

Migrant Workers

Your Questions Answered

What is a migrant worker?
Why have migrant workers come to this area?
Why do employers recruit people from abroad?
What rights do migrant workers have when they are here?



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Your Questions Answered

This leaflet is intended to answer questions you may have about migrant workers.

What is a migrant worker?

Migrant workers are people who move to another country to work.

Migrant workers should not be confused with illegal immigrants who are people who do not have permission to live here.

Migrant workers should also not be confused with asylum seekers, who have applied for protection.

An asylum seeker who is granted asylum becomes a refugee and they are therefore allowed to live and work in Britain.

Where do they come from?

Migrant workers come from many countries across the world, but mainly from within Europe.

Recently more countries have joined the European Union (EU) including Poland. Generally people can move within the EU and so many British people live in countries such as Spain.

Why have migrant workers come to this area?

Migrant workers move to areas where there are jobs, cheap rented housing and good transport links between home and work.

The UK has an ageing population and so migrant workers are needed to ensure there are enough people to fill all jobs.

Migrant labour is making a positive contribution to the Humber area, filling vacancies in farming and manufacturing as well as taking up higher skilled jobs such as engineering and healthcare.

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Why do employers recruit people from abroad?

For some employers, the problem is finding people with the right skills, such as doctors and dentists. For those recruiting to low skilled and low paid jobs, such as in factories and on farms, the problem has been finding enough people, to do the work. So when some employers cannot fill vacancies with local people they take on migrant workers.

What rights do migrant workers have when they are here?

Migrant workers pay taxes when they work in the UK and so are entitled to the same services as others in the community. They are also entitled to the same employment rights such as minimum wage and holidays as other workers.

Some European migrant workers can apply for social security

benefits; although most have to be in continuous employment for at least 12 months before they are entitled to apply for any benefits or housing assistance. Migrant workers from outside Europe, who are here on work permits, are generally not entitled to such benefits.

It is estimated that many millions of pounds are contributed to the UK economy by European migrant workers alone, above what they claim in public services.

How can I welcome and support migrant workers?

Welcome new neighbours when they move in, offer support and provide information such as which day the bins are emptied, where the library and the council offices are and find out if there is any other information they need to know.



What are the challenges for public services?

Many public services rely on migrant workers to fill jobs which could not otherwise be filled, for instance the health service rely on doctors and nurses from overseas.

For many workers their time spent in Britain and in the Humber area can be very positive and enjoyable. However, for others the experience can be less positive, as they are sometimes treated badly by employers, landlords or members of the public.

The Humber Improvement Partnership are looking at ways to

ensure that migrant workers feel part of the community and are supported and that the local economy can benefit from their skills.

For more detailed information please search under 'Migrant Workers' on any of the following websites:

www.eastriding.gov.uk

www.hullcc.gov.uk

www.northlincs.gov.uk

www.nelincs.gov.uk

www.humbersidfire.gov.uk

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