

Migrant Workers in Rochdale and Oldham

Final report

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The Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit is a dedicated multi-disciplinary research and consultancy unit providing a range of services relating to housing and urban management to public and private sector clients. The Unit brings together researchers drawn from a range of disciplines including: social policy, housing management, urban geography, environmental management, psychology, social care and social work.

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This report is based on research undertaken by the Study Team and the analysis and comment thereafter does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the research commissioning authorities, or any participating stakeholders and agencies. The authors take responsibility for any inaccuracies or omissions in the report.

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List of Acronyms

ASB	Anti-social behaviour
BFAWU	Bakers, Food & Allied Workers Union
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
CAB	Citizens Advice Bureau
CBL	Choice-Based Lettings
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages
HA	Housing Association
HMO	Houses in Multiple Occupation
HSMP	Highly Skilled Migrants Programme
IPS	International Passenger Survey
LFS	Labour Force Survey
NINO	National Insurance Number
ONS	Office for National Statistics
SAWS	Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme
SHUSU	Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit
SIC	Standard Industry Classification
SOC	Standard Occupational Classification
WRS	Worker Registration Scheme

Chapter 1: Overview

This report presents the findings of a study looking at the needs and experiences of migrant workers living and working in the Boroughs of Rochdale and Oldham. The research was commissioned by Oldham Housing Investment Partnership, Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council, Oldham Rochdale Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder and Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council in January 2008 and was conducted by a team of researchers from the Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit at the University of Salford. The study was greatly aided by research support from a number of Community Interviewers and was managed by a Steering Group composed of officers representing the commissioning authorities.

Background to the study

In the UK today, it is accurate to say that all areas have experienced migration of some kind, whether it is long-established populations, dispersed asylum seekers and refugees, or, migrant workers. In recent years, there has been an increasing focus on this latter group, particularly in relation to the migration of people from the new EU or Accession countries. According to the Audit Commission (2007)¹, since May 2004, workers from these Accession countries have come to dominate UK arrivals.

As geographical distribution of migrants now goes beyond traditional in-migration areas², what is clear is that different areas of the UK will face a different combination of circumstances, and, as such, require their own local responses³. It is now recognised that local authorities need to understand the composition and needs of their local population in order to be able to plan and deliver services effectively as well as being able to respond to any issues relating to community cohesion⁴. Consequently, some local authorities are making efforts to find out about the experiences and needs of these new and emerging communities in an effort to find out exactly who is living in their area.

¹ Audit Commission (2007) *Crossing Borders: Responding to the local challenges of migrant workers*, London: Audit Commission.

² Institute of Community Cohesion (2007) *Estimating the scale and impacts of migration at the local level*, London: Local Government Association (LGA).

³ Audit Commission (2007) *Crossing Borders: Responding to the local challenges of migrant workers*, London: Audit Commission.

⁴ Institute of Community Cohesion (2007) *Estimating the scale and impacts of migration at the local level*, London: Local Government Association (LGA).

Study brief

In line with the issues raised above, the primary aims of the study were:

- To establish the extent and level of in-migration of the migrant worker communities from EU Accession states (A8/A2) into Rochdale and Oldham;
- To understand the settlement patterns of these communities in Rochdale and Oldham (including where families are joining workers);
- To identify the nature and extent of kinship and/or economic relationships with others across the UK and /or abroad;
- To assess the skills levels and expertise of new communities, including entrepreneurship and self employment, and identify what support is needed to foster these skills now and in the future;
- To investigate the future intentions of the migrant worker communities (i.e. staying in Oldham/Rochdale, moving to another part of the UK or returning to country of origin, etc.);
- To consider the impact of in-migration on the indigenous population, particularly in terms of access to employment and services;
- To investigate the level of community integration and impact on community cohesion and develop support mechanisms to assist migrant communities to integrate within the local resident community; and,
- To evaluate the housing and support needs of this community now and in the future.

Outline of the report

Chapter 1 has provided a brief overview of why the research is necessary, as well as outlining the main aims of the study.

Chapter 2 presents details of the research methods involved in the study, including looking at the sampling strategy and sampling issues.

Chapter 3 provides background information drawn from selected secondary sources. This includes summarising what is currently known about the needs and experiences of migrant workers, as well as outlining some of the official statistics available and the inherent problems with using such data.

Chapter 4 looks at the characteristics of migrant workers in Rochdale and Oldham, with regards to nationality, gender, age, marital status, household size and number of dependents.

Chapter 5 contains detailed analysis of migration history of the sample. This focuses on where they had lived prior to Rochdale and Oldham, as well as exploring the reasons for choosing Rochdale and Oldham.

Chapter 6 looks at the findings in relation to education and training. It offers an extensive analysis of qualifications, including English language courses.

Chapter 7 examines the findings in relation to employment. This focuses on type of job, rates of pay, as well as providing comparisons between current and previous employment status.

Chapter 8 focuses on the issue of housing, looking specifically at the types of property people are living in, awareness of housing options, views on conditions and future accommodation aspirations.

Chapter 9 provides an analysis of issues relating to community integration. In particular it looks at views on where they are currently living, access to facilities and services, and issues of discrimination.

Chapter 10 examines the findings with regards to respondents' future intentions and aspirations. This includes looking at intentions to stay in Rochdale and Oldham and levels of family reunification.

Finally, **Chapter 11** provides some concluding comments and sets out some recommendations based on the findings of the research.

Chapter 2: Methods

This chapter outlines the methods of data collection employed on this study, focusing specifically on the three separate but interrelated phases of the research:

- 1 Phase one – review of existing information relating to migrant workers
- 2 Phase two – engagement with key stakeholders
- 3 Phase three – survey with migrant workers

Each of these phases is described in more detail below.

Phase one: Review of existing information

This initial phase involved the collation and review of a wide range of secondary information relating to migration and migrant workers from local, regional, national and international sources.

Particular emphasis was given to identifying the issues facing new migrant groups, with regards to employment, access to services, housing and general support, and issues around community cohesion. We also sought to identify areas of good practice that could inform the approach of the local authorities and other relevant stakeholders.

In addition, this phase included analysis of some of the official statistics available relating to the size of the migrant worker population, as well as outlining some of the inherent problems with using these data sources.

Phase two: Engagement with key stakeholders

This phase involved identifying and making contact with key stakeholders whose role included working with migrant communities. This process was vital in assisting with access to migrant workers, as well as providing additional information and insights around some of the key issues and problems facing migrant workers in Rochdale and Oldham. It also included carrying out a number of stakeholder interviews with selected individuals from these organisations.

The following organisations provided assistance/advice/information in relation to the research⁵:

- Bowlee Park Housing Association
- Chambers of Commerce North West
- Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive (GMPTE)
- Hopwood Hall

⁵ This list does not include the large number of agencies/organisations that were contacted, but were unable or unwilling to provide assistance, or had little involvement with migrant communities.

- Migrant Workers North West
- Migrant Workers Project, Oxfam GB
- Oldham Polish Catholic Social Club
- Oldham Trade Union Council
- Rochdale Centre of Diversity (RCD)
- Rochdale Hungarian Social Club
- Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council Private Sector Housing
- St Vincent's Housing Association

In addition to the direct contact made with organisations, this phase also involved the production of a poster advertising the research and asking for potential participants. These posters were displayed at a number of places, including the organisations listed above, as well as various shops across Rochdale and Oldham.

Phase three: Survey with migrant workers

One of the most important aspects of the research was consultation with migrant workers living and working in Rochdale and Oldham.

The survey took place between March and May 2008. In all cases consultation took the form of face-to-face interviews in order to gather information about their characteristics, needs and aspirations.

The survey with migrant workers is discussed below under three sections: Questionnaire design; Fieldwork and interviewers; and, Sampling issues.

Questionnaire design

All interviews with migrant workers utilised a structured questionnaire with a mixture of tick-box answers and open-ended questions. This mixed approach enabled us to gather quantifiable information, but also allowed for contextualisation and qualification by some narrative responses. The questionnaire contained the following sections:

- Migration History;
- Employment, education and training;
- Housing;
- Community Integration;
- Future Intentions;
- Household Information.

A copy of the questionnaire can be found in Appendix 1 of this report.

Fieldwork and interviewers

This fieldwork for this study was carried out by two different types of interviewers: SHUSU fieldwork staff and Community Interviewers.

The involvement of Community Interviewers was of crucial importance in engaging as effectively as possible with the migrant worker communities in Rochdale and Oldham. There were two different 'types' of Community Interviewers involved in the study. Firstly, with the assistance of Migrant Workers North West and Rochdale Hungarian Social Club we recruited five interviewers from the migrant worker communities. These were from a range of countries (Poland, Lithuania, Romania and Hungary) and had excellent links with residents from a number of countries living and working in Rochdale and Oldham. Secondly, we employed Community Interviewers who had worked with either the research team, or members of the Steering Group, on previous studies and therefore had important local knowledge and previous experience of interviewing migrant worker communities.

The recruitment and training of Community Interviewers has a number of benefits:

- The opportunity exists for non-economic members of the communities, such as those with child care or family responsibilities or those currently unemployed, to be engaged in flexible employment;
- The opportunity for members of the communities to acquire new skills or update existing skills, which could lead to new employment or training opportunities⁶;
- The opportunity for individual members of the communities to receive payment for their contribution to the study, which directly contributes to the financial and economic stability of the communities;
- The possibility of accessing a greater range of communities given the ethnically diverse fieldwork force and networks they have; and,
- The potential to increase the capacity of the communities to participate in similar research ventures.

As well as benefiting the individual interviewers and their community, their involvement also engenders a greater sense of ownership of the study and its findings. In this way, the research is undertaken in conjunction with the communities rather than the communities being seen as passive research subjects: research is done *with* them and not *to* them.

⁶ Those who completed the training were presented with a *Certificate of Attendance* from the University of Salford.

In order to standardise our fieldwork approach, each interviewer had to undergo a Community Interviewer training course. This course focused specifically on:

- An in-depth appreciation of the study, focusing specifically on its aims and objectives;
- The necessary skills to complete the task and ensure consistency of approach in asking the questions and recording information across the fieldwork force;
- The importance of having a representative sample in terms of nationality and location; and,
- Issues of confidentiality and their own personal safety.

The participants were also introduced to the interview questionnaire, with a particular emphasis on developing a shared understanding of the vocabulary and concepts used in the questionnaire

Each questionnaire that was returned by the Community Interviewers was subject to strict quality control and appropriate feedback was given to the interviewers.

Sampling issues

In the absence of a comprehensive database which provides details of individuals' addresses and nationality, it was necessary to take a flexible and pragmatic approach to the sample selection procedure. The primary sampling method employed was 'snowball' sampling, whereby interviewers were encouraged to interview members of their own community or people they knew/were in contact with. Through these contacts, they were then introduced to additional participants. The different nationalities of the Community Interviewers employed on the study, coupled with the interviewers from SHUSU, ensured that there were multiple access points to interviewees, therefore avoiding a potential bias in the sample. In some cases, interviewers also followed an 'opportunistic' sampling approach, simply going to places where there were known populations of migrant workers (for example, specialist shops, etc.) in order to engage people in the research.

The sample was regularly monitored to ensure that there was not an over-representation from particular nationalities within Rochdale and Oldham. Over time, to ensure full representation, the interviewers were discouraged from approaching individuals from particular nationalities and asked to concentrate on interviewing those from groups which were felt to be under-represented.

Chapter 3. Migrant workers: Issues from the evidence base

Introduction

This chapter provides background information with regards to what is currently known about the experiences of migrant workers. It draws on a selection of previous research that has been carried out in the North West, as well as other areas of the UK, to highlight some of the key issues. It also looks at some of the official statistics available in relation to the size of the migrant worker population, nationally, regionally and in Rochdale and Oldham.

Defining migrant workers⁷

Before looking at the current information available with regards to migrant workers, it is important to establish who we are describing as migrant workers in this study.

