Exploring Integration Pathways

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Developing indicators of integration

- Implementation of 1999 Asylum Dispersal policy
- Anxiety about impacts on new areas of refugee settlement
- European Integration funding
- Disillusionment with multiculturalism
Developing indicators of integration

- **Academic & Policy Literature**
  - What is conceptually meaningful?

- **Qualitative study**
  - What is relevant for refugees and local communities?

- **Review of practice**
  - What is potentially relevant?

- **Survey data**
  - What indicators group together?

**Indicators of Integration Framework**
Indicators of Integration
Ager & Strang, 2004 & 2008

Markers and means
- Employment
- Housing
- Education
- Health

Social connections
- Social Bridges
- Social Bonds
- Social Links

Facilitators
- Language and Cultural Knowledge
- Safety and Stability
- Rights and Citizenship

Foundation
In recent years….

- 117,234 refugees living in the UK (UNHCR, 2016)
- 0.18% of total population
- The majority of refugees arrive through asylum applications rather than resettlement
- The UK received 38,878 asylum applications in 2015
- 45% were granted asylum
We’re out

We want our country back

Vote to Leave

EU Referendum, Thursday June 23rd

our back

Make 23rd June Independence Day

Queen Margaret University
INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT
Response to the European Migration ‘crisis’

- September 2015 Prime Minister Cameron sanctions Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme to expand to 20,000 people over 5 years
- Germany accepts 20,000 Syrian refugees in one weekend
- Over 25% of the populations of Jordan and Lebanon are Syrian refugees
- (Then) Home Secretary, Teresa May warns of community cohesion breaking down due to too fast a pace of immigration.
- First Minister of Scotland’s devolved parliament, Nicola Sturgeon convenes an emergency Refugee Taskforce
- Scotland pledges to resettle 1,000 refugees in the first year with 29 of the 32 local authorities committing to participate
A home in Scotland...?
Holistic Integration Service Partnership

- Health
- Housing
- Welfare
- Language
- Employment
- Education
- Advocacy and learning
- Social connections
Who has benefitted from the service?

- 1,885 clients 2013 – 2016
- 26% women and 74% men
- 78% are single
- Top four countries of origin (75% total)
  - Eritrea (30%)
  - Sudan (21%)
  - Iran (15%)
  - Syria (10%)
- 56% between 25-34 years old

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/
Access to rights

• **Housing**
  - 86% of service beneficiaries presented to the local authority as homeless when asylum support ended.
  - 12% of people in year three were not offered temporary accommodation on at least one occasion.

• **Benefits**
  - 87% of initial claims were made with the assistance of HIS.
  - Jobseekers’ Allowance – time from claim to first payment in year three was 24 days.
Extended time in temporary housing:

- inhibits refugees’ capacity to learn a new language or to find work
- damages fragile new social networks
- is associated with high exposure to racism and other abusive behaviour

“The problem is that if you live there you can’t work…because if you work you can give all the money to the hostel to pay for the hostel, £200/week, that’s difficult”

“It’s like… ‘No visitors’ You know.. to be alone sometimes, maybe someone want to visit me just to talk…but there is no visitors and if I want to stay outside I can’t as well…”
Experiences of Connecting

• 78% did not have relatives in the UK
• 70% had very little English language.
• Most refugees saw English language acquisition as the key to life.
• Some better able to mobilise social networks than others.

“(Learning English) the path to get better at everything in my life”

“I never lived alone, I am coming from a family where I have five sisters and I always surrounded people, and I was scared of living alone ....”

“I was staying with my friend, she bought for me everything.”

“No friends, not anything, I just go to my home, watch TV, that’s me here”
Building independence

“No the stress… it’s going and coming back, for example if I don’t trust the person in front of me I cannot speak English, I lose my words…. because the story just from Home Office coming back”

“I need to work to have a quality of life in Glasgow” (Single man from Algeria, full-time cleaner, case file notes)

- Capacity and confidence to navigate systems
- Shame in being dependent on benefits
- Complexity of career decisions
- 9% recorded as having obtained paid employment
- High success rate of Chinese women in gaining employment
- High prior education linked with employment – but mostly low skilled
Integration or Isolation? Mapping social connections and wellbeing amongst refugee men in Glasgow

We found that single refugee men, particularly from, Middle Eastern and central Asian countries were consistently underrepresented in studies of refugees in Scotland

Strang & Quinn, 2014
Developing the ‘New Scots’ Strategy in Partnership
2014-2017

Convened by: Scottish Government, Scottish Refugee Council and COSLA Strategic Migration Partnership

Chaired by: Queen Margaret University

Led by: Core group members comprising representatives from Refugee Community groups and key stakeholders from each sector

Implemented by: Themed working groups

“We see integration as a two way process that involves positive change in both the individuals and the host communities and which leads to cohesive, multi-cultural communities”
Indicators of Integration
Ager & Strang, 2004 & 2008

Asylum seekers

Indicators:
- Employment
- Housing
- Education
- Health

Components:
- Social Bridges
- Social Bonds
- Social Links

Supportive Areas:
- Language and Cultural Knowledge
- Safety and Stability
- Rights and Citizenship
The Scottish response
Refugee engagement in New Scots 1

- Policy developed during a year long programme of community consultation
- Two umbrella refugee groups represented on the Core Groups steering the process. We prevent the escalation of exclusion and discrimination
- Annual conferences involving 30% refugees; 30% service provider; plus academics and policy makers

New Scots 2

- Local and refugee community consultation
- Refugee community groups representation
- Ongoing community dialogue processes?
Reflections

- Building the evidence base longitudinal data
- Measuring the things that count to people
- Address multiple forms of exclusion
- Towards diverse and sustainable society with evolving shared culture and values

Bring people together as equals to improve all their lives

‘Integration or Isolation? Mapping social connections and well being amongst refugees in Glasgow. .2014
http://eresearch.qmu.ac.uk/4139/

Insights into Integration Pathways, June 2015
New Scots & the Holistic Integration Service
http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0001/0255/HIS_Year_2_R.pdf

Rights, Resilience and Refugee Integration in Scotland, June 2016

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Understanding wellbeing

Psychosocial Working Group: A Resource-based model of Psychosocial well being

Mental health and psychosocial support services

Responses suggested

1. Fulfilling basic needs, providing security
   - General population affected by crisis

2. Psychosocial support activities
   - Mild psychological distress (natural reactions to crisis event)

3. Individual, family or group interventions
   - Mild to moderate mental health disorders

4. Professional treatment for individuals or families
   - Severe psychological disorders

Specialised services

Impacts on population due to crises

Source: This illustration is based on the intervention pyramid for mental health and psychosocial support in emergencies in the IASC Guidelines (2007).

http://mhpss.net/iasc-guidelines-on-mental-health-and-psychosocial-support-in-emergency-settings/