

London Enriched

The Mayor's Strategy for Refugee Integration in London – draft for consultation

Consultation questionnaire

The draft strategy sets out what the Mayor wants to do to support London refugees, now and in the future. We would like to know what you think about the issues raised and receive your ideas on how the Mayor can make a positive difference to the lives of London refugees.

Please take a little time to tell us what you think. Your views will help us to develop the final strategy for refugee integration in London and actions to put it into practice.

The term 'refugee' used in this questionnaire refers to those who are granted refugee status, humanitarian protection or discretionary leave, or who are asylum seekers waiting for their claims to be processed.

There is no need to answer all questions in every section. Please answer the questions that are important to you and use additional space if you need it.

If you would like further information, and to return the questionnaire, please refer to the information at the end of this document.

PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for responses is 29th October 2007

Section A

This section focuses on the main chapters. Please let us know if you agree or disagree with the statements made and add further comments if you wish.

Housing – Chapter 5

Do you agree that the proposals for action in this chapter (5A to 5E) will help achieve integration for London's refugees in the area of housing?

Agree/disagree/neither agree nor disagree

If you do not agree, why not? (for example, do you feel there is something missing?)

Whilst all of the proposals for action will clearly **help** achieve integration for refugees, they will not lead to integration for **all** refugees.

It is unclear how any of the proposals can be implemented when there is very little housing stock available and people continue to live in overcrowded, poor accommodation?

Other demonstration projects should be set up:

- which opens up the private sector for refugees. Refugee Support ran such a scheme in partnership with a voluntary sector organisation (funded by the European Refugee Fund) and by working closely with landlords, the private rented sector did offer suitable accommodation.
- To offer shared ownership to refugees. The schemes are available but the marketing and information needs further development.

The impact of the new BIA Refugee Integration and Employment needs to be incorporated. The details are just coming out and will change the map of provision. Under Proposal 5D – **Settlement** – the new service will have an impact here.

Of the actions suggested in this chapter, which do you feel is the **number one** priority?

- Proposal 5C – co-ordinating group. This is one of the most important ways in which action can be co-ordinated and planned **if** it is properly resourced and led, and is inclusive. Does this group supersede the BRIL Housing Link Body?
- Proposal 5A – the supply of affordable homes, including larger dwellings
- The other main priority is to influence the Supporting People programme, re: equalities groups, but this should be done in liaison with specialist refugee providers.

Employment, training and enterprise – Chapter 6

Do you agree that the proposals for action in this chapter (6A to 6E) will help achieve integration for London's refugees in the area of employment, training and enterprise?

Agree/disagree/neither agree nor disagree

If you do not agree, why not? (for example, do you feel there is something missing?)

- More provision is needed for ESOL classes. Current provision is insufficient. Lack of English is a real barrier to accessing the jobs market.

We would like to include, in this chapter, further recommendations about access to enterprise opportunities. What more could be added to strengthen this part of the strategy?

Of the actions suggested in this chapter, which do you feel is the **number one priority**?

- 6c – Skills – specifically community based training, particularly targeting groups that are usually excluded such as: disabled refugees and women (particularly Somali women).

Health – Chapter 7

Do you agree that the proposals for action in this chapter (7A to 7E) will help achieve integration for London's refugees in the area of health?

Agree/disagree/neither agree nor disagree

If you do not agree, why not? (for example, do you feel there is something missing?)

Of the actions suggested in this chapter, which do you feel is the **number one priority**?

- 7E – Mental health services staff need to fully understand refugee needs. They need to work in partnership with RCOs and also look at alternative settings for treating mental health issues.

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Community safety – Chapter 8

Do you agree that the proposals for action in this chapter (8A to 8F) will help achieve integration for London’s refugees in the area of community safety?

Agree/disagree/neither agree nor disagree

If you do not agree, why not? (for example, do you feel there is something missing?)

Of the actions suggested in this chapter, which do you feel is the **number one priority**?

- 8B

Children and young people – Chapter 9

Do you agree that the proposals for action in this chapter (9A to 9E) will help achieve integration for London’s refugee children and young people?

Agree/disagree/neither agree nor disagree

If you do not agree, why not? (for example, do you feel there is something missing?)

- Unequal and variable acceptance and commitment on the part of London Local Authorities to allocate sufficient funding for “Looked after” refugee children (see relevant provision(s) under the Children’s Act). Social Services arrangements for the housing of young adult refugees who have not been fostered are often inadequate and unacceptable.
- More needs to be done to ensure that refugee children/young adults can feel accepted in their status as ‘refugees’ and not feel the shame or fear which currently accompanies them. Schools need to incorporate into their

curriculum a sense that difference should be embraced that could lead to a better understanding and acceptance of refugee children/issues.

Of the actions suggested in this chapter, which do you feel is the **number one priority**?

- 9B.
- 9.3 – this needs to be supported by adequate funding to ensure that the ECM outcomes are achievable for refugee children.

Community development, participation and funding – Chapter 10

Referring to the definition of ‘community development’ that the chapter uses, what comment would you make on the options, which it lists on pages 63 and 64? Feel free to comment on any one, or on more than one, of the options.

