

Study of A8 nationals living and working in Greater Glasgow for Glasgow City Council

What were we asked to do?

In 2007 Glasgow City Council, in conjunction with Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire Councils, commissioned Blake Stevenson Ltd to conduct a study to establish the numbers, experiences and needs of A8 nationals (nationals from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovenia) living in their local authority areas.

How did we approach the research?

We used the following qualitative and quantitative methods to capture the experience of A8 nationals:

- face-to-face, telephone and electronic survey with over 300 A8 Nationals
- focus groups with survey participants to explore emerging issues in further detail
- interviews with local employers, recruitment agencies and public services
- a final report which included recommendations on how future planning of public services can address the needs of this group

What did we find?

The research determined the flow of A8 nationals into the areas and established the impact of migration on the local population, business, and on the migrants themselves.

We found that the experience of A8 nationals in Scotland and the UK, and their effect on the economy and the local population, has generally been positive. When they first arrive they tend to take un-skilled, entry level jobs which could have an impact on worklessness strategies although there is no evidence of this at the moment.

Whilst they do not tend to use or engage with public services to any significant degree, there is strong evidence of added pressure on language support services in schools and interpretation services. There is also a huge, unmet demand for English language classes in some areas.