

- Language is an issue particularly for adults.
- There are a large number of economic migrants and asylum seekers/refugees families who do not speak English at all.
- Language is an issue in terms of access to translators/interpreters particularly in relation to access to services and in the relationship between families and schools.
- Language is an issue also for Muslim women who are not particularly encouraged to attend English classes.

Job opportunities and skills

- The lack of English prevents many from improving their job and career opportunities
- It has been recognised that many new migrants have good skills but they have to be identified and may need validation or a requalification process.

Housing:

- A large number of immigrants have difficulty in finding houses;
- Shortage of council houses and a very long waiting list. In 2006, 3,600 out of 25,255 applications for council housings were authorised for rehousing and only 1,719 new tenancies were offered by the Lambeth Borough.
- Some people, particularly single people, might need to wait for ten years or even longer to have a council flat.
- Lambeth house prices are among those rising fastest in London. At the start of 2003 the average house price was £233,000 A report compiled by Halifax shows the average house price was £306,574 in 2006 (local newspaper report January 2007
http://www.yourlocalguardian.co.uk/mostpopular.var.1140560.mostviewed.house_prices_are_too_high_for_first_time_buyers.php)
- Homelessness is an issue for all ethnic groups but it is disproportionately so for BME households. In Lambeth over 70% of households who present as homeless are from BME groups but they only represent 38% of the borough's population.
- Many new migrants, particularly single people, live in houses in multiple occupation and unsuitable accommodation. According to several key informants this accommodation is of a much poorer standard and puts tenants at extreme risk.

Documents

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