

## **CONTROLLING MIGRATION FUND**

Stockton Borough Council has been successful in securing £471,386 from the Controlling Migration Fund. Funding is to be spent over a two year period and aims to mitigate against the impact of increased migration on the established community. The funding has been broken down into a number of key areas:

**Increased community ESOL provision:** Currently the local authority spends approximately £25,000 per year on direct translation costs to support residents. Currently ESOL provision is provided by local colleges and in some cases voluntary groups. This provision is limited and there are large waiting lists for ESOL provision across all of the limited providers. Funding will be used to provide community ESOL within Stockton Town Centre via a local community centre or through a local provider. Increased provision will reduce the burden on the local authority to provide translation support as well as improve the potential for residents and families to better integrate with the wider community. This element of the project will be co-ordinated by SBC Adult Learning and Skills. **Allocated funding: £160,656**

**Language support in schools:** An element of the funding will be used to develop a pilot project in conjunction with the University of Northumbria which will provide additional training and support to existing teaching assistants in order to support EAL (English as a second language) children in the classroom reducing the burden on teaching staff and increasing the contact time with the established children in the classroom. This is a unique project and will be the first of its kind nationally, it is envisaged that once the training package has been developed other local authority areas will implement the project. This element of the project will be co-ordinated by SBC Education Development. **Allocated funding: £142,364**

**Work to tackle irresponsible landlords:** Stockton Town Centre has the largest concentration of private landlords and we regularly experience a number of issues including poor housing conditions and limited vetting and checking of problematic tenants. An element of the funding has been allocated to establishing the scale and diversity of migrants choosing to live in Stockton and identify the locations and conditions of the housing they occupy. Part of this approach will look at an extension to the existing 'Hit Squad' approach within the Town Centre targeting the high numbers of private rented homes and HMOs. Extension of the successful 'hit squad' approach would allow the Private Sector Housing team to proactively target a broader range of properties and landlords to continue the Council's ambition to drive up standard in the private rented sector as well as reduce the appeal of the area for unscrupulous landlords. Funding will provide additional staffing capacity to enable the Housing to team to provide a dedicated resource to the Town Centre. **Allocated funding: £118,700**

**Youth engagement and inclusion:** An element of the funding has been allocated to further build on youth engagement activity in Stockton Town centre making use of existing community resources to provide a programme of activities throughout the year to complement existing activity based around themes such as sport, culture and art. It is proposed that the Cornerhouse Youth Project will co-ordinate this element of the bid. **Allocated funding: £49,666**

### **Management of the grant**

A steering group has been established consisting of the responsible officers tasked with co-ordinating elements of the project. A progress plan has been developed as part of the bid process and it is envisaged that an annual progress report be provided to members.