
PETERBOROUGH

EAST OF ENGLAND

Recent population changes

Peterborough has a history of receiving flows of migration, from Ireland and Italy, and to a lesser degree from Poland, Lithuania, and the Ukraine. Further arrivals came from the West Indies in the 1950s, Pakistan and India from the 1960s, and Ugandan Asians and Vietnamese boat refugees in the 1970s. According to the 2001 census the total population was 156,061, the non UK born population was 15,252 (9.77%), and the non 'white British' 22,310 (14.30%). The top three countries of birth of non-UK population in 2001 were Pakistan, India, and Ireland.

After being designated an asylum dispersal area in 2001, Peterborough was allocated an estimated 78 per cent of all asylum-seekers dispersed to the East of England region, who came from Kurdish Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo and other African countries. European enlargement in May 2004 saw a new influx of migrant workers. The total registrations for national insurance numbers from non British residents have grown dramatically from 1,830 in 2002/03 to 5,080 in 2005/06. In 2005/06 the top three countries of national insurance number registrations were Poland, Republic of Lithuania and the Slovak Republic.

These changes are also reflected in the users of some services. As the manager of a Peterborough women's centre said "When I started working here (2000) we had predominantly Asian women coming to the Centre. We have now seen a change. We have had now more European migrants and also women coming from Afghanistan and Iraq".

According to some key informants the impact on the existing community of an estimated 8,000 new arrivals, many with limited English, and pressure on public services and housing provision have created misunderstandings and antagonism. Conflicts have taken place in some central wards where established migrant communities (Pakistani and Muslim) live and are now inhabited by new migrants. EU migrants move there because it is the most affordable area and they have friends and other links. New arrivals often live in houses in multiple occupation, which are used as "dormitories". According to a key informant working for the Community Cohesion team this is another cause of conflicts and resentment between local residents and new migrants. Other minor conflicts have involved Kurdish asylum seekers and refugees and local residents.

Over the coming years, the population of the city is expected to continue to grow to 181,800 by 2016 (Audit Commission Inspection Report April 2004). There will be an increased number of Asylum Seekers due to continuing dispersal. The number of economic migrants will also increase. More people are bringing their families; others are leaving the area. Romanian and Bulgarian migrants will probably become permanent residents. All informants agree that the general trend is upward. In the first 3 weeks of January 2007 alone, 157 new clients have asked for some form of advice at one of the main services for migrants and new arrivals.

Statistics

Total population: (Census 2001): 156,061; 2005 (Pop. Survey): 159,700

Total: Non UK born 15,252 (9.77%)
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Top ten countries:

Pakistan	3,051
India	1,343
Ireland	1,247
Italy	1,246
Germany	1,050
South and Eastern Africa (1)	808
Kenya	514
South Africa	383
United States of America	376
Jamaica	302

Notes: (1) Other than Kenya, Somalia, South Africa, Zimbabwe

Source: Census 2001

Non 'white British' population: 2001 (Census): 22,310 (14.30%)

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

2002/03	#
Total:	1,830

2005/06	#
Total:	5,080

Top ten countries:

Portugal	330
Iraq	290
Afghanistan	230
Pakistan	150
India	70
South Africa	60
Zimbabwe	60
Poland	50
Philippines	50
Iran	40

Top ten countries:

Poland	2000
Rep of Lithuania	1130
Slovak Rep	480
Portugal	240
India	140
Pakistan	140
Czech Rep	140
Rep of Latvia	90
South Africa	70
Brazil	50

Number of refugee status granted in 2005: 101 (Source: Home Office)

Asylum seekers receiving NASS support (June 2006)

Dispersals	#
Total:	255

Subsistence only	#
Total:	45

Top 10 countries:

Pakistan	40
Turkey	25
Sudan	20
Zimbabwe	20
Eritrea	15
Iraq	15
Somalia	15
Afghanistan	10
Iran	10
Serbia & Montenegro	10

Top 10 countries

Pakistan	10
Zimbabwe	10
Afghanistan	5
Iran	5
Kenya	5
Serbia	5

Top ten industries of employment (April 2001)

April 2001	#	%
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G. Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	14,125	19.3
D. Manufacturing	11,825	16.1
K. Real estate, renting and business activities	8,146	11.1
N. Health and social work	6,936	9.5
I. Transport, storage and communications	6,291	8.6
J. Financial intermediation	5,085	6.9
L. Public administration and defence, social security	4,651	6.3
M. Education	4,594	6.3
F. Construction	4,086	5.6
H. Hotels and restaurants	3,166	4.3

Source: National Statistics 2001

Local employment and industry

The main sectors of employment in Peterborough are wholesale and retail trade, including repairs (19.3%), manufacturing (16.1%), and real estate, renting and business activities (11.1%).

The main sectors of employment for migrant workers in Peterborough in 2004/5 were agriculture and horticulture (between 10,000 and 16,000); manufacturing, food processing and packaging, including retail (between 400 and several thousand and coming mainly from Eastern Europe and the Balkans); the construction industry, although there are no statistics available because of the high levels of 'self-employment' in this sector (McKay and Winkelmann-Gleed 2005).