- Options A and E – in the long term RCOs should be ‘linked with main stream organisations’ to reduce administrative costs, make best use of other resources, encourage more sharing and integration.. These two options should be interlinked.
- Option D – agree that second tier organisations should not deliver in isolation. However they do have the resources to do this.
- Option B – funding periods need to be realistic as community development work takes time. If funding is given then a target should be set for a long term link up with existing structures, thereby reducing future administrative costs and making more use of mainstream services.

Do you have any further comments on the chapter, particularly in relation to funding for the refugee sector and refugee participation?

- A key constraint for RCO’s is a lack of capacity. Address the issue of capacity/institutional building in the strategy especially in relation to RCO’s accessing funding.
- The forthcoming BIA Refugee Integration and Employment Services contracts will have an impact here but there is no detail at present as to what is being commissioned on the RCO development side.
- Community development should also be about promoting community cohesion and integration within London.

Section B

Below are ten results that we think the Mayor's strategy should achieve. We want to know if you feel it will succeed in doing this. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the statements made in the table below and, if you wish to expand, add your comments at the end.

	Statement	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree
1	The strategy will help to counter negative perceptions and discrimination towards refugees and help London to recognise their positive contribution.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	It will make it easier for London refugees to have their say about matters that affect them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Action that it recommends will reduce social exclusion, discrimination and poverty.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	The strategy recommends support to local community services that will improve the quality of life of refugees.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Proposals will improve accessibility to public services for refugees – for example health, housing, education.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Its proposals will improve access to advice and guidance services for refugees.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	The strategy includes support measures to ensure London refugees can participate in, and benefit from, cultural and leisure activities and facilities in London.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Measures in the strategy should improve accessibility and maximise opportunities for refugees' involvement in their local communities, including interpretation and translation services.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	It will address the needs of equalities groups, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) refugees, older refugees, disabled refugees, refugee children and young people and women.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	The strategy ensures that the needs of refugees are addressed in the delivery of other Mayoral strategies.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Any further comments:

Section C

Please tick if you would like:

To be notified once the final strategy is published next year Yes

Your details to be held on the Greater London Authority mailing list Yes

If you have ticked one of the above, please provide the following information:

Name	Charlotte Keeble
Organisation (if any)	Research and Consultancy Manager Metropolitan Support Trust MHT House Crescent Lane London. SW4 9RS
	If you are filling this form in on behalf of an organisation, please tell us how many people were consulted when filling in this questionnaire?
Address	As above
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Email	Charlotte.keeble@mst-online.org.uk

Important Information about data protection and freedom of information

The information you are asked to provide in Part C of this questionnaire is sensitive personal data, as defined in the Data Protection Act 1998. The Greater London Authority ('the Authority') will not disclose this information to third parties, and will store it securely and in accordance with its duties under the Data Protection Act. The data may, however, be used by the GLA for statistical and monitoring purposes.

In addition, you should be aware that any responses you provide in Parts A and B of this questionnaire are likely to be covered by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and/or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. This means that, if these responses are requested under this legislation, it is likely that the Authority will be required to disclose and publish the responses.

Please tick this box to show that you consent to the processing of the data you have provided.

Demographics

Please fill in these questions. Your answers will help us ensure that the final strategy reflects and meets the needs of London's diverse communities.

Are you

Male

Female

What is your age?

18 – 24

55 – 59

25 – 39

60 – 74

40 – 54

75 or over

What is your ethnic background?

White

British

Eastern European

Irish

Other, please specify

Other Western European

Black or Black British

African

Caribbean

Other, please specify

Asian or Asian British

Indian

Bangladeshi

Pakistani

Other Asian, please specify

Middle Eastern

Please specify

Mixed ethnicity

White and Black African

White and Asian

White and Black

Other mixed, please

Caribbean specify

Far Eastern

Chinese

Vietnamese

Other, please specify

Other ethnic background not included

Please specify

What is your nationality?

British

Dual British/other

Other EU (please specify)

All other

If you are not British, what is your immigration status?

Asylum seeker

Economic migrant
(with work permit)

Refugee

Student visa

Granted leave to remain

None of these

What is your religion?

Christian

Muslim

Buddhist

Sikh

Hindu

None

Jewish

Any other religion,
please specify

What is your sexual or gender identity?

The Mayor is aware that lesbian and gay people are frequently marginalised and is committed to removing the barriers that restrict these communities. All feedback received is strictly confidential.

Heterosexual

Bisexual

Lesbian

Decline to answer

Gay man

Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?

Yes

No

Supporting documentation

Public consultation on the strategy will run from 10 July to 29 October 2007. This will be done via the GLA website and a number of meetings and events across London.

From the 10 July you will be able to download the strategy from the GLA website – www.london.gov.uk/mayor/equalities/immigration/strategy.jsp. There is also a supporting Reference Document, giving further information, and a summary document.

To get a hard copy of the strategy or other supporting documentation, or if you have a query, email refugeeintegration@london.gov.uk

Alternatively, please write to:

Greater London Authority
(Policy Support Unit: Refugee Integration)
Post Point 18
FREEPOST LON15799
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2BR

Enquiries: 020 7983 4100

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