
NOTTINGHAM

East Midlands

Recent population changes

According to the last Census, in 2001 Nottingham had a population of 266,988, which the Annual Population estimates show to have grown to about 278,700 in 2005. Almost 19% of the 2001 residents were non 'white British' and 9.9% non UK born, with the three largest groups of foreign born being Pakistani (3,870), Jamaican (3,293) and Indians (2,375). These three communities have developed since the 1950s and arrival of migrants from these countries has continued to date.

From 2000 the immigration scenario has changed significantly, with the arrival of asylum seekers, mainly from Kosovo and Afghanistan, but also from Congo and other francophone African countries, as well as from Somalia and Turkey. In the last 5 years, the refugee population has continued to diversify and in June 2006 there were 975 asylum seekers receiving NASS support (of which 100 Pakistani, 90 Turkish and 75 Eritrean) and 60 with NASS subsistence only (more than half being Zimbabwean and Somali). In the last few years, however, most new comers have been economic migrants, especially, after the EU enlargement, from Poland. From 2007 further arrivals from Bulgaria are anticipated.

According to some local service providers, a significant proportion of new migrants come to Nottingham for a limited period of time and then move to other areas of the UK or to other European countries. Others, particularly families, are settling in a more stable way, thus having higher impact in the reshaping of the local community and creating new challenges to service providers.

Many Polish families (as well as several Congolese) are sending their children to maintained Catholic schools which had no or little experience of multicultural and multi-language classes. Local Polish community organisations also provide training and classes both in English and Polish language. Some of these organisations were set up many years ago by the old Polish community which settled in the region during and after World War II. However, relations between old and new Polish communities – whose profiles and needs are certainly very different - have not yet been fully explored.

The dramatic change in the characteristics of new migration, and economic migration in particular, is exemplified by the figures on new National Insurance Number registrations from non British residents. In 2002/03 the top four groups were Pakistani, Iraqi, Indians and Zimbabweans (altogether representing one third of all new registration); in 2005/06 the number of new registrations is more than doubled: 4,530, of which more than 36% (4,530) are Polish workers.

Statistics

Total population: 2001 (Census): 266,988; 2005 (Pop. Survey): 278,700

Non UK born (2001)

Total: 26,499 (9.92%)

Top ten countries:

Pakistan	3,870
Jamaica	3,293
India	2,375
Ireland	2,292
Germany	1,245
Far East (2)	775
Poland	743
Caribbean and West Indies (3)	668
South and Eastern Africa (1)	622
Italy	608

Notes: (1) Other than Kenya, Somalia, South Africa, Zimbabwe; (2) Other than China, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore; (3) Other than Jamaica

Source: Census 2001

Non 'white British' population: 2001 (Census): 50,587 (18.94%)

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

2002/03	#
Total:	1,920

Top ten countries:

Pakistan	180
Iraq	180
India	140
Zimbabwe	130
Jamaica	90
Philippines	90
Afghanistan	80
Iran	80
China P.R.	70
France	50

2005/06	#
Total:	4,530

Top ten countries:

Poland	1660
India	280
Pakistan	220
China Peoples Rep	190
Slovak Rep	110
Nigeria	100
France	100
Malawi	90
South Africa	80
Zimbabwe	80

Number of refugee status granted in 2005: 158 (Source: Home Office)

Asylum seekers receiving NASS support (June 2006)

Dispersals	#
Total:	975

Top 10 countries:

Pakistan	100
Turkey	90
Eritrea	75
Iran	70
Zimbabwe	65
Somalia	60
Iraq	55
Congo D.R.	55
Congo	40
Afghanistan	35