The definition of migrant workers covers a wide group of people, including: foreign nationals who do not need a work visa; work permit holders; those on special workers schemes such as the Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Scheme (SAWS); those on the Highly Skilled Migrants Programme (HSMP); business people/investors; those on working holiday visas; and, those on other special visas, for instance, au pairs⁸. More simply, migrant workers can be defined as individuals who arrive in the host country with the intention of finding employment⁹. What distinguishes them from other migrant groups is the temporary nature of their movement.

In recent years, the term migrant worker has been increasingly associated with individuals from the new EU countries. In May 2004, ten countries joined the EU: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. From that date, Cyprus and Malta had full free movement and right to work throughout the EU, while the remaining eight countries (referred to as the A8) had certain restrictions placed on them. In the UK, for example, the government regulated access through the Worker Registration Scheme, and restricted access to benefits¹⁰. In 2007, the EU was also joined by Bulgaria and Romania (referred to as the A2). Nationals of these two countries were allowed gradual access to the UK labour market.

⁷ The terms 'migrant worker', 'economic migrant' and 'labour migrant' are often used to describe the same group of people. However, the term 'economic migrant' often elicits a number of discursively negative connotations. As a result we have chosen to use the term 'migrant worker' throughout this report.

⁸ IPPR (2004) *Labour Migration to the UK*, London: IPPR.

⁹ Zaronaitė, D. and Tirzite, A. (2006) *The Dynamics of Migrant Labour in South Lincolnshire*, East Midlands Development Agency.

¹⁰ The ability to claim benefits is limited by the Habitual Residence Test, which imposes a 12 month qualifying period of residence on migrants before they can claim.

Skilled workers were allowed access through the Highly Skilled Migrants Programme (HSMP), while for lower skilled workers quotas were set and restricted to specific schemes, such as the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS)¹¹.

Although it is recognised that migrant workers come to the UK from all over the world, the focus of this research is on those who have migrated from the A8/A2 countries. As such, this chapter draws primarily on research carried out with these new communities; however, reference is made to more general research, where relevant.

The size of the migrant worker population

The difficulties of calculating the scale of migration are widely acknowledged¹², particularly when dealing with a potentially transient people, whose migration may be intrinsically linked to employment opportunities. There are a number of sources that can be used to derive information with regards to in-migration, including: National Insurance Registration data (NINO); Worker Registration Scheme (WRS); Work Permit Applications; International Passenger Survey (IPS); Applications for Asylum; the Census; Labour Force Survey (LFS); Patient Registration Records; National Pupil Dataset; and, Electoral Roll¹³.

Of this list, two commonly used methods for estimating the size of the migrant worker population are National Insurance Registration data (NINO), which can be broken down by local authority and is based on the most recently recorded address of the NINO recipient¹⁴, and Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) information, which was introduced in 2004 for A8 migrants. WRS requires individuals from these countries to obtain a registration certificate for each job they have in the UK (with the exception of self employment)¹⁵.

¹¹ Home Office (2008) *Bulgarian and Romanian Accession Statistics October – December 2007*, London: HMSO.

¹² Dudman, J. (2007) 'Getting the measure of immigrants', *Public*, November 2007; House of Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry, Eleventh Report, 9th October 2007; Institute of Community Cohesion (2007) *Estimating the scale and impacts of migration at the local level*, London: Local Government Association (LGA).

¹³ Pemberton, S. and Stevens, C. (2006) *Supporting Migrant Workers in the North West of England*, Merseyside Social Inclusion Observatory; Dudman, J (2007) 'Getting the measure of immigrants', *Public*, November 2007.

¹⁴ Department for Work and pensions (DWP) (2007) National Insurance Registrations in respect of non-UK national 2006/07, *Internet reference:*
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/registration_tables2007

¹⁵ Pemberton, S. and Stevens, C. (2006) *Supporting Migrant Workers in the North West of England*, Merseyside Social Inclusion Observatory.

There are of course issues and problems with regards to current data collection techniques:

“The lack of accurate and adequate information on the number of A8/A2 nationals working in the UK or from which countries they come is a matter of concern because of the consequences for wide areas of public policy”¹⁶.

Such information does not provide a ‘net’ measure of migration¹⁷. The figures are unable to show movement of people *within* the UK¹⁸, as well as not being able to indicate who has returned home. Furthermore, figures that rely on official registration, naturally, cannot account for those who are not registered. In order to address some of these issues, there have been calls for more accurate figures, particularly at a local level¹⁹, as well as calls to include specific questions in the next Census, or even consider carrying out mid-term five-year census²⁰. Furthermore, the University of Leeds currently has ESRC funding for a two year project (2007-09) to establish a new migrant databank²¹. This databank aims to bring together data from various sources to provide projections for each authority with regards to different ethnic groups²².

At present, however, in the absence of accurate data collection techniques, we have used NINO and WRS data as a starting point to providing some information nationally, regionally and for Rochdale and Oldham specifically; however, readers must be aware of the limitations and caveats when using this information.

The national picture

According to the Audit Commission (2007)²³, in 1996, foreign nationals made up 3.5% of the workforce. By 2006, this had nearly doubled. In addition, 713,450 new National Insurance (NI) numbers were issued to foreign nationals in 2006/07, which is almost double the figure for 2002/03²⁴. As highlighted previously, workers from the Accession countries have come to

¹⁶ House of Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry, Eleventh Report, 9th October 2007, paragraph 14.

¹⁷ House of Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry, Eleventh Report, 9th October 2007, paragraph 14.

¹⁸ Pemberton, S. and Stevens, C. (2006) *Supporting Migrant Workers in the North West of England*, Merseyside Social Inclusion Observatory, emphasis added.

¹⁹ Dudman, J (2007) ‘getting the measure of immigrants’, *Public*, November 2007; Institute of Community Cohesion (2007) *Estimating the scale and impacts of migration at the local level*, London: Local Government Association (LGA).

²⁰ House of Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry, Eleventh Report, 9th October 2007.

²¹ See <http://www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/people/p.rees/researchinfo.html>

²² Institute of Community Cohesion (2007) *Estimating the scale and impacts of migration at the local level*, London: Local Government Association (LGA).

²³ Audit Commission (2007) *Crossing Borders: Responding to the local challenges of migrant workers*, London: Audit Commission.

²⁴ DWP (2007) *National Insurance Allocations to Overseas Nationals Entering the UK 2006/07*, London: DWP.

dominate these arrivals. Indeed, looking at the NINO figures by nationality, workers from the A8/A2 countries account for around 45% of the new NI numbers issued to foreign nationals in 2006/07 (see Table 1 below).

Table 1: National Insurance Registrations of non-UK nationals by country of origin 2006/07 (UK totals)

Country of origin	Number
Poland	222,760
Slovakia	28,840
Lithuania	24,110
Czech Republic	11,750
Latvia	11,090
Hungary	10,880
Romania	4,360
Bulgaria	3,080
Estonia	2,060
Slovenia	530
Total	319,460

Source: National Insurance Registration data, Information Directorate (IFD), Department for Work and Pensions.

Note: These figures are rounded up to the nearest 10.

The Accession Monitoring Report²⁵, which is published quarterly, offers information with regards to WRS applicants for A8 nationals. Between May 2004 and December 2007, there was a cumulative total of 796,000 applicants (of which 766,000 were approved)²⁶.

The regional picture

Looking specifically at the North West, the Accession Monitoring Report also provides information on the geographical distribution of employers of registered workers from the A8 countries (see Table 2 below).

²⁵ Home Office (2007) *Accession Monitoring Report May 2004 – December 2007*, London: Home Office.

²⁶ Home Office (2007) *Accession Monitoring Report May 2004 – December 2007*, London: Home Office.

Table 2: Geographical distribution of employers of registered workers (May 2004 – December 2007)

Region/Area	2004	2005	2006	2007
Anglia	21,915	29,930	31,690	29,250
Midlands	11,710	26,755	33,155	29,175
London	25,470	23,460	21,495	20,850
North East	9,060	21,405	25,460	21,535
Central	13,885	20,640	21,315	19,285
North West	7,675	19,135	23,875	20,665
South West	9,700	18,150	21,360	18,965
Scotland	8,150	15,895	19,050	19,345
South East	11,200	13,670	13,325	12,790
Northern Ireland	3,660	8,845	8,970	8,335
Wales	2,430	5,490	6,875	5,940
Total	125,880	204,970	227,875	206,965

Source: Home Office (2007)

Note: Some applicants did not provide a postcode and they appear in the total row at the bottom of the table. The total shown for 2004 is for part of the year (May – December).

These figures indicate that the total for the North West region since 2004 is less than 10% of the total for the UK, with larger numbers being registered in Anglia, the Midlands and London.

Table 3 below shows the information available with regards to National Insurance registrations in the North West 2006/07. This is broken down by country of origin.

Table 3: National Insurance Registrations of non-UK nationals by country of origin

Country of origin	Number
Poland	20,190
Slovakia	2,660
Czech Republic	1,410
Lithuania	1,050
Hungary	740
Latvia	710
Romania	150
Bulgaria	120
Estonia	120
Slovenia	30
Total	51,550

Source: National Insurance Registration data, Information Directorate (IFD), Department for Work and Pensions.

Note: These figures are rounded up to the nearest 10.

Statistics for Rochdale and Oldham

The NINO and WRS data can also be broken down to a sub-regional and local authority level. Table 4 below, for example, shows the National Insurance registrations for Greater Manchester 2006/07.

Table 4: National Insurance number registrations A8/A2 nationals: Greater Manchester 2006/07

Local authority	All	Country of origin									
		Poland	Slovakia	Lithuania	Czech Republic	Latvia	Hungary	Estonia	Slovenia	Romania	Bulgaria
Manchester	4,430	3,050	530	200	390	120	60	30	10	30	10
Salford	1,860	1,430	170	40	120	40	40	10	-	10	-
Bolton	820	490	80	60	60	-	120	-	-	10	-
Trafford	800	610	90	10	40	10	30	10	-	-	-
Bury	770	580	50	20	80	20	20	-	-	-	-
Wigan	710	390	140	100	20	30	10	10	-	10	-
Rochdale	610	530	40	10	10	10	10	-	-	-	-
Tameside	570	490	40	-	30	-	10	-	-	-	-
Stockport	470	380	20	10	20	10	10	-	-	10	10
Oldham	460	320	60	20	40	10	10	-	-	-	-
Total	11,500	8,270	1,220	530	810	250	320	60	10	70	20

Source: Taken from National Insurance Registration data, Information Directorate (IFD), Department for Work and Pensions.

Note: These figures are rounded up to the nearest 10. '-' denotes nil or negligible.

As can be seen, and perhaps unsurprisingly, Manchester has the largest, and most diverse, proportion of A8/A2 registrations in Greater Manchester (around 39%). Rochdale and Oldham have relatively small numbers (around 5% and 4% respectively, with Oldham having the lowest number). This data indicates that there were no National Insurance applications in 2006/07 from Estonia, Slovenia, Romania and Bulgaria. With regards to Romania and Bulgaria, this could be attributed to the fact their Accession only occurred in 2007.

The National Insurance data is available for all non-UK nationals; therefore, it is possible to give an indication of percentage of all non-UK registrations that can be attributed to A8/A2 nationals. On average, A8/A2 nationals accounted for just under half of the National Insurance registrations in 2006/07 for non-UK nationals. This ranged from 63% (Wigan) to 35% (Oldham) (see list below).

- Wigan - 63%
- Bury - 62%
- Salford - 58%
- Tameside - 55%
- Trafford - 46%
- Stockport - 45%
- **Rochdale** - **44%**
- Bolton - 41%
- Manchester - 39%
- **Oldham** - **35%**

With regards to the information provided by Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) data, Tables 5 and 6 below illustrate WRS registrations for A8 nationals in Rochdale and Oldham respectively, May 2004 – December 2007.

