

Until this report is published, even if it is ultimately to be considered in Part 1, it should not be circulated beyond the Cabinet (excepting officers writing and reviewing the paper through this process) or sent externally, and its contents should be treated as confidential.

**London Borough of Enfield
Equalities Board**

8th February 2022

**Subject: Bulgarian / Roma Community Project
Cabinet Member: Cllr Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion
Executive Director: Ian Davis, Chief Executive**

Purpose of Report

1. Nishan Dzvingozyan will present a report to the Equalities Board which provides an overview of the Edmonton Community Partnership Bulgarian / Roma integration project.

Proposal(s)

2. To update the board on the challenges faced by the Bulgarian (GRT) and the wider Eastern European communities in Enfield.

Reason for Proposal(s)

3. The report by Nishan Dzvingozyan will provide an overview of the work undertaken by the Edmonton Community Partnership Bulgarian / Roma integration project.

Relevance to the Council Plan

4. A fairer Enfield is one of the four cross-cutting themes of our Council Plan 2020-22. In [Fairer Enfield 2021-25](#), we outline our commitment to create an inclusive borough, where all residents, regardless of their protected characteristics, are supported to fulfil their potential, are treated equally with respect and actively involved in shaping the decisions that will affect the services they receive and the places they live in.

Background

5. The Edmonton Community Partnership is an alliance of 18 schools and members of the local community. The partnership manages a range of local projects and events that help improve the lives of children, young people, their families and the wider community in Edmonton.

Main Considerations for the Council

6. The Bulgarian / Roma integration project has been operating since 2019. It is estimated that 20,000 Bulgarians live in Enfield. However, as a result

of language barriers, digital exclusion and social isolation there are many families who have been unable to access the support services they are entitled to. The project has received funding from Home Office, National Lottery Community Fund, Enfield Council, and North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group.

7. To support the Bulgarian / Roma Community, the Partnership have hired a Bulgarian Support Worker to connect with local families from Bulgaria and across Eastern Europe and offer additional support. This has ranged from providing food, home essentials and internet access throughout the coronavirus pandemic to community meetings explaining the process for securing EU Settlement Status and encouraging coronavirus vaccine uptake, conducted in their native language.
8. The Board will receive a presentation from Nishan Dzvingozyan, Bulgarian Support Worker, on the challenges and barriers faced by the Bulgarian (GRT) and the wider Eastern European communities in Enfield.

Conclusions

9. The attached report by Nishan Dzvingozyan provides an overview of the Bulgarian / Roma integration project ran by Edmonton Community Partnership.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Quarterly Progress Report Bulgarian / Roma (Eastern European communities) integration project in Edmonton, January 2022