Subsistence only	#
Total:	60

Top countries

Zimbabwe	20
Somalia	15
Afghanistan	5
Iran	5
Iraq	5
Sri Lanka	5
Malawi	5

Top ten industries of employment

April 2001	#	%
G. Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	18,551	18.2
D. Manufacturing	15,437	15.2
N. Health and social work	12,535	12.3
K. Real estate, renting and business activities	12,356	12.1
M. Education	8,607	8.5
H. Hotels and restaurants	6,577	6.5
F. Construction	6,468	6.4
I. Transport, storage and communications	6,216	6.1
O. Other community, social and personal service activities	5,151	5.1
L. Public administration and defence, social security	4,700	4.6

Source: National Statistics 2001

Labour market

According to the local council, the number of workplace jobs in Greater Nottingham is 288,000. Between 2001 and 2002, job numbers increased by 1.8%, more than three times the national increase. Growth has continued to be driven by the service sector - this now accounts for 82.6% of local jobs, compared to 80.7% in England. Almost 396,000 people of working age live in Greater Nottingham. Of these, 73.9% are economically active, i.e. are employed or actively seeking work. It has a prosperous, growing economy. Productivity exceeds the national average. Established sectors, such as business services and leisure, have expanded together with the emergence of new sectors including bioscience.

Local activities and developments

In 1999 Nottingham City Council responded to the new inflow of refugees setting up a specific unit to deal with asylum seekers and NASS support. In recent years a number of local networks and partnerships developed (e.g. Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum), but most stakeholders point out that much more should be done to link up different organisations and groups and to develop effective coordination in terms of strategic planning among different departments and institutions.

A first step in this direction is represented by the Multi Agency Forum (MAF) coordinated by the Housing Support Strategy team. The group meets on a regular basis with representatives of different Council departments and services, IND, housing providers, EMCARS, Refugee Action, Refugee Forum and other organisations. It is considered by some interviewees as an effective means to exchange information and good practice and to coordinate service delivery. The MAF is currently working on a 'Gap Plan Analysis', involving sub groups meeting to identify gaps in provision for asylum seekers and refugees and the discussion of possible actions.

More generally, most service providers appear to have a good grasp of the situation of the migrant population in their area and many of them keep a record of the number and characteristics of their users.

Particular efforts have been deployed in the area of Education, with the development of an 'Ethnic Minority Services' office within the Education Department. The EMS is structured into four different teams working on specific areas: English as a second

language; Black Achievement (mainly for the established afro-Caribbean community); Asylum Seeker and Refugees Education Support; Traveller and Gipsy family.

Some other interesting examples of projects to address the needs of recent arrivals (refugees and asylum seekers and in particular) and to promote integration and better knowledge of the local community are:

- Nottingham PCT has developed a series of ad-hoc services for asylum seekers and refugees, including a GP incentive team (to help migrants to access GPs) and medical practice in the city centre especially for “those struggling to access more conventional GP services as refugees, asylum seekers and people who were or had been homeless or rough sleepers”. As mentioned in the service’s website “Some agencies doubted that there was a significant unregistered population in the area – the practice now has 15,000 patients”.
- Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum provides several information services and has a destitution fund to help failed asylum seekers and destitute refugees (e.g. providing weekly food packages and some help with money, particularly to mothers with young children).
- “Time Together” is a national mentoring scheme, delivered locally in partnership with the Nottingham CVS, which has received a good response from the local communities. Mentors spent about 5 hours per month with their mentee, helping them “to feel more at home; this might mean helping to write a CV, visiting a museum or art gallery, practising English or explaining the peculiarities of the British humour”.
- “Volunteering for Asylum Seekers” was set up in January 2007 to find asylum seekers volunteering opportunities whilst supporting them. It aims to increase their motivation and to develop working skills, but at the same time to signpost them to services and learning opportunities.
- ‘The Long Journey Home’ group, part of an East Midlands wide network that works with exiled artists to challenge racism and support and develop artistic and cultural expression among new communities

Needs, gaps and priorities

Legal issues. Many problems experienced locally by asylum seekers are caused by the national legislation and are strictly linked to their legal status, the often long period of uncertainty before getting a response and the dramatic impact a negative decision may have. As reported by some interviewees, the Home Office changes of national policy have a constant impact at local level, which service providers then have to address. At local level, the lack of free legal services emerges as a major gap.