Table 5: WRS approved applications by nationality: Rochdale May 2004 – December 2007

Country of origin	May 04 – Mar 06	Apr 06 – Jun 06	Jul 06 – Sep 06	Oct 06 – Dec 06	Jan 07 – Mar 07	Apr 07 – Jun 07	Jul 07 – Sep 07	Oct 07 – Dec 07	Total
Poland	310	35	115	95	90	45	60	60	810
Czech Republic	60	+	10	5	+	5	10	5	99
Lithuania	30	5	10	5	5	+	5	5	67
Slovakia	15	5	15	10	10	+	10	-	67
Latvia	25	+	+	5	+	+	5	-	43
Hungary	10	+	+	5	5	+	+	-	28
Estonia	5	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	7
Slovenia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	455	51	154	127	114	58	92	70	1,121

Source: Home Office (2008)

Note: These figures are based on the employers address and are rounded up to the nearest 5 (- denotes nil and + denotes 1 or 2). When calculating the total for each nationality and time period, we have taken + as 2. This means that the total above is sometimes slightly different to those indicated in the source data.

Table 6: WRS approved applications by nationality: Oldham May 2004 – December 2007

Country of origin	May 04 – Mar 06	Apr 06 – Jun 06	Jul 06 – Sep 06	Oct 06 – Dec 06	Jan 07 – Mar 07	Apr 07 – Jun 07	Jul 07 – Sep 07	Oct 07 – Dec 07	Total
Poland	190	25	35	65	80	30	50	35	510
Slovakia	20	10	5	5	5	5	20	20	90
Czech Republic	30	-	+	+	10	+	+	5	53
Latvia	15	+	5	5	-	+	+	5	36
Hungary	5	-	-	5	5	-	+	5	22
Lithuania	5	-	5	+	5	-	+	-	19
Estonia	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	6
Slovenia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	267	39	52	84	105	39	80	60	736

Source: Home Office (2008)

Note: These figures are based on the employers address and are rounded up to the nearest 5 (- denotes nil and + denotes 1 or 2). When calculating the total for each nationality and time period, we have taken + as 2. This means that the total above is sometimes slightly different to those indicated in the source data.

Rochdale and Oldham appear to share in the national, regional and sub-regional pattern in terms of most of the applications being from 6 particular countries (Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Latvia, Hungary, Lithuania), with the majority of registrations being Polish (72% in Rochdale and 69% in Oldham). Similarly, this data shows no applications by people from Slovenia, and very few from Estonia.

Despite these similarities, however, subtle differences can be seen with regards to the order of the national groups; for example, in Rochdale, the second largest group are people from the Czech Republic, while in Oldham it is Slovakian nationals. Furthermore, in Oldham, there have been very few Lithuanian applicants (around 3% of A8 applicants), while the number in Rochdale is nearly twice this figure (around 6% of A8 applicants).

When looking at this data, what needs to be taken into account are all the caveats highlighted previously. It must be remembered that a number of people will have returned home during this period. Indeed, a recent report suggests that while around 1 million A8 migrant workers have arrived in the UK since 2004, approximately half have since left²⁷. Furthermore, there will be those who have migrated out of Rochdale and Oldham to find work in other areas of the UK.

²⁷ Pollard, N., Latorre, M. and Sriskandarajah, D (2008) *Floodgates or turnstiles? Post-EU enlargement migration flows to (and from) the UK*, London: IPPR.

Skills, qualifications and employment

In February 2004, David Blunkett, the then Home Secretary, announced that the UK had 550,000 job vacancies and needed migrant workers to help fill these²⁸. In terms of the labour market in the North West, the highest job vacancy rates were found in 'elementary occupations', which are primarily low skilled jobs²⁹. Research carried out in the North West indicated that the percentage of such vacancies, particularly 'Process, Plant and Machine Operatives' had fallen between 2004 and 2006³⁰. Although this cannot solely be attributed to migrant workers, there appears to be some correlation³¹.

Turning our attention once again to the official statistics, Tables 7 and 8 below show the approved applications by occupation for Rochdale and Oldham May 2004 – December 2007. This information is taken from WRS data, which provides figures for the 'top ten' occupations of registered workers. As such, there is an additional figure for 'All other occupations', which are not listed. The caveats mentioned earlier with regards to the use of such data need to be taken into account; however, we have taken the information available with regards to the 'top ten' occupations for each specific time period to give an indication of the types of jobs people are undertaking in Rochdale and Oldham.

Table 7: WRS approved applications by occupation May 2004 – December 2007 (Rochdale)

Employment	Approved applications
Process operative (other Factory worker)	265
Warehouse Operative	207
Labourer, building	150
Packer	132
Care assistants and home carers	40
Cleaner, domestic staff	36
Sales and retail	30
Kitchen and catering assistants	24
Administrator	23
Driver, HGV (Heavy Goods Vehicle)	22
Mechanic	7
Process operative (Textiles)	5
Welder	5
Carpenter/joiner	2
Chef, other	2
Civil engineer	2
Maid / Room attendant (hotel)	2
All Other Occupations	165

²⁸ Zaronaitė, D. and Tirzite, A. (2006) *The Dynamics of Migrant Labour in South Lincolnshire*, East Midlands Development Agency.

²⁹ Pemberton, S. and Stevens, C. (2006) *Supporting Migrant Workers in the North West of England*, Merseyside Social Inclusion Observatory.

³⁰ Pemberton, S. and Stevens, C. (2006) *Supporting Migrant Workers in the North West of England*, Merseyside Social Inclusion Observatory.

³¹ Pemberton, S. and Stevens, C. (2006) *Supporting Migrant Workers in the North West of England*, Merseyside Social Inclusion Observatory.

Table 8: WRS approved applications by occupation May 2004 – December 2007 (Oldham)

Employment	Approved applications
Process operative (other Factory worker)	205
Warehouse Operative	130
Packer	66
Driver (Passenger Carrying Vehicle)	56
Labourer, building	40
Cleaner, domestic staff	29
Baker	26
Kitchen and catering assistants	16
Care assistants and home carers	15
Sales and retail	7
Butcher/Meat cutter	4
Refuse and salvage occupation	4
Constructor, roofing	2
Driver, HGV (Heavy Goods Vehicle)	2
Mechanic	2
Process operative (Textiles)	2
Pharmacist/Pharmacologist	2
Carpenter/joiner	2
Laboratory assistant	2
All Other Occupations	122

As can be seen from this data, there are similarities between Rochdale and Oldham in terms of those occupations with high numbers of migrant workers. In both areas, for example, factories and warehouses are large employers of migrant workers. The data also shows some subtle differences; for instance, it appears that although Oldham has lower numbers of approved applications they are spread over a slightly wider range of occupations, including Pharmacist/Pharmacologist, Laboratory assistant, Refuse and salvage occupation, Butcher/Meat cutter, as well as a number of people who drive passenger carrying vehicles (for example Bus drivers).

What is clear is that migrant workers are vital for a large number of employers. They are filling significant gaps in the labour market³², often undertaking work that the indigenous population is reluctant or unable to do³³. A recent report by the Chambers of Commerce North West³⁴, based on a survey carried out with a number of employers in the North West highlights that 40% of the businesses who took part in the survey had recruited migrant workers due to a shortage of skilled candidates, while 30% recruited because of a shortage of people with the necessary experience. Furthermore, a number of employers

³² Zaronaitė, D. and Tirzite, A. (2006) *The Dynamics of Migrant Labour in South Lincolnshire*, East Midlands Development Agency.

³³ Jordan, B. and Brown, P. (2007) 'Migration and work in the United Kingdom: Mobility and social order', *Mobilities*, 2, 2: pp 255-276.

³⁴ Chambers of Commerce North West (2008) *Migrant Workers Survey 2008: A survey examining the impact migrant workers have had on business in the North West*, Warrington: Chambers of Commerce North West.

also perceived a better work ethic amongst migrant workers; indeed, some businesses reported improvements in the work ethic of existing staff as a result of recruiting migrant workers.

What is often acknowledged is that despite the range of skills and qualifications that people often have, there is a tendency to undertake work that is not commensurate with their previous occupation or status in their home country. The Audit Commission (2007)³⁵, for example, with reference to a study carried out in Norfolk, highlight that 20% of those interviewed in Norfolk had university level qualifications, but were currently undertaking low-skilled jobs. It has been suggested that migrant workers are often found in low paid work, with limited occupational mobility³⁶, or what have also been described as '3-D' jobs (dirty, dangerous and degrading)³⁷. This can be due to a need to find a job as soon as possible, as well as the often temporary nature of their employment. This can create a situation whereby people 'settle' for particular jobs, despite the fact that they may be over-qualified. There are also issues around language barriers and the lack of recognition of overseas qualifications, which can hinder occupational mobility. Indeed, the research carried out by the Chambers of Commerce North West³⁸ revealed that 71% of those businesses who employed migrant workers did not have procedures for recognising qualifications from home countries. There is evidence that some initiatives have been developed in order to recognise the skills of new migrants and also assist occupational mobility³⁹. This includes skills recognition and vocational adaptation pathways, which have been piloted in five vocational areas: construction; general maintenance; social research; business administration; and, health care⁴⁰. These projects included carrying out skills audits and providing vocational ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages).

A recent report by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI)⁴¹, however, shows that the portrayal of migrant workers as lower-skilled and working in lower paid jobs is overly simplistic. They suggest that the overall pattern is more complex, reflecting a range of demand from employers for different levels of skills. Migrant workers, whether regular and irregular, are traditionally creative and entrepreneurial and will often seek multiple

³⁵ Audit Commission (2007) *Crossing Borders: Responding to the local challenges of migrant workers*, London: Audit Commission.

³⁶ Markova, E. and Black, R. (2007) *East European immigration and community cohesion*, York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

³⁷ Pai, H-H. (2004) 'An ethnography of global labour migration', *Feminist Review*, 77: pp 129-136.

³⁸ Chambers of Commerce North West (2008) *Migrant Workers Survey 2008: A survey examining the impact migrant workers have had on business in the North West*, Warrington: Chambers of Commerce North West.

³⁹ Waddington, S. (2007) *Routes to integration and inclusion: new approaches to enable refugee and migrant workers to progress in the labour market*, NIACE.

⁴⁰ Phillimore, J., Goodson, L., Hennessy, D., and Ergün, E., with Joseph, R. and Jones, P. (2007) *Employability pathways: an integrated approach to recognising the skills and experiences of new migrants*, Birmingham: University of Birmingham.

⁴¹ CBI (2007) *CBI evidence to House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee: the economic impact of migration*, London: CBI.

strategies to maintain financial viability⁴². Furthermore, recent research carried out in Bolton does indicate that there is occupational mobility amongst migrant workers, particularly those who have been in the UK for longer time periods⁴³.

The Chambers of Commerce North West⁴⁴ highlight that a flexible labour market is vital for economic success in the region, suggesting that without migrant workers, some businesses would not have met customer orders or been able to expand. However, there are of course wider implications in terms of the need to address the skills shortages of the indigenous population, particularly in light of recent reports that a large number of migrants have, or may in the future, return to their home countries.

Despite these positive issues, there are a number of concerns that have been raised in previous research that should be taken into consideration by authorities and stakeholders. To a certain extent the UK has more 'flexible' labour market policies than some other EU countries⁴⁵. One concern is that although there is relatively 'easy access' to the work permit system in the UK, there is a lack of regulation and care once people are in employment⁴⁶, which can lead to exploitation. The tragic deaths of the cockle pickers in Morecambe Bay in 2004 is an example of the danger posed to vulnerable people when the proper checks are not in place. Furthermore, from a gendered perspective, there are a number of migrant women who find themselves in exploitative situations, such as sex work and prostitution⁴⁷. Such issues often relate to wider concerns around the trafficking of individuals. Furthermore, there are widely acknowledged concerns over the role of 'gangmasters' or other 'agents'. Research carried out in South Lincolnshire⁴⁸, suggests that a number of deductions were made to workers wages when employed through 'gangmasters' or employment agencies; for example, for 'cleaning', 'internet use', 'work clothes', 'weekly administration', and 'cashing cheques'. In addition some people had to pay an 'agent' to come to the UK, but also pay for their job as well, if it was found for them prior to coming to the UK (this practice is illegal in the UK, but does still occur).

