

MIGRATION POLICY AND
PRACTICE

Migration: Policy & Practice
Birmingham - Black Country

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

OUR ACTIVITY AND PROGRESS OVER THE PAST
TWELVE MONTHS

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A YEAR OF PROGRESS

Our first twelve months as an independent CIO have been a challenging period as we seek to establish the organisation as a viable long-term resource. Our work has shown the need for ongoing strategic investment in the sector to enable migrants to effectively settle in the West Midlands.

In addition to the steps taken to develop independence for the organisation, our work in 2023 was aimed to develop in two key areas: our annual sector assessment and the West Midlands Migration Network.

We again held a series of focus groups across the region to inform the issues highlighted in the assessment. This year we were able to widen the scope of the work, holding more events across the Black Country and for the first time engaging with those newly arrived from Hong Kong.

This expanded activity has helped to inform our Sector Assessment report, highlighting priority areas for development and placing the needs and experiences of migrants at the center of our work

The West Midlands Migration Network has continued to develop with four thematic meetings now taking place to a regular schedule. They involve representatives from both specialist agencies and the wider voluntary sector, helping to widen knowledge sharing and action to support migrants

The RIGHTS group has been engaged in raising awareness and building a network to ensure better signposting and referrals for specialist advice. Over the next twelve months we will be working to develop responses around migrant housing

The HEALTH group has been working to address key barriers including to mental health provision. We have received funding from Birmingham City Council to conduct outreach work which will help us to develop a pathway of support.

Our OPPORTUNITIES group has recently relaunched bringing together voluntary groups, training providers and employers to look. The COMMUNITIES group is developing work around social integration and has compiled a survey to understand current needs.





28

REGIONAL NETWORK MEETINGS
HOSTED

75

PARTICIPANTS IN FOCUS GROUPS

FUNDRAISING

We are grateful to have received continued support from the Barrow Cadbury Trust who have provided transitional funding as we established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Additional funding has been received from the National Lottery Community Fund through their Awards for All programme. This was used to support our outreach and focus group activity over summer that informed our Sector Assessment.

We have also been successful in applying to Birmingham City Council's Sanctuary Grant Scheme, receiving £50,000 to fund a dedicated post supporting the work of our Health thematic group.

Current funding options are limited as the organisation is classed as a new start up and will need to demonstrate 12 months of independent financial accounts to meet eligibility requirements for many funds.

The fact that the organisation does not deliver front-line services also reduces eligibility under many current criteria.

Priorities over the next twelve months remain to independent delivery and build relationships with sector funders initially through small grants.



RIGHTS

ACCESS TO SPECIALIST ADVICE
HOUSING ISSUES
COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

HEALTH

BARRIERS TO ACCESS
MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT
INVOLVEMENT IN SERVICE PLANNING

OPPORTUNITIES

IN WORK TRAINING
CONVERSION OF QUALIFICATIONS
ESOL

COMMUNITIES

SOCIAL INTEGRATION
MEASURING SUCCESS
INVOLVING THOSE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

MIGRATION NETWORK

We have continued to progress the development of a Regional Migration network with all Thematic meetings currently taking place every six weeks. Three of the groups now have a Thematic Lead/Chair with interest continuing to be sought for the other position.

All meetings continue to generate useful discussions and sharing of best practice, with each now developing different aims and priorities.



NEXT 12 MONTHS

- Recruitment of Additional Trustees
- Expansion of Migration Network
- Sector Assessment 2024
- Additional Outreach Work
- Development of Support Pathway