Integration. Though Nottingham is described as fairly welcoming community, “integration”, both socially and culturally, often emerges as one of the key priorities and further efforts to welcome and inform new arrivals are recommended.

Research within the Multi-Agency Forum shows a certain degree of isolation among refugee women in particular. Among other issues, childcare is very expensive and this can prevent mothers from participating in social activities and even from using public services.

Some, though limited, cases of racial assaults have been reported by the Race Equality Council. In this respect, Nottingham is depicted as a very different context from, for example, London, where it is easier to preserve one’s anonymity and to be ‘invisible’, without being stared at for being “different”.

Some interviewees recommended more emphasis and investment to enable new migrants and refugees to access mainstream social services, rather than setting up ad hoc services which can sometimes emphasise the sense of the detachment from the rest of the society and can represent a waste of resources with duplication of services.

Language. The lack of English is one of the main barriers to socio-economic inclusion. The waiting lists for ESOL classes are already very long and the proposed Government cancellation of free ESOL classes for asylum seekers was a cause of serious concern. Multi-language information services and information packs are seen as a possible instrument to partially overcome language barriers and to increase knowledge and access to services.

Destitution. The institutional lack of help to asylum seekers whose applications are rejected is often referred to as a cause of concern, not only for the asylum seekers themselves, but also for the wider community. Destitute asylum seekers very quickly 'disappear' from the legal system, without any track of them and without any chance to address their needs.

Mental Health. There is a lack of identification and treatment of mental health problems, particularly among refugees and asylum seekers, who often suffered from torture and other seriously distressing experiences. Because of psychological problems – often emphasized by long periods of uncertainty, waiting for a response to their asylum application – asylum seekers often do not or cannot provide detailed and reliable information about their personal histories and background, making it more difficult to address their needs.

Access to work. Even legal economic migrants experience problems in accessing the labour market because of language issues and lack of adequate housing. To deal with this kind of problem migrants tend to rely on friends or to get advice from "community leaders", who – according to some respondents – do not always signpost them to the right place or give the right advice.

Housing. This is a problematic area for asylum seekers and refugees in general, and particularly for refugees who have just got their status: they have to move from NASS services to mainstream housing and benefits very quickly and this can be disorienting. Some kind of 'transition package' has been suggested as a possible solution. Reportedly, sometimes refugees do not want to move to the house they are given because they do not want to leave the area where the rest of their community is or do not want to live in areas which are 'unwelcoming' towards refugees. On the other hand, economic migrants from A8 are looking mainly for private rented housing, rather than social housing.

Schools. Migrant families often find it very difficult to find a school for their children in the area where they found (or have been given) accommodation. This is even more difficult for families with more than one child, often ending up with children in different schools.

Documents

- City of Nottingham, **Directory of African Caribbean, Asian, Black and Ethnic Minority Community Organisations**, 2006 (www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ac_directory.pdf)

- Steele, A. (2004), **Communities in Focus. A study of the housing and related needs of the Black and Minority Ethnic communities in South Nottinghamshire**, Housing Corporation, University of Salford, South Notts BME Housing Needs Study. (www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ashh_housing_bmefinalrep-2.pdf)
- City of Nottingham, Education Department, **Asylum Seekers & Refugee Support Strategy** (www.nottinghamschools.co.uk/eduweb/schools/schools-template.aspx?id=1226)
- **Ethnic Minority Services Annual Report 2005/06**, Part 1,2,3, EMS - Ethnic Minority Services, Nottingham City Children's Services (www.nottinghamschools.co.uk/eduweb/schools/schools-template.aspx?id=1226)
- City of Nottingham City Development **Greater Nottingham Labour Market Report 2004**
http://capture.enl.lon.world.net/upload/ENL_GB_177_Greater_Nottingham_Labour_Market_Report_2004.pdf