

▶ 2. The impact of immigration on public services and community cohesion

- Large scale immigration is placing new pressures on schools, the NHS and the police, as well as straining community relations.
- A House of Commons Committee has called for immediate action to defuse tensions before they lead to disturbances.

Education

Large numbers of pupils do not have English as their first language and therefore extra resources are required to help them. For example:

- There are currently 1,338 schools where at least 51% of the pupils do not have English as their first language.
- There are 652 schools in which more than 70% of children have English as a foreign language.
- A third of schools in Blackburn and Leicester have a non-English speaking majority while in Birmingham that figure is about a quarter.¹
- In Bradford, of 28 secondary schools, 10 have 90% or more pupils from one community.²

Ted Cante wrote the landmark “parallel lives” report following the 2001 riots in Burnley, Oldham and Bradford. He has said that “There is some evidence that once a school starts to divide it does reach a tipping point where one side or the other feels that this school is no longer for them”.³

1 Department for Children, Schools and Families, 17 December 2007; Hansard, 10th December 2007 Column 261W In 348: of Inner London's 695 primary schools, at least 50% do not have English as their mother tongue. Of Inner London's 132 secondary schools, more than half the pupils in 53 of them do not speak English as their mother tongue

2 The Observer, 27 May 2007

3 Ibid

The NHS

Large scale immigration places long term pressures on health services in a number of ways:

- Immigrants are arriving more rapidly than the health services can expand.
- Immigrants are generally younger than the native population and, therefore, should require less health care; but they may add substantially to the pressure on certain services, such as maternity.
- The requirement for interpretation and translation may mean that cases need more time and resources to be dealt with.
- In some areas there is additional pressure on A&E departments which are known to ask no questions about entitlement.

The NHS also faces more specific challenges. For example, the Government have introduced a programme of targeted screening for infectious TB for those seeking to come to Britain for longer than 6 months from certain countries. 65% of the cases of TB in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2006 were patients who were not born in the UK; 21% of the cases were Africans not born in the UK, and 29% were non-UK-born Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis.¹ Meanwhile, the number of cases of Hepatitis B in the UK has almost doubled in six years to 325,000 (nearly double the Department of Health's 2002 estimate of 180,000). 96% of new cases were found among people who had acquired the infection before coming to the UK.²

Foreign medical staff have undoubtedly helped the NHS. **Approximately one third of doctors and dentists registered to practice in the NHS qualified abroad.**³

However, this situation is changing. Output from medical schools in England has increased from 3,750 in 1997 to 6,450 in 2007 with a target of 7,000 places for 2010.⁴ There has also been extensive recruitment of overseas doctors and nurses. In July 2006 the Home Office announced that general nursing was no longer an area of skills shortage. The negative effect of immigration on specialist training for British medical graduates is described on page 35.

1 Tuberculosis in the UK, Annual Report 2007, Health Protection Agency: Table 1.1.2

2 Hepatitis B Foundation: Chronic Hepatitis B infection in the UK, 21 November 2007; The Times, 19 May 2008

3 Hansard, 27 February 2008; Column 1746W

4 Department of Health Consultation: Modernising Medical Careers, 8 October 2007

The police

A report¹ by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) found that “**the nature of the society we police is changing due to the level of migration** we are experiencing now and will probably change more dramatically in the future...”.

The Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, Ms Julie Spence, drew attention to the additional costs that police incur as a result of large scale immigration. A report by her force found that:

- Since 2004, 83,000 East Europeans had registered to work in Eastern England.
- Police officers were now dealing with close to 100 languages without having the right skills: translation costs had risen from £220,000 in 2002-3 to £800,000 in 2006-7.
- An “international dimension” to crimes had emerged, including cannabis production, human trafficking and credit card “skimming”.
- In the space of one year, drink-drive figures had shown a 17-fold rise in arrests of foreigners.
- On the current workload, the county required an additional 100 police officers.
- Immigration would continue to have a greater impact on population growth than “natural” change: of the 94,200 people predicted to move into the county by 2016, 69,000 were forecast to be immigrants.²

The Chief Constables of Kent, South Yorkshire and Northamptonshire have expressed similar concerns.³

Meanwhile, foreign national prisoners comprise 14% of all prisoners in the UK compared with about 7% of adults in the general population.⁴ This figure does not, of course, include migrants who have become British citizens. However, it is low compared with some other countries. According to Council of Europe data, the proportion of foreign prisoners in Austria is 43%, Spain 33%, Germany 28% and France 21%.⁵