⁴² Jordan, B. and Düvell, F. (2002) *Irregular Migration: The Dilemmas of Transnational Mobility*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

⁴³ Steele, A. and Hunt, L. (2008) *Migrant workers in Bolton*, Salford: University of Salford.

⁴⁴ Chambers of Commerce North West (2008) *Migrant Workers Survey 2008: A survey examining the impact migrant workers have had on business in the North West*, Warrington: Chambers of Commerce North West.

⁴⁵ Jordan, B. and Brown, P. (2007) 'Migration and work in the United Kingdom: Mobility and social order', *Mobilities*, 2, 2: pp 255-276.

⁴⁶ Jordan, B. and Brown, P. (2007) 'Migration and work in the United Kingdom: Mobility and social order', *Mobilities*, 2, 2: pp 255-276.

⁴⁷ Hunt, L. (2005) *Women asylum seekers and refugees in West Yorkshire: Opportunities, constraints and the role agency*, unpublished doctoral thesis, Leeds: University of Leeds.

⁴⁸ Zaronite, D. and Tirzite, A. (2006) *The Dynamics of Migrant Labour in South Lincolnshire*, East Midlands Development Agency.

The research in South Lincolnshire also highlighted that there was very little work with Trade Unions (TUs) in this area. Some Trade Unions, however, have developed initiatives which aim to address some of these concerns. The Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union (BFAWU), for example, ran a project called 'Wiedza', which was aimed at Polish workers in the North West. This project ran from October 2007 to March 2008 and involved the secondment of two union representatives in the North West. The objectives of the project were to: improve relations on the shop floor; help with communications within the workplace; encourage the Polish community to take up learning, not only ESOL, but also numeracy and literacy; and help to increase Union membership. The project involved the Union representatives gaining entry to workplaces and organising open days to explain to people what the Union could offer and their employment rights⁴⁹.

Language barriers

Language is one of the key issues for new migrant communities. There are a number of studies that have focused on the importance of language for asylum seekers and refugees, for example, particularly with regards to language being a vital tool of integration⁵⁰. Such arguments, however, apply equally to migrants from A8/A2 countries. Acquisition of language affects the types of jobs people can obtain and the wages they can command. Research highlights, for example, that fluency in English can increase the average hourly occupational wage by around 20%⁵¹. Anecdotal evidence suggests that some employers will use other migrants workers, with good English skills, to translate documents for them (for example contracts and Health and Safety information), but also to act as interpreters in face-to-face situations in the work place.

Language is not just an issue in the work place, however, but also features in other interactions; for example, accessing services such as health care and education, as well as the amenities that are accessed every day, such as shops and banks. With growing numbers of asylum seekers, refugees, and, more recently migrant workers, there have been growing concerns about the level of ESOL provision available⁵². Waiting lists for language classes have increased across the UK, as has the cost of provision. Recent research in Bolton⁵³, for example, revealed that in one particular college, at the start of the academic year 2007, there were 1,100 people on the waiting list for ESOL

⁴⁹ Contact with representatives from BFAWU was made at a conference in London, which members of the research team attended in 2007.

⁵⁰ Bloch, A. (2004) *Making it Work: Refugee employment in the UK*, Working paper 2 of the 'asylum and migration' working paper series, London: IPPR

⁵¹ Shields, M. A. and Wheatley-Price, S. (2002) 'The English language fluency and occupational success of ethnic minority immigrant men living in metropolitan areas', *Journal of Population Economics*, pp 137-160.

⁵² Phillimore, J., Goodson, L. Hennessy, D. and Ergun, E with Joseph, R. and Jones, P. (2007) *Employability pathways: an integrated approach to recognising the skills and experiences of new migrants*, Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (CURS), Birmingham: University of Birmingham.

⁵³ Steele, A. and Hunt, L. (2008) *Migrant workers in Bolton*, Salford: University of Salford.

classes. It was also highlighted that, despite the introduction of limited fees, demand for ESOL is higher than ever.

Housing

It is widely acknowledged that accommodation can affect people's health, access to work and social interaction⁵⁴. The main issues raised in previous studies with regards to migrant workers and accommodation relate to people living in private rented accommodation, particularly those in Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). One study, for example, refers to instances of up to 16 people sharing a house⁵⁵.

There are also issues around lack of choice with regards to location; poor conditions of accommodation; use of low demand housing; and, concerns with accommodation that is tied to employment. Migrant workers often lack the necessary information about their accommodation options to make informed choices about what is on offer, particularly with regards to accessing socially rented accommodation⁵⁶.

Loss of a job, combined with the restrictions on claiming benefits, can lead to homelessness. Furthermore, it is highlighted that in some areas there are instances where people drift into squatting and street drinking. This is most noticeable in London, where, according to the Audit Commission (2007)⁵⁷, migrants from Accession countries accounted for half of the bed in night shelters. 'Hidden homelessness', whereby individuals are relying on relatives and friends for accommodation can also occur for some migrant groups⁵⁸.

⁵⁴ Spencer, S., Johnson, M. R. D., Phillips, D., Rudiger, A., Somerville, W., Wintour, P. and Warren, S. (2004) *Refugees and other new migrants: a review of the evidence on successful approaches to integration*, Oxford: Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS); Spencer, S., Ruhs, M., Anderson, B. and Rogaly, B. (2007) *Migrants' lives beyond the workplace: the experience of Central and Eastern Europeans in the UK*, York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation

⁵⁵ Zaronaitė, D. and Tirezite, A. (2006) *The Dynamics of Migrant Labour in South Lincolnshire*, East Midlands Development Agency.

⁵⁶ Steele, A. and Hunt, L. (2008) *Migrant workers in Bolton*, Salford: University of Salford.

⁵⁷ Audit Commission (2007) *Crossing Borders: Responding to the local challenges of migrant workers*, London: Audit Commission.

⁵⁸ Hunt, L. (2005) *Women asylum seekers and refugees in West Yorkshire: Opportunities, constraints and the role agency*, unpublished doctoral thesis, Leeds: University of Leeds; Steele, A. and Hunt, L. (2008) *Migrant workers in Bolton*, Salford: University of Salford.

Discrimination and community cohesion

Discrimination against migrant groups can be a pertinent issue. Previous research suggests that discrimination most commonly occurs in employment and housing, although instances of discrimination have been highlighted with regards to treatment by banks and shops⁵⁹. There is, of course, also the reaction of local people to the arrival of migrant workers. This is often based on misconceptions and misinformation, which can be fuelled by negative media debate⁶⁰. Some negative attitudes stem from views about social problems, for example, too much drinking, or driving without insurance. There are also long-standing misconceptions about migrants claiming benefits and taking the jobs of domestic workers, which as highlighted previously are often unfounded. Migrant workers can therefore become 'scapegoats' for already existing social and economic problems⁶¹.

Interestingly, although not surprisingly, it is highlighted that negative views are often held by those who have had little interaction with migrant groups, while those people who actually know, or are friends with migrant workers, often hold more positive views⁶². Research carried out with migrant communities in London, Brighton and Hove⁶³ indicates a need for neighbourhood specific responses to promote a sense of 'belonging' for migrants and increase social interactions with members of the local community. It is suggested that migrants do not want to become 'ghettoised', interacting only with other migrants⁶⁴; however, work commitments often give people little time for meaningful engagement with the local community⁶⁵.

⁵⁹ Zaronaitė, D. and Tirzite, A. (2006) *The Dynamics of Migrant Labour in South Lincolnshire*, East Midlands Development Agency.

⁶⁰ Daily Mail, 18th December 2007, '100,000 young Britons pushed into unemployment by immigrants', *Internet reference: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-503155/100-000-young-Britons-pushed-unemployment-immigrants.html>*; Reid, S. (2007) '£1m of child benefit paid out a month – to mothers in Poland', Daily Mail, 21st September 2007, *Internet reference: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-483225/1m-child-benefit-paid-month--mothers-Poland.html>*

⁶¹ UNISON (undated) *International Labour Migration*, London: UNISON.

⁶² Zaronaitė, D. and Tirzite, A. (2006) *The Dynamics of Migrant Labour in South Lincolnshire*, East Midlands Development Agency.

⁶³ Markova, E and Black, R. (2007) *East European immigration and community cohesion*, York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

⁶⁴ Pemberton, S and Stevens, C (2006) *Supporting Migrant Workers in the North West of England*, Merseyside Social Inclusion Observatory.

⁶⁵ Steele, A. and Hunt, L. (2008) *Migrant workers in Bolton*, Salford: University of Salford.

Dissemination of information

There is a general lack of systematic information given to new arrivals on what to do and how to get help⁶⁶. Most new arrivals have limited knowledge of their rights in terms of access to health care, housing, education, legal advice, and employment. There is a particular need to raise awareness of the national minimum wage, for example⁶⁷. A previous survey carried out with over 600 migrants suggests that just over half of the sample had received information on their permission to work and access to public services⁶⁸. Research carried out by the Chambers of Commerce North West⁶⁹ also highlights that a number of businesses were often having to assist migrant workers in key areas that were not related to the workplace; for example, helping with access to housing, support groups and bank accounts.

At the same time, there can be limited awareness amongst migrant workers of their responsibilities (i.e. TV licence, car registration, etc.)⁷⁰. With regards to schools, for instance, some parents are not aware of the legal requirement in the UK for children to attend school. The concern is that migrants will often get advice from friends, relatives and other migrants, which in some cases can be inaccurate information⁷¹. In some respects, therefore, dissemination of information is regarded as more important than increasing provision⁷². The CBI⁷³ highlights that efforts are being made to make information on employment rights available to people in the UK and in their home countries.

⁶⁶ Spencer, S., Ruhs, M., Anderson, B. and Rogaly, B. (2007) *Migrants' lives beyond the workplace: the experience of Central and Eastern Europeans in the UK*, York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

⁶⁷ House of Commons Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Committee (2008) *Europe moves East: The impact of the 'New' EU Member States on UK business: Government Response to the Trade and Industry Committee's Eleventh Report of Session 2006-07*, London: HMSO; Steele, A. and Hunt, L. (2008) *Migrant workers in Bolton*, Salford: University of Salford.

⁶⁸ Spencer, S., Ruhs, M., Anderson, B. and Rogaly, B. (2007) *Migrants' lives beyond the workplace: the experience of Central and Eastern Europeans in the UK*, York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

⁶⁹ Chambers of Commerce North West (2008) *Migrant Workers Survey 2008: A survey examining the impact migrant workers have had on business in the North West*, Warrington: Chambers of Commerce North West.

⁷⁰ Zaronaitė, D. and Tirzite, A. (2006) *The Dynamics of Migrant Labour in South Lincolnshire, East Midlands* Development Agency.

⁷¹ This is based on information gathered by SHUSU during research on BME homelessness in Islington.

⁷² Pemberton, S. and Stevens, C. (2006) *Supporting Migrant Workers in the North West of England*, Merseyside Social Inclusion Observatory.

⁷³ CBI (2007) *CBI evidence to House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee: the economic impact of migration*, London: CBI.

Impacts of migration and future considerations

Since the arrival of Jewish immigrants at the beginning of the 20th century, immigration has been a feature of both the political and public agenda. There have always been calls to encourage and restrict entry to the UK, which have been aimed at different groups of migrants at different time periods. A common theme running through the debates, however, is the argument for restriction based on the perceived need to *defend the benefits of nationals*, particularly in terms of defending the labour market and welfare opportunities of the domestic population, whilst balancing the need for economic growth.

