

### Do they live mainly on social benefits?

Migrant workers contribute more to the UK system in taxes than they claim in benefits. In the case of some benefits, migrants have to work long enough to be eligible to obtain them (eg. they must have 52-weeks of continuous work to be able to claim Job Seekers Allowance). According to the government, take up of benefits by migrant workers has been relatively 'low'.

### Do they get priority treatment when applying for social housing?

No. Migrant workers, if eligible for housing, need to provide the same information as everyone else and meet the same criteria of need as UK born applicants. To apply they usually need to live in the UK for 12 months.

### Do they contribute to the crime rate?

Migrants and people from minority ethnic groups are more likely to become victims of crime, rather than commit a crime. Those who commit a crime risk prosecution for their criminal activities in the same way as a British Citizen. In Derbyshire recorded crime has been decreasing for the last seven years.

### Are they entitled to access Health Services?

Everyone living in the UK has the same right to access health services when they are in need. If you lived abroad and you were denied access to emergency healthcare – how would you feel? Migrant workers paying taxes and National Insurance also contribute to the running costs of these services.



### Some facts about migrant workers in Derbyshire\*

Official statistics for Derbyshire show that minority ethnic groups make up about 5.2 per cent of the total population. 1.4 per cent are 'white others' (including Eastern Europeans), which equates to just under 11,000 in a total population of Derbyshire of about 760,000 (excluding Derby City).

Since the first half of 2008 the number of Eastern European migrants registering to work in Derbyshire has fallen considerably.

\*Data source: Office for National Statistics, 2009 est. and UK Border Agency, 2010.

### Did you know that?

Fish and chips, a traditional British meal, was brought to us by Jews expelled from Portugal in the 17th century.

Marks and Spencer, a major British retailer, was founded in 1894 in partnership between Michael Marks from Poland, and Thomas Spencer from Yorkshire.

### Find out more

To obtain more information or talk to us about this leaflet please call **0345 123 3333** and ask for Community Safety Team at Derbyshire Constabulary Headquarters.

This leaflet has been produced by Derbyshire Constabulary in collaboration with partner organisations in Derbyshire.



Designed by Derbyshire Constabulary Design and Print

# The truth about migrant workers

## Dispelling some myths and stereotypes



The leaflet has been produced to provide answers to some of the common questions and myths and to raise understanding about migrant workers in Derbyshire

## Migrant Workers

**Who are they and how do they differ from asylum seekers, refugees and illegal immigrants?**

**Migrant Worker** – a person whose main reason for moving to this country is to find work. Migrant workers have full rights to come and live in the United Kingdom (UK). They pay taxes and National Insurance contributions. They also have the same rights at work as every British citizen (e.g. right to National Minimum Pay).

**Asylum Seeker** – a person who is unable to return to their country of origin because of a well-founded fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, membership of a social group or a political opinion. They need to apply for refugee status to be able to stay in the UK. During the application process they can stay in the UK, but if refugee status is not granted they need to leave. They also have a right to appeal against the decision.

**Refugee** – when the Government recognises that an asylum seeker cannot return to his or her own country because of persecution, they are given the status of refugee and can stay legally in the UK.

**Illegal Immigrant** – as the name suggests it is an immigrant who stays in the UK illegally; they are from outside of the European Union and either do not have a visa or they stay over the permitted time on a visa. If they have visas, but break their conditions they break the law and can be arrested, detained and deported.

### Why do we need migrant workers?

Migrant workers contribute to the economy and employment market, filling gaps in skills we need. Employers value the hard work and dedication of migrants they employ. Living here they also

contribute to the economy through paying tax, National Insurance, buying goods and spending money locally.

Moreover, migrants make Britain a more colourful place to live, adding to the culture and diversity of Derbyshire and other areas, giving us chance to learn about our similarities and differences. Migrants should be welcomed into local communities, provided with help when needed, but also educated about their responsibilities when living in the UK.

### Why do they come here?

There are many reasons why people migrate from place to place. They want to find their place in the world, seek a better life, better jobs, and better future for their children. The UK is certainly a place that can give these opportunities. Apart from employment reasons, many people come here to study at local universities, as UK universities are seen as prestigious.

### Where are they from?

Most migrant workers come from the European Union (Poland, Germany, Spain, Slovakia, Hungary, etc.). They can also come from outside the EU if they have an appropriate visa. Those without visas can be arrested, detained and deported back to their country of origin.



### Do migrants take 'British' jobs?

Migrant workers who live in Derbyshire have the same rights as members of the resident community do, for example to apply for jobs. Equally, British citizens have the right to go to any other European country and work there. In fact, many of the jobs migrants take, British workers choose not to do.