1 Association of Chief Police Officers to the Migration Impacts Forum, April 2008

2 The Changing Demography of Cambridgeshire, Implications for Policing, September 2007 and BBC News Online, 19 September 2007

3 Daily Telegraph, 28 January 2008

4 Hansard, 28 January 2008 column 138 W

5 Hansard, 22 January 2008 column 1097 W

Strains on community cohesion

A House of Commons report by the Communities and Local Government Committee in July 2008 concluded that the “sheer pace of change experienced in some areas has escalated public concerns about migration to the point where migration has become the single greatest public concern in Britain, overtaking concerns on crime and terrorism.” It continued “community cohesion cannot be improved without addressing and alleviating public concerns about migration.” The Committee went on to say that “the Government needs to take immediate action to address public concerns about migration, and to defuse tensions before they lead to disturbances.”¹

This is only the latest warning. The Head of the then Commission for Racial Equality (CRE), Trevor Phillips, has warned that **we are “sleepwalking into segregation”**. In their final report before being disbanded, the CRE said that “segregation – residentially, socially and in the work place – is growing...on top of this our society is fracturing. Bonds of solidarity across different groups have reduced and tensions between people have increased.”² Mr Phillips has also spoken of “the emergence of a kind of cold war in some parts of the country where very separate communities exist side by side...”³

His concerns are shared among all communities. For example, recent polls have found that:

- **47% of Asians and 45% of black people believe there is too much immigration and too many migrants in the UK.**⁴
- Three out of four people think there is now a great deal or a fair amount of tension between races and nationalities.⁵

Professor Ted Cantle was appointed Chair of the Government’s Community Cohesion Team to review the causes of the riots in several northern towns in 2001. He and his team revisited Oldham in 2006 to review progress in achieving community cohesion. Their key finding was:

“A major factor in building community cohesion in Oldham over the next two decades will be projected population change within the Borough and in particular the relative growth in the Pakistani and Bangladeshi heritage population. The potential risk is that the pace of change in building community cohesion and regenerating the Borough may be overtaken by the potential for population change to generate division and conflict.”

His report found that, in the next 15 years, the white population will decline slightly while the Pakistani population is expected to increase by 50% and the Bangladeshi population by 70%.⁶

1 House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee, Community Cohesion and Migration, 16 July 2008, paras. 127 & 130

2 CRE Final Report “A lot done, A lot to do”: Introduction

3 Speech on the 40th anniversary of Enoch Powell’s speech, 20 April 2008

4 The Government’s Commission on Integration and Cohesion (June 2007). The figure is nearly 70% for the population as a whole

5 An opinion poll conducted by MORI for the BBC (April 2008). The poll also found that almost two in three feared that tension was certain or likely to lead to violence, although it is not clear whether they meant full blown street riots or minor scuffles. 60% said that the UK had too many immigrants. However, the proportion of people describing themselves as “racially prejudiced” was down to 20% compared with 24% in 2005

6 Challenging local communities to change: Oldham Report of the Institution of Community Cohesion: 30 March 2006

Arranged marriages

The question of marriages arranged overseas is one of great sensitivity to immigrant communities. A number of these communities, particularly from the Indian sub-continent, have a tradition of marrying from their “home” country.

Whether or not a marriage is “arranged” is a matter of social custom. However, when marriage is, in effect, used as a means of immigration, it becomes a matter affecting the wider public interest.

The fact that it is possible to use marriage as a means of immigration adds to the risk that young Asians may come under strong family pressure to undertake marriages they would prefer to avoid. Opinions on this subject are divided among nationalities, religions and, especially, generations.

The impact of international arranged marriages on certain British cities is considerable. **Even in the second generation, 40%-60%¹ of immigrants from the Indian sub-continent enter arranged marriages with spouses from their country of origin.** This can be unhelpful for the integration of the next generation. Children with a parent who speaks little or no English will be less proficient themselves. They may do less well at school, obtain lower qualifications and then face difficulty in finding employment. The result can sometimes be a cycle of deprivation.

A further effect of this is greatly to increase the rate of household formation and therefore the demand for housing.

¹ Migrationwatch estimate based on a comparison of numbers of spouses/fiancés admitted to the UK and the number of people of marriageable age in those ethnic groups – see Migrationwatch briefing paper 10.12

The impact on population

There is also a considerable impact on population in localised areas. A report by the University of Leeds School of Geography in September 2006 examined the population projections for Yorkshire and the Humber. The map below shows graphically the projected population change for ethnic groups in those local authorities from 2005 to 2030.

Fig. 9: Projected population change for Ethnic Groups, Local Authorities in Yorkshire and The Humber, 2005-2030¹