This ‘new wave’ of migration appears to be no different in terms of the public and political debates. One of the key issues emerging is the discrepancy between *actual* and *perceived* impacts of the arrival of migrants⁷⁴. There have been concerns, for example, about the effects on employment opportunities of the indigenous population. Recent research suggests, however, that there is little evidence to suggest that migration has an adverse effect on either employment prospects or wage levels of native workers⁷⁵. Indeed, it is argued that unemployment and inflation are likely to be lower as a result of recent migration trends⁷⁶. Furthermore, there have been concerns with regards to the potential demands placed on social housing; however, it has been highlighted elsewhere that only a small proportion is allocated to foreign nationals⁷⁷. Research in the North West also highlights that new migrant groups are bringing ‘hard to let’ properties back into use⁷⁸.

Obviously, the impacts at a local level depend upon the circumstances of that particular area; for example, the labour market and economy, as well as previous experience of ethnically diverse communities⁷⁹. Focusing specifically on the impact on public services, there is currently very little known about this. Indeed, it has been highlighted that such impacts are often difficult to quantify:

“Whilst one-off projects and small targeted initiatives are sometimes costed, pressures on mainstream services such as housing, education, information and advice services and measures to promote cohesion are, of necessity in the context of finite budgets, being absorbed by stretching other budgets, and therefore the financial impact is hidden”⁸⁰.

⁷⁴ IPPR (undated) *The reception and integration of new migrant groups*, London: IPPR, emphasis added

⁷⁵ Coats, D. (2008) *Migration Myths: Employment, Wages and Labour Market Performance*, London: The Work Foundation.

⁷⁶ CBI (2007) *CBI evidence to House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee: the economic impact of migration*, London: CBI.

⁷⁷ Roney, J. (2008) *Housing Report to the Migration Impacts Forum*, 16th January 2008, Sheffield: Sheffield City Council.

⁷⁸ Pemberton, S and Stevens, C (2007) *Economic Migration to Housing Market Renewal Areas in North West England – Opportunity or Threat?*, MSIO Policy Report 4.

⁷⁹ Institute of Community Cohesion (2007) *Estimating the scale and impacts of migration at the local level*, London: Local Government Association (LGA).

⁸⁰ Institute of Community Cohesion (2007) *Estimating the scale and impacts of migration at the local level*, London: Local Government Association (LGA), p. 5.

Looking specifically at access to health care, research carried out in Scotland highlighted that the majority of migrants perceived the medical services in their own countries to be better⁸¹. As such, people indicated that they would sometimes return home for medical or dental treatment. Furthermore, it was suggested in one study of A8 migrants that 90% had not used medical or health services during their stay⁸².

With regards to schools, there are a number of potential impacts that have been identified, which include the need to provide translation/interpretation services; understanding cultural differences; pressures arising from mid-term arrivals; and, the lack of records and assessments⁸³. At the same time, recent research in South Lincolnshire suggests that the arrival of migrant worker children into some primary schools has enabled some schools to remain open, which would otherwise have been forced to close⁸⁴.

Research often suggests that there is a difference between how long migrants anticipate staying and the duration they actually stay⁸⁵, with the implication that some migrants are opting to stay longer-term or indefinitely. This has obvious implications for accommodation, support and integration. As highlighted previously, however, recent research indicates that there is now a trend of 'fewer in and more out', which is set to become more pronounced in the future⁸⁶. The reasons for this shift include improvements in the economic conditions in people's home countries, which are weakening the economic motivations to stay in the UK, or for new workers to come. Furthermore, what also needs to be considered is that restrictions on full free movement of 'new' EU members across the other EU countries will be removed over the coming years and will be complete by 2011 (for those from the A8) and by 2014 (for those from the A2). This provides a greater choice for migrant workers in terms of where they can migrate to.

As has been outlined above, there are a range of factors to consider when looking at the needs of migrant workers. One of the major considerations is the need to explore the current situation at a local level. The following chapters now focus on the findings from the survey carried out with migrant workers in Rochdale and Oldham, as well as incorporating information gathered during consultation with other key stakeholders.

⁸¹ de Lima, P., Chaudhry, M. M., Whelton, R. and Arshad, R. (2007) *A study of migrant workers in Grampian*, Edinburgh: Communities Scotland.

⁸² Fife Research Coordination Group (2008) *Migrant Workers in Fife - Survey 2007*, Internet reference:
http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/uploadfiles/publications/c64_MigrantWorkersSurveyKnowFifeFindingsV1_2.pdf

⁸³ Institute of Community Cohesion (2007) *Estimating the scale and impacts of migration at the local level*, London: Local Government Association (LGA).

⁸⁴ Somerville, P. (2008) *Migrant Workers in South Lincolnshire: A report for Community Lincs*, Lincoln: University of Lincoln, Policy Studies Research Centre.

⁸⁵ Spencer, S., Ruhs, M., Anderson, B. and Rogaly, B. (2007) *Migrants' lives beyond the workplace: the experience of Central and Eastern Europeans in the UK*, York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

⁸⁶ Pollard, N. (2008) 'Migrants feeling the pull of home?', Comment is free, *Guardian.co.uk*, 2nd May 2008.

Chapter 4: Characteristics of migrant workers and their households

Introduction

A total of 125 interviews were carried out with migrant workers in Rochdale and Oldham; 57 in Rochdale and 68 in Oldham. This chapter presents information about the characteristics of these respondents, including nationality; age and gender; religious beliefs; marital status; household size; number of dependents; and, family connections in the UK.

Nationality

As highlighted in Chapter 2, given the potential problems of accessing migrant workers, a pragmatic approach was taken when identifying participants, including contact with friends and family, as well as more 'opportunistic' methods. Table 9 below shows the nationality of the respondents who were interviewed for the study.

Table 9: Nationality of respondents

Nationality	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Polish	109	87	50	88	59	86
Latvian	3	2	2	3	1	2
Hungarian	3	2	2	3	1	2
Lithuanian	3	2	-	-	3	4
Slovak	3	2	1	2	2	3
Czech	1	1	-	-	1	2
Estonian	1	1	1	2	-	-
Romanian	1	1	1	2	-	-
Slovenian	1	1	-	-	1	2
Total	125	100	57	100	68	100

As would be expected, the majority of respondents were Polish (87%), with smaller numbers of people from the other A8/A2 countries.

What is important to note is that, albeit in smaller numbers, there is a potentially wide range of nationalities living in the two Boroughs. Indeed, the interview sample includes all national groups from the A8/A2 countries, with the exception of Bulgaria. This is despite the official data, as shown in Chapter 3, suggesting that there have been no applications by people from Slovenia or Romania.

There are some small differences between the nationalities interviewed in Rochdale and Oldham; however, this may be a reflection of the sample size and the ability to access particular nationalities, rather than an indication of an absence of these nationalities.

Given the smaller numbers of the other nationalities represented in the sample, this report will not break down the findings by nationality unless referring to specific cases.

Year of arrival

The sample in Rochdale and Oldham also had representatives from every year since the Accession in 2004 (see Table 10 below).

Table 10: Year of arrival

Year	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2004	12	10	3	5	9	13
2005	27	21	16	28	11	16
2006	41	33	23	41	18	27
2007	39	31	15	26	24	35
2008	5	4	-	-	5	7
No information	1	1	-	-	1	2
Total	125	100	57	100	68	100

As can be seen, the majority of respondents (85%) came to the UK in the period 2005 - 2007. The earliest arrivals indicated that they had come to the UK in January 2004 (prior to Accession in May 2004), while the most recent arrivals were January 2008. Comparing the sample for Rochdale and Oldham shows some small differences. In Rochdale, the majority of the sample (95%) had arrived during the period 2005 – 2007, compared just over three quarters in Oldham. Oldham had a higher percentage of people who had arrived in 2004, as well as a small number of very recent arrivals.

Age and gender

Table 11 below shows the age range of the respondents interviewed in Rochdale and Oldham.

Table 11: Age of respondents

Age	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
17 – 24	31	25	11	19	19	28
25 – 39	80	64	38	67	40	59
40 – 49	13	10	5	9	8	12
50 – 59	1	1	1	2	-	-
Total	125	100	57	100	68	100

Looking at the sample as a whole, in line with the national figures highlighted in Chapter 3, the majority of the respondents were aged 25 – 39 years (62%), followed by those aged 17 – 24 (24%). Only 11% were over the age of 40. There were slightly more respondents aged 17 – 24 in Oldham and slightly more respondents aged 25 – 39 in Rochdale.

In relation to gender, 77% of the respondents interviewed were male and 23% were female (see Table 12 below).

Table 12: Gender of respondents

Gender	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	96	77	39	69	57	84
Female	29	23	18	31	11	16
Total	125	100	57	100	68	100

As can be seen, the percentage of male respondents interviewed in Oldham was greater than in Rochdale (84% and 69% respectively).

Religion

Table 13 below shows the religious beliefs of the respondents.

Table 13: Religious beliefs

Religion	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Christian	89	77	51	92	38	63
No religious beliefs	20	17	1	2	19	32
Jewish	3	3	-	-	3	5
Don't want to say	2	2	2	4	-	-
Atheist	1	1	1	2	-	-
Total	115	100	55	100	60	100

Note: excludes 10 missing cases

As can be seen, the majority of respondents were Christian. These respondents were Polish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Czech, Slovak, Hungarian, and Romanian. Within this, people made specific reference to being '*Catholic*', '*Roman Catholic*' and '*Greco Catholic*'. This was followed by those who indicated that they had no religious beliefs (17%), with a very small number of Jewish respondents (3%), all of whom were Polish.

Comparing Rochdale and Oldham shows a higher percentage of Christian respondents in Rochdale (92%, compared to 63% in Oldham), while Oldham has a significantly higher percentage of respondents with no religious beliefs (32%, compared to just 2% in Rochdale).

Ethnicity

We asked respondents about their ethnicity through an open ended question (see Table 14 below).

Table 14: Ethnicity of respondents

Ethnicity	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Polish	90	76	45	83	45	69
White European	10	8	-	-	10	15
Latvian	3	3	2	4	1	2
Hungarian	3	3	2	4	1	2
Slovak	3	3	1	2	2	3
Russian	2	2	-	-	2	3
White	2	2	1	2	1	2
European	2	2	2	4	-	-
Lithuanian	1	1	-	-	1	2
Estonian	1	1	1	2	-	-
Czech	1	1	-	-	1	2
Total	118	100	54	100	64	100

Note: excludes 7 missing cases.

There were different understandings by respondents in relation to the question of ethnicity. Three quarters of the sample described their ethnicity in terms of their nationality (for example Slovak, Estonian, Czech, Polish, etc.). Just over a third of the sample referred to themselves as 'White' (including White and White European). The two respondents who stated that they were ethnically Russian were both from Lithuania.

Marital status

With regards to marital status of the respondents, taking the sample as a whole, 58% of people indicated that they were currently single, while 42% were either married or co-habiting. Of those who were married or co-habiting, 58% were currently living in Rochdale, while 42% were living in Oldham.

With regards to whether or not their partners were living with them in the UK or had remained in their home country, 71% indicated that their partners were currently living with them in the UK. Comparing the two Boroughs shows that this percentage was higher in Rochdale than in Oldham (80% and 60% respectively).

Household size

The majority of respondents indicated that they had no other family members living with them in Rochdale and Oldham (56%), reflecting the proportion of single people, as noted above. Two person households accounted for 21% of the sample, while three person households accounted for 12%. In addition, there were smaller numbers of households with four or five immediate family members.

Comparing the two Boroughs, suggests that the respondents in Rochdale were more likely to have a number of family members living with them than the respondents in Oldham. For example, in Oldham 72% of respondents were here on their own, compared to 37% in Rochdale; two person households accounted for 30% of the sample in Rochdale, compared to 13% in Oldham; while, three person households accounted for 17% in Rochdale and just 7% in Oldham. In Rochdale, the largest household size was five, while in Oldham the largest was four.