Research (Beckwith K. 2004) carried out after the EU enlargement found that new migrant workers from many European countries have little or no English; those working in the building trade have little or no knowledge or training in health and safety; many do not have a skill or trade, many of those who are below 30 years have only done unskilled precarious jobs after finishing basic education. According to the same research (*ibid*) Peterborough is used as a base for new migrants, due to cheaper accommodation. New migrants travel to rural areas and are increasingly important to the local economy, especially food Industries and farming. There is, in fact, near full employment and local individuals are reluctant to undertake the work associated with food Industries and farming. This leads to a growing demand for migrants and the area offers a ready supply of people from Eastern Europe (Czech Republic and Lithuania) and Mediterranean countries (Portugal and Spain).

Both respondents and some research profiling the migrant workforce in the East Midlands including Peterborough argues that ethnic minorities are over-represented in several occupations with relatively low skills and are under represented amongst professional occupations. (A. Green, et al. 2005).

In addition, anecdotal experiences point to the fact that the role of gang masters is extremely relevant in the local workforce management: "Early morning in the centre, where there is cheap accommodation and many new migrants from Poland and Portugal live, you can see new migrants collected by vans and brought to work".

New migrants are often single and mobile. According to several key informants, some of the new arrivals are transient or seasonal workers: they stay 3 or 4 months and then move to other places or go back to their countries of origin: "There is a lot of work on the land, although these workers are quite mobile. They appear when they are working and then disappear when the season has finished. They are also

building a new local Tesco and they are recruiting people directly from Poland because they are believed to be hard workers” (CAB).

Local activities and developments

The council and local community have coped in different ways with this increase in migrant population. They have set up a number of initiatives and redirected their existing activities to promote successful communication between new arrivals and local residents and improve new arrivals' access to services. Some examples are:

- The **Peterborough Strategic Partnership** has set up the Cohesion Team which is addressing the housing needs in order to improve community cohesion.
- “**New Link**”, situated in Lincoln Road in the middle of the major concentration of new migrants, is a group that brings together statutory and voluntary partners working to create a new model for managing new arrivals. Around 10,000 visitors from a total of 56 nationalities and speaking 79 languages visited the centre in 2005. Individual projects in Peterborough have been established to achieve this aim, including a translation and interpreting service, a Timebank - Time Together Mentoring Project, Communities Working Together, Training and Awareness courses and 1City Project - working with the host communities to promote positive thinking towards refugee/asylum and migration issues.
- **Gladstone District Community Association**: they offer free and confidential advice and general help in welfare rights, health care, community care, housing, education, employment, consumer and general, racial incident crime reporting. They offer specialist help in immigration and nationality and asylum and services for women only in information technology, sewing classes, English tuition, and driving tuition. Their staff speak many languages including Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi, and Gujerati. They also have access to interpreters.
- **Peterborough Women's Centre** is an organisation run by women, for women. They aim to provide resources and access to women's services. and to raise awareness of women's issues, women's rights, women's educational and personal development. Peterborough Women's Centre promotes interagency links with statutory and voluntary agencies. They offer a range of women's services and advice, and ongoing support for women who want to gain new skills or make changes in their lives. They also hire rooms for meetings and conferences and provide training, English classes, computer skills, confidence building, in order to help women to progress with their lives or go back in to work or in education. They also do signposting to other agencies.
- **Immigration Advisory Centre**: The Peterborough Office has 3 teams of Counsellors, Advisers and Support Staff, who can conduct appeals at the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal and provide face to face and telephone advice on immigration and asylum matters. They can also help with deportations.

Despite some strengths, we identified some weaknesses.

- In terms of housing there is shortage of housing advice.
- A range of housing information leaflets is available but only a few are in languages other than English

- Some community organisations providing advice and training to the new arrivals claim that they do not receive any financial support from the local authority.
- The local CAB has just faced a big cut from the local authority
- There is an overexploitation of some advice services implying that the demand is much higher than the supply

The picture is therefore fragmented: on the one hand the local authority has set up some important initiatives with a strong impact on the relationship between new arrivals and the local community, on the other, local and community organisations seem to have a front-line role with inadequate or no financial support from the local authority in dealing with migrants.

Needs, gaps and priorities

Housing:

- The pressure on the local housing market has been accentuated by the city's designation as a cluster area for the dispersal of asylum seekers and by the arrival of new migrants from Eastern Europe
- In general the housing conditions experienced by many migrant workers are very poor.
- Shortage of housing: it is across the board but migrants are more affected.
- Multiple accommodations: New migrants go to areas where they already have people from their countries and often may share two or three to the room but be unaware of environmental health regulations against this. Indeed, some landlords rent only beds so there are situations with 10-15 in one flat.
- Landlords may also be employers and accommodation is frequently tied to a particular employer.
- New migrants are often single and very mobile. It is often difficult to identify them. Some come for 3 or 4 months and then move to other places. This affects the quality of housing.

English language

- Lack of communication between new migrants and local residents
- Lack of knowledge of the system (rights, welfare, legislation)
- Highly skilled people are working in production sector because their English is poor

Advice

- Shortage of housing advice: There used to be a housing advice centre funded by the local authority which employed 7 full time workers but because of the cuts in council funding it now employs 2 full time advisers.
- Employment advice (in terms of rights and regulation)
- Welfare advice
- Training and education

DOCUMENTS

Beckwith K. (2004), *European Migration and the impact on the skills agenda within Cambridgeshire (Briefing Note* , Learning and Skills Council – Cambridgeshire (<http://www.migrantworker.co.uk/docs/Migrant%20Workers%20Cambridgeshire%2018Nov%2004.doc>)

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