Number of dependents

We also wanted to ascertain how many respondents had children under the age of 16. In total, 34% of respondents referred to having children under the age of 16. Of these respondents, 77% had one child and 23% of respondents had two children. With regards to where the children were currently living, over half (51%) had dependents living with them in Rochdale and Oldham, while 23% indicated that their dependents were in their home country. The remainder did not provide information on where their child/children were currently living.

Existing family connections

We also wanted to explore the extent of people's family connections in other parts of the UK (see Table 15 below).

Table 15: Do you have family living in other parts of the UK?

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	21	17	5	9	16	24
No	102	83	51	91	51	76
Total	123	100	56	100	67	100

Note: excludes two missing cases.

As can be seen, a relatively small number of respondents (17%) indicated that they had family living in other parts of the UK. Comparing the two Boroughs, however, shows that the Oldham respondents appear to more family connections in other parts of the UK than those living in Rochdale (24% and 9% respectively).

When asked to elaborate on where, the most common responses were Manchester or London. The other places mentioned were Birmingham, Bolton Bristol, Gloucester, Liverpool and Preston. One respondent from Rochdale indicated that they had family living in Oldham.

Chapter 5. Migration history

Introduction

What this chapter aims to do is provide some information on the migration history of the respondents interviewed in Rochdale and Oldham, focusing specifically on whether or not they have been to any other EU countries prior to the UK, as well as looking at their migration within the UK. It will also explore the reasons given for coming to UK and Rochdale and Oldham in particular.

Migration patterns prior to arrival in the UK

We asked respondents if they had lived in any other EU countries, apart from their home country, before coming to the UK. Only 9 respondents (7 living in Oldham and 2 living in Rochdale) indicated that they had lived in another EU country. Eight of these respondents had been to one country, while once respondent indicated that they had been to two. The countries referred to by the respondents were France, Germany, Spain, Holland and the Netherlands.

With regards to why they had left these countries and come to UK, the reasons primarily related to a combination of a lack of work in other countries and already knowing people or having friends living in the UK:

“[I] had friends in [the] UK and no work in France” (Oldham)

“Only working sometimes [in Germany], [and I] wanted a better life and job” (Rochdale)

“Better working conditions [in the UK]” (Oldham)

“Had friend in England” (Oldham)

Migration patterns prior to arrival in Rochdale and Oldham

We also wanted to explore the level of internal migration that occurred. We therefore asked respondents if they had lived anywhere else in the UK prior to Rochdale and Oldham (see Table 16 below).

Table 16: Have you lived anywhere else in the UK?

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	48	38	18	32	30	44
No	77	62	39	68	38	56
Total	125	100	57	100	68	100

Looking at the sample as a whole, 38% of respondents had lived elsewhere in the UK before coming to Rochdale and Oldham. The respondents from the Oldham sample indicate higher levels of internal migration than those from the Rochdale sample (44% and 32% respectively).

Of those who had lived elsewhere, 46 respondents listed one other place, 12 respondents listed two other places, while 4 respondents listed three other places that they had lived.

Respondents indicated that they had lived in a variety of different towns and cities, representing 8 of the 9 regions in the UK. The most common responses were places within the North West, in particular other areas of Greater Manchester; for example, Manchester, Ashton-under-lyne, Bolton, Bury and Hyde; however, some respondents indicated that they had previously lived in the South of England (a full list of towns/cities is included in Appendix 2 of this report). Indeed, stakeholder consultation suggested that Manchester was a major draw, providing good networks to find work and accommodation.

With regards to why people had left these towns and cities, the majority of respondents suggested a lack of employment opportunities or the cost of living being too high.

Reasons for living in Rochdale and Oldham

Linking in with the information above, we asked all respondents why they had chosen Rochdale and Oldham specifically (see Table 17 below).

Table 17: Reasons for living in Rochdale and Oldham

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Friends already living in Rochdale/Oldham	61	49	23	40	38	57
Heard there were job opportunities in Rochdale/ Oldham	35	28	21	37	14	21
Family already living in Rochdale/Oldham	21	17	9	15	12	18
Other	4	3	2	4	2	3
Heard about the town/area from others	3	2	2	4	1	1
Total	124	100	57	100	67	100

Note: excludes one missing case

As can be seen, the majority of respondents (66%) stated that the main reason for coming to Rochdale and Oldham was because they had friends or family already living in the area. This was followed by 28% who had heard that there were job opportunities.

Comparing the sample for Rochdale and Oldham shows some differences with regards to peoples' reasons for being in that particular Borough. In Oldham, for example, by far the greatest reason for living there was having friends and family in the area (75% of the sample compared to 55% in Rochdale). In Rochdale, however, the sample shows a higher percentage of those who had heard of job opportunities than in Oldham (37% and 21% respectively).

A small number of respondents gave 'Other' reasons for moving to Rochdale and Oldham. When asked to elaborate, the respondents made the following comments:

"Easy to find a council property" (Rochdale)

"Because [I'm] buying property" (Oldham)

"Came through an agency in Poland" (Rochdale)

"There were jobs here and cheaper property" (Oldham)

Chapter 6: Education and qualifications

Introduction

This chapter focuses on the respondents' level of education, training and qualifications. It will also explore peoples' English language skills.

Qualifications

The respondents were asked to provide information about their highest level of qualifications. This included both academic and vocational qualifications. The list of qualifications ranged from no formal qualifications through to postgraduate degree (Masters/MBA). These are listed in Table 18 below, according to the qualifications identified in the interviews.

Table 18: Highest level of qualification

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Postgraduate degree	3	3	3	6	-	-
Undergraduate Degree	16	13	7	13	9	14
College (vocational/technical)	34	29	18	33	16	25
A Level	2	2	1	2	1	2
High school (GCSE)	52	44	23	42	29	46
ESOL	2	2	-	-	2	3
No qualifications	8	7	2	4	6	10
Total	117	100	54	100	63	100

Note: excludes 8 cases (3 missing cases, 3 ambiguous responses, 1 don't know and 1 didn't want to answer).

As can be seen, the majority of those who provided information about qualifications indicated that their highest level of qualification was a high school education (44%). College level qualifications was the second most common qualification (around 29% of respondents), and these were primarily vocational qualifications relating to the construction industry (joinery, electrical, plumbing). One respondent made reference to studying hairdressing, while another had studied car mechanics. Within this category, some people made reference to specific qualifications such as NVQ, BTEC and Diploma.

The third most common qualification was an undergraduate degree (13% of respondents). The subjects that people had studied at degree level included Agriculture; Business; Economics; Technology; and, Marketing and Management. With regards to those with postgraduate qualifications, one respondent had an MBA, while two had completed a Masters; one in Economics and one in Mathematics.

Eight respondents indicated that they did not have any formal qualifications.

Comparing the respondents in Rochdale and Oldham shows a similar pattern with regards to the three most common qualifications (high school, college and undergraduate). The sample in Oldham, however, has a slightly higher percentage of people with no formal qualifications, while all the respondents with postgraduate qualifications were interviewed in Rochdale.

Table 19 below shows the highest level of qualification by gender.

Table 19: Highest level of qualification by gender

	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
Postgraduate degree	1	1	2	8
Undergraduate Degree	11	12	5	21
College (vocational/technical)	27	30	6	25
A Level	2	2	-	-
High school (GCSE)	44	48	7	29
ESOL	-	-	2	8
No qualifications	6	7	2	8
Total	91	100	24	100

Note: excludes 10 cases (7 missing cases, 1 ambiguous response, 1 don't know and 1 didn't want to answer).

Looking at the highest level of qualification by gender shows some differences between the male and female respondents. For the male respondents, by far the most common highest level of qualification is a secondary school education (48%), followed by college qualifications (30%) and an undergraduate degree (12%). For the female respondents, there is a higher percentage of female respondents with an undergraduate degree (21%). In addition, two of the three respondents with postgraduate qualifications are female. The data therefore appears to suggest a slightly higher level of qualifications amongst the female respondents, albeit based on a smaller sample of women.

English language skills

As highlighted in Chapter 3, acquisition of English language is often seen as key to integration. We therefore wanted to give an indication of the English language skills of the interviewees in Rochdale and Oldham.

Table 20 below shows how people rated their English language skills when they first came to the UK.

Table 20: How would you rate you English language skills on arrival to the UK?

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Very Good	1	1	-	-	1	2
Good	34	27	15	26	19	28
Neither good nor poor	52	42	26	46	26	38
Poor	24	19	9	16	15	22
Very poor	14	11	7	12	7	10
Total	125	100	57	100	68	100

As can be seen, just under half of the respondents had ambivalent feelings towards their English language skills, stating that they were neither good nor poor, while 30% felt their language skills were poor or very poor and 27% felt they were good. Only one person rated their English language skills as very good. This person was Latvian national currently living in Oldham. They indicated that they had a degree in Business Management.

Comparing Rochdale and Oldham, as can be seen, the ratings given for English language skills are very similar, with a slightly higher percentage of ambivalent responses in Rochdale.

Table 21 below shows how people rated their English language skills by gender.

Table 21: How would you rate you English language skills on arrival to the UK (by gender)?

	All		Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Very Good	1	1	1	1	-	-
Good	34	27	25	27	9	32
Neither good nor poor	52	42	40	43	10	36
Poor	24	19	20	21	3	11
Very poor	14	11	8	8	6	21
Total	125	100	94	100	28	100

Note: gender information was missing in three interviews.

There are some slight differences that can be noted, although based on a smaller sample of women. For example, the male respondents gave slightly more ambivalent ratings of their language skills, while a larger percentage of women rated their language skills as very poor on arrival.

We also asked people to indicate, from a range of options, what their current situation was in relation to studying English (see Table 22 below).

Table 22: Which of the following apply to you?

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Currently enrolled on an English language course	19	15	11	19	8	12
On the waiting list for an English language course	3	3	-	-	3	4
Would like to study, but am not currently enrolled	60	48	22	39	38	57
Other	42	34	24	42	18	27
Total	124	100	57	100	67	100

Note: excludes one missing case.

As can be seen, just 18% of respondents were currently enrolled or on the waiting list for an English language course. Nearly half of the sample indicated that they would like to study on an English language course, but were not currently enrolled. This percentage was higher in Oldham than in Rochdale (57% and 39% respectively).

When asked to elaborate on why people were not currently enrolled, the three main reasons given were: not knowing where to go to find a course; not being able to afford it; and, not having enough time.

Some respondents indicated a combination of these factors had prevented them from enrolling. The following comments indicate some of the responses people gave:

“Don’t know how and where to go, plus [I’m] worried about the cost”
(Oldham)

“Don’t know where to go and can’t afford it” (Oldham)

Perhaps unsurprisingly, when referring to not having enough time, work commitments featured in a number of responses:

“My job is stopping me, too busy at work” (Rochdale)

“Maybe in [the] future, too busy with work now, [I’m] currently reading books” (Rochdale)

Some people indicated that they felt they did not need to or had already completed a course, while others were waiting for the new courses to start in September 2008.

With regards to those who stated Other indicated that they had already completed a course or felt that their English was good enough:

“[I’ve] already done ESOL classes” (Rochdale)

“Did English course in my own country, [I] can speak English well”
(Oldham)

“English is OK, I will speak more with practice” (Oldham)

Interestingly, one respondent felt that work provided a better opportunity to learn English:

“I don’t want, I can [learn] better at work” (Rochdale)

What is also worth noting is that there were differences between the two Boroughs with regards to the reasons given for not enrolling on an English language course. In Rochdale, the majority of respondents referred to not having enough time, while in Oldham, the majority of people indicated that they did not know where to go to find a course.

Chapter 7: Employment

Introduction

This chapter explores the data in relation to issues of employment. It focuses on respondents' previous employment in their home country and their current employment, offering comparisons between the two. It also looks at other issues relating to their current employment such as official registration, rates of pay, hours worked and overall satisfaction with employment, as well as exploring the people's level of interest in self employment.

In order to provide a more robust analysis of employment (both prior to and since coming to the UK), the information in relation to employment has been reclassified using two main classifications systems. The first is the UK Standard Industrial Classification of economic activities 2007 (SIC)⁸⁷, which provides classification by sector of economic activity. The second is Standard Occupational Classification (SOC), which was revised in 2000⁸⁸ and provides a hierarchical classification of occupational skill. The relevant guidance has been used in relation to the application of these classification systems to the data gathered in Rochdale and Oldham.

Previous employment in home country

Before looking at respondents previous employment, we wanted to identify if they had a particular trade or skill (see Table 23 below)

Table 23: Do you have a trade or skill?

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	74	60	31	55	43	63
No	50	40	25	45	25	37
Total	124	100	56	100	68	100

Note: excludes one missing case

As can be seen, 60% of the sample as a whole indicated that they had a particular trade or skill. Comparing the data between Rochdale and Oldham shows a higher percentage of people in Oldham who had a trade or skill (63%, compared to 55% in Rochdale).

⁸⁷ See ONS, *Internet reference:*

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/sic/operation2007.asp

⁸⁸ See ONS, *Internet reference:*

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/ns_sec/downloads/SOC2000_Vol1_V5.pdf

With regards to what trade or skill people have, there were a range of responses. The following is a list of trades/skills provided by the respondents:

- Accountant
- Author
- Builder
- Computer technician
- Confectioner
- Electrician
- Electronic Engineer
- Fixer/dry liner
- Forklift driver
- Hairdresser
- HGV driver
- Human Resources
- Joiner
- Librarian
- Machine setter
- Mechanic
- Mechanical Engineer
- Nurse
- Painter/decorator
- Physiotherapy
- Plasterer
- Plumber
- Roofer
- Sewing
- Teacher
- Upholsterer
- Welder

Perhaps unsurprisingly, given the types of trades/skills indicated above, there was a far higher percentage of men than women who indicated they had a particular trade or skill (78% and 22% respectively).

In terms of how long people had spent in these trades or using these skills, this ranged from never using them (one respondent with sewing skills) to 38 years (one respondent who was a Teacher).

Table 24 below shows the job that people had prior to coming to the UK, based on the Standard Industry Classification (SIC). A full list of the last jobs that people had prior to coming to the UK can be found in Appendix 3 of this report, based on the specific responses given in the interviews.

Table 24: Last job in home country (Standard Industry Classification, SIC)

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Construction	37	33	10	20	27	43
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	21	18	12	24	9	14
Arts, entertainment and recreation; other service activities	13	11	3	6	10	16
Manufacturing	10	9	6	12	4	6
Transport and storage; information and communication	10	9	4	8	6	9
Not working	8	7	8	16	-	-
Human health and social work activities	3	3	2	4	1	2
Student	3	3	2	4	1	2
Hotels and restaurants	2	2	1	2	1	2
Financial and insurance activities	2	2	1	2	1	2
Education	2	2	1	2	1	2
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	1	1	-	-	1	2
Total	112	100	50	100	62	100

Taking the sample as a whole, the construction industry was the most common previous industry (33%), followed by wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (19%) and arts, entertainment and recreation; other service activities (13%). The other classifications were represented in smaller numbers.

Looking at the differences between the two Boroughs, there is a greater number of people who previously worked in the construction industry in the Oldham sample than in the Rochdale sample (43% and 20% respectively), while Rochdale has more people who previously worked in the wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (24%, compared to 14% in Oldham) and manufacturing (12%, compared to 6% in Oldham).

As can be seen, we have also included those who were not working (7%) and those who indicated they were students (3%). All of the respondents who stated that they were not previously working were currently living in Rochdale.

With regards to any differences in terms of gender, the women interviewed in our sample were drawn from all sectors, with the exception of construction. Around one third were from wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, with the remainder divided fairly equally between the other sectors. The male respondents came from all sectors, with the exception of public administration and defence; compulsory social security and financial and insurance activities. The majority of men previously worked in construction (45%) or wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (17%).

Table 25 below shows the job that people had prior to coming to the UK, based on the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC).

Table 25: Last job in home country (Standard Occupational Classification, SOC)

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Managers and Senior Officials	6	5	1	2	5	8
Professional Occupations	2	2	1	2	1	1
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	3	3	-	-	3	5
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	4	4	2	4	2	3
Skilled Trades Occupations	41	35	15	30	26	40
Personal Service Occupations	9	8	2	4	7	11
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	8	7	6	12	2	3
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	13	11	6	12	7	11
Elementary Occupations	18	15	7	14	11	17
Student	3	3	2	4	1	1
Not working	8	7	8	16	-	-
Total	115	100	50	100	65	100

Note: excludes ten missing cases

As can be seen, Skilled Trades was the most common previous occupation level (35%), which is unsurprising given the number of respondents who indicated that they previously worked in the construction industry (see Table 24 above). This was followed by Elementary Occupations (15%), which

includes occupations such as packers, labourers and farm workers, and Process, Plant and Machine Operatives (11%). With regards to the three highest classifications (Managers and Senior Officials, Professional Occupations, Associate Professional and Technical Occupations), 10% of respondents previously held these occupations.

There were more respondents in Oldham who were classified as Skilled Trades Occupations (40%, compared to 30% in Rochdale); Personal Service Occupations (11% and 4% respectively); and, Managers and Senior Officials (8% and 2% respectively). Furthermore, those classified as Associate Professional and Technical Occupations were currently all living in Oldham. Rochdale had a higher percentage of those classified as Sales and Customer Service Occupations (12%, compared to 3% in Oldham).

Table 26 below shows the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) of respondents previous job in their home country by gender.

Table 26: Last job in home country (Standard Occupational Classification, SOC) by gender

	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
Managers and Senior Officials	3	3	3	12
Professional Occupations	1	1	1	3
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	3	3	-	-
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	-	-	4	15
Skilled Trades Occupations	41	46	-	-
Personal Service Occupations	6	7	3	12
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	4	4	4	15
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	10	11	3	12
Elementary Occupations	15	16	3	12
Student	1	1	2	7
Not working	5	6	3	12
Total	89	100	26	100

Note: excludes ten missing cases.

Given that the majority of men previously worked in the construction industry, Skilled Trades Occupations dominate the sample of male respondents (46%). This is followed by Elementary Occupations and Process, Plant and Machine Operatives. The data for the female respondents appears to indicate that there no particular occupation dominates, with a fairly even distribution across the occupational classifications. It also suggests that a greater percentage of women than men were drawn from the two highest occupational classifications (Managers and Senior Officials and Professional Occupations).

Employment in Rochdale and Oldham

This section focuses on the current employment experiences of the respondents, including how it related to the classifications described above, current levels of pay and type of payment, levels of official registration and information on recruitment.

Current employment

At the time of the survey, 92% of respondents were currently in paid employment. Only 5% indicated that they were currently unemployed, while 3% stated that they had work, but had not started yet (see Table 27 below).

Table 27: Currently in paid employment

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	115	92	53	93	62	91
Yes – but not started yet	4	3	-	-	4	6
No	6	5	4	7	2	3
Total	125	100	57	100	68	100

As can be seen, there is a very similar percentage of people who are currently working in both Rochdale and Oldham. All of the respondents who suggested that they had work, but had not started yet, were currently living in Oldham.

With regards to those who were currently unemployed, three people had been without a job for 4 – 6 months (two in Oldham, one in Rochdale) and one person had been unemployed for 7 – 9 months (currently living in Rochdale). These respondents indicated the intention of staying in Rochdale and Oldham longer-term (the issue of future intentions will be discussed in greater detail in Chapter 10). Two people indicated that they had never worked in the UK (both living in Rochdale). These respondents did not know how long they intended to stay in the area.

Table 28 below shows the job that people currently held in Rochdale and Oldham, based on the Standard Industry Classification (SIC).

A full list of people's current job can be found in Appendix 4 of this report. This list is based on the specific responses given in the interviews.

Table 28: Current employment (Standard Industry Classification, SIC)

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Manufacturing	52	45	37	70	15	24
Construction	30	26	1	2	29	46
Arts, entertainment and recreation; other service activities	19	16	6	11	13	21
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	7	6	2	4	5	8
Transport and storage; information and communication	5	4	5	9	-	-
Human health and social work activities	2	2	1	2	1	1
Hotels and restaurants	1	1	1	2	-	-
Total	116	100	53	100	63	100

The first thing to note is that, compared to the data relating to previous job in their home country (Table 24 above), the range of sectors represented across the sample has decreased; for example, there are no respondents currently working in the following sectors: Financial and insurance activities; Education; and, Public administration and defence; compulsory social security.

Looking at the sample as a whole, the majority of respondents are employed in the manufacturing industry (45%), followed by construction (26%) and arts, entertainment and recreation; other service activities (16%).

There are some significant differences between the sectors in the two Boroughs. In Rochdale, the majority of respondents were employed in manufacturing (70%). Interestingly, only 2% of respondents indicated that they were currently employed in construction in Rochdale, despite the fact that around 20% had previously worked in this sector. The data suggests a slightly wider range of employment sectors amongst the workers in Rochdale than in Oldham.

In Oldham, nearly half of the sample were currently employed in the construction industry, which is similar to the level indicated for previous employment. The manufacturing industry also featured in Oldham, but to a far lesser extent than in Rochdale, followed by arts, entertainment and recreation; other service activities.

Table 29 below shows a comparison between the Standard Industry Classification (SIC) of the previous job in their home country and their current job in the UK, for the female respondents.

Table 29: Comparison between home country and current job (Standard Industry Classification, SIC) – female respondents

	Previous		Current	
	No.	%	No.	%
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	7	37	2	8
Arts, entertainment and recreation; other service activities	3	16	3	13
Human health and social work activities	2	11	2	8
Financial and insurance activities	2	11	-	-
Manufacturing	1	5	15	63
Transport and storage; information and communication	1	5	1	4
Hotels and restaurants	1	5	1	4
Education	1	5	-	-
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	1	5	-	-
Total	19	100	24	100

Note: this comparison excludes those not working or those who indicated they were students.

Where previously, the female respondents came from a range of industries, they are now concentrated in fewer industries, with the majority working primarily in the manufacturing industry (63%, compared to only 5% previously).

Table 30 below shows a comparison between the Standard Industry Classification (SIC) of the previous job in their home country and their current job in the UK, for the male respondents.

Table 30: Comparison between home country and current job (Standard Industry Classification, SIC) – male respondents

	Previous		Current	
	No.	%	No.	%
Construction	37	45	30	33
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	14	17	5	5
Arts, entertainment and recreation; other service activities	10	12	16	17
Manufacturing	9	11	37	40
Transport and storage; information and communication	9	11	4	4
Human health and social work activities	1	1	-	-
Hotels and restaurants	1	1	-	-
Education	1	1	-	-
Total	82	100	92	100

Note: this comparison excludes those not working or those who indicated they were students.

Like the female respondents, the men appear to be currently working in a smaller range of industries than in their home country. Similarly, the number employed in manufacturing has increased significantly (40%, compared to 11% previously).

Table 31 below shows people's current employment, based on the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC).

Table 31: Current employment (Standard Occupational Classification, SOC)

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Managers and Senior Officials	3	3	-	-	3	5
Professional Occupations	2	2	2	4	-	-
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Skilled Trades Occupations	28	24	2	4	26	41
Personal Service Occupations	1	1	-	-	1	1
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	6	5	2	4	4	6
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	13	11	13	24	-	-
Elementary Occupations	64	54	34	64	30	47
Total	117	100	53	100	64	100

As before, the range has reduced from previous employment in their home country to their current employment; for example, there are no respondents from Administrative and Secretarial Occupations and Associate Professional and Technical Occupations.

Over half of the sample are currently employed in Elementary Occupations, compared to 15% previously employed in this category in their home country. This is followed by Skilled Trades Occupations (24%) and Process, Plant and Machine Operatives (11%). Interestingly, the percentage of Managers and Senior Officials and Professional Occupations represented in the sample has remained relatively the same when you compare previous and current employment.

Again, there are some significant differences between the sample in Rochdale and Oldham. In Rochdale, the majority of respondents are employed in Elementary Occupations (64%), followed by Process, Plant and Machine Operatives (24%). This reiterates the information shown above with regards to manufacturing being the most common industry for the respondents in Rochdale. The sample in Oldham on the other hand is fairly evenly split between Elementary Occupations (41%) and Skilled Trades Occupations (47%).

Table 32 below shows a comparison between the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) of the previous job in their home country and their current job in the UK, for the female respondents.

Table 32: Comparison between home country and current job (Standard Occupational Classification, SOC) – female respondents

	Previous		Current	
	No.	%	No.	%
Managers and Senior Officials	3	14	1	4
Professional Occupations	1	5	2	8
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	-	-	-	-
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	4	19	-	-
Skilled Trades Occupations	-	-	1	4
Personal Service Occupations	3	14	-	-
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	4	19	-	-
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	3	14	3	13
Elementary Occupations	3	14	17	71
Total	21	100	24	100

Note: excludes those not working or those who indicated they were students.

As can be seen, there is quite a significant shift in occupation level. The female respondents were previously represented equally across a number of occupation levels. Looking at their current occupation, however, shows a reduced range of occupations as well as a concentration in Elementary occupations (71%, compared to 14% previously).

Table 33 below shows a comparison between the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) of the previous job in their home country and their current job in the UK, for the male respondents.

Table 33: Comparison between home country and current job (Standard Occupational Classification, SOC) – male respondents

	Previous		Current	
	No.	%	No.	%
Managers and Senior Officials	3	4	2	2
Professional Occupations	1	1	-	-
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	3	4	-	-
Skilled Trades Occupations	41	49	27	29
Personal Service Occupations	6	7	1	1
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	4	5	6	6
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	10	12	10	11
Elementary Occupations	15	18	47	51
Total	83	100	93	100

Note: excludes those not working or those who indicated they were students.

With regards to the male respondents, again there is evidence of a decrease in occupation level. There has been a shift from a dominance of Skilled Trades Occupations (29%, compared to 49% previously) to a concentration of employees in Elementary Occupations (51%, compared to 18% previously).

Comparing respondents current occupation (Standard Occupational Classification, SOC) by their highest level of qualification shows that around 43% of those with an undergraduate or postgraduate degree were currently working in Elementary Occupations; 21% were in Sales and Customer

Service Occupations; and, 14% were Process, Plant and Machine Operatives. Those who indicated that they had vocational/technical qualifications were divided fairly evenly between Skilled Trades Occupations and Elementary Occupations, while those with a high school level of education were primarily working in Elementary Occupations (60%), followed by Skilled Trades Occupations (26%). This suggests that those with higher levels of education were predominantly found in lower skilled occupations while those with vocational qualifications were more likely to secure employment commensurate with their education; for example, working in Skilled Trades Occupations.

Location of current employment

With regards to the geographical location of current employment, 98 respondents provided a specific location (see Table 34 below).

Table 34: Location of employment

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Rochdale	47	48	38	79	9	18
Oldham	30	31	6	13	24	48
Manchester	10	10	1	2	9	18
Bolton	4	4	-	-	4	8
Bury	4	4	3	6	1	2
Altrincham	1	1	-	-	1	2
Burnley	1	1	-	-	1	2
Preston	1	1	-	-	1	2
Total	98	100	48	100	50	100

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the majority of people indicated that they were working in Rochdale or Oldham (48% and 31% respectively). There were also a small number of people who were living in Oldham and working in Rochdale and vice versa. With regards to the other locations where people were working, as can be seen, nearly all are within Greater Manchester, with the exception of Preston and Burnley. The data suggests that the respondents in Oldham were more likely to travel out of the area for work than the respondents in Rochdale. Those who currently travelled for work indicated that the main reason for living in the study area was having friends already living in the area, which indicates the importance of social networks. One respondent who was currently working in Manchester stated that they had previously been living in an area of Manchester, but did not like the area.

Recruitment

We wanted to ascertain how people had found their first job in the UK. We therefore asked respondents whether or not they were recruited in their home country for their first job (see Table 35 below).

Table 35: Were you recruited in your home country for your first job?

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	23	19	7	13	16	24
No	97	81	47	87	50	76
Total	120	100	54	100	66	100

Note: excludes 5 missing case

As can be seen, 19% of respondents had been recruited for their first job in their home country. The data suggests that a higher percentage of respondents in Oldham had been recruited this way than those in Rochdale (24% and 13% respectively). When asked to elaborate on who had recruited them, the majority of respondents referred to a recruitment agency. A handful of people indicated that they had been recruited by a builder or company in the UK. One respondent indicated that they had been recruited by a UK pharmacy. They were currently employed as a Pharmacist in Rochdale.

The majority of respondents (81%) had not been recruited for their first job in their home country. This was fairly evenly split between those who had found employment through a UK employment agency and those who had used more informal methods; for example, finding a job through friends and family already here. A handful of people indicated that they had found employment themselves:

“[I] applied directly to the shop” (Oldham)

“[I] went door to door seeing if they were hiring people. [I] didn't know about job agencies when I arrived here” (Oldham)

Comparing the sample in the two Boroughs, the majority of respondents in Oldham found their first job through friends or family already living in the area (60%, compared to 19% in Rochdale). In Rochdale, on the other hand, there were more respondents who had used a UK employment agency (77%, compared to 28% in Oldham).

Security of employment

Table 36 below shows the level of security in people's current employment.

Table 36: Security of employment

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Permanent	47	40	27	51	20	31
Temporary	46	39	20	38	26	41
Fixed term contract	10	9	5	9	5	8
Seasonal/ad hoc	7	6	-	-	7	11
Don't know	4	4	-	-	4	6
Other	3	2	1	2	2	3
Total	117	100	53	100	64	100

Note: excludes 6 people currently not working and 2 missing cases.

As can be seen, the sample is divided fairly equally between those who stated their employment was permanent and those who indicated it was temporary (40% and 39% respectively), with smaller numbers of fixed term contracts and seasonal/ad hoc work.

Interestingly, four respondents did not know what type of contract they currently had. Three of these were currently working in the construction industry (two of which were undertaking skilled trades: plumber and joiner), while one person was currently a cleaner. All of these respondents had found their current job through friends and relatives.

With regards to the three respondents who indicated 'Other', one person stated that they were employed via an agency, while another said they were currently on maternity leave. The third person did not elaborate on their current situation.

Comparing the data for Rochdale and Oldham highlights some differences between the two samples; for example, half of the respondents in Rochdale indicated that they currently had a permanent contract compared to 31% in Oldham. In addition, none of the respondents in Rochdale had seasonal/ad hoc contracts. This suggests a slightly increased level of permanency amongst the sample in Rochdale than those interviewed in Oldham.

Official registration

We asked people to indicate whether or not they were currently registered on the Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) and for a National Insurance number (NINO) (see Table 37 below).

Table 37: Official registration

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
WRS	74	63	52	98	22	34
NINO	58	50	33	62	25	38
Neither	6	5	-	-	6	9
Don't know	27	23	1	2	26	40

Note: based on 118 respondents (53 Rochdale, 65 Oldham).

With regards to the WRS, the majority of respondents indicated that they were currently registered (63%), with 37% indicating they were not⁸⁹. Comparing the two Boroughs, however, highlights much higher levels of registration amongst the respondents in Rochdale than those in Oldham (98% and 34% respectively). The majority of those who indicated they were not registered on the Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) worked in the construction industry or arts, entertainment and recreation; other service activities. Linking in with the data shown in Table 36, those in temporary employment were the least likely to be registered, with nearly half of those not registered indicating that they were on a temporary contract.

⁸⁹ This includes people who are self employed; however, only a small number of respondents made reference to this.

The level of registration for National Insurance was slightly lower, with around half indicating they were registered. Again, there were higher levels of registration in Rochdale than in Oldham. A small number of people stated that they were registered for neither. They were currently working in the construction or wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles industry. Interestingly, nearly a quarter of respondents did not know. This was far more pronounced for the respondents in Oldham than those currently living in Rochdale (40% and 2% respectively). The majority of these respondents were currently working in the construction industry, with smaller numbers in arts, entertainment and recreation; other service activities, and the manufacturing industry. Again, this was primarily those in temporary employment.

There are issues to consider with regards to lack of registration; for example, lack of eligibility for benefits and council accommodation.

Hours worked

The number of hours people were currently working ranged from 16 – 75 per week (see Table 38 below).

Table 38: Hours worked per week

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
16 – 29	8	7	3	6	5	8
30 – 40	64	56	39	75	25	39
41 – 50	35	30	8	15	27	42
51 – 60	7	6	2	4	5	9
61 – 70	-	-	-	-	-	-
71 or more	1	1	-	-	1	2
Total	115	100	52	100	63	100

Note: excludes 6 people not currently working and 4 missing cases.

Looking at the sample as a whole, the majority of respondents worked between 30 and 40 hours per week (56%), followed by between 41 and 50 hours per week (30%). There were a small number of people currently working more than 50 hours per week (7%).

The data suggests that respondents in Oldham tend to work longer hours than those in Rochdale. In Oldham, for example, just over half of the sample work more than 41 hours per week, while in Rochdale the figure is just 19%. The majority of respondents in Rochdale work between 30 and 40 hours per week (75%, compared to 39% in Oldham).

The respondents working in the construction industry currently worked the longest hours, with only two people stating that they worked less than 40 hours per week, while the majority work 41 – 50 hours per week.

This could explain the longer hours worked in Oldham, given that a large percentage of the respondents in Oldham are currently employed in the construction industry, as noted earlier.

Current pay level

Information was collected from respondents about the wages they received per week from their current employment. In some cases, people gave a range of figures, reflecting additional payment for any overtime worked. When calculating the pay levels, we have therefore taken the lowest figure in the range to represent 'basic' pay. Information was not collected with regards to whether the figures represented gross or net pay. Table 39 below shows respondents' currently weekly pay.

Table 39: Currently weekly pay

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
£100 or less	2	2	1	2	1	2
£101 – £150	16	14	4	8	12	20
£151 – £200	39	35	15	29	24	40
£201 – £250	41	36	24	46	17	28
£251 – £300	10	9	6	12	4	6
£301 – £350	1	1	1	2	-	-
£351 – £400	-	-	-	-	-	-
£401 – £450	2	2	1	2	1	2
£451 or more	1	1	-	-	1	2
Total	112	100	52	100	60	100

Note: excludes 6 people not currently working and 7 missing cases.

Respondents' weekly wages ranged from £95 to £480. The majority of respondents indicated that their weekly earnings were between £151 and £250 per week in their current job (71%), followed by those earning £101 – £150 per week (14%). Very few people earned more than £300 per week (4%).

The respondents currently employed in Elementary Occupations had the lowest rates of pay. The three respondents who earned more than £400 per week were classified as Managers and Senior Officials; Skilled Trades Occupations; and, Process, Plant and Machine Operatives.

Comparing the two Boroughs appears to show slightly higher rates of pay amongst the respondents in Rochdale than those in Oldham. In Rochdale, for example, 80% of respondents earned more than £200 per week, while in Oldham it is just 38%. Equally, in Rochdale just 10% of respondents suggested that they earned less than £150 per week, while in Oldham this figure is twice again. There are a number of reasons why the rates of pay may be lower for the respondents in Oldham; for example, there is a slightly higher rate of people in temporary employment in Oldham, as well as more people undertaking seasonal/ad hoc work.

Form of payment

From the sample as a whole, it was indicated that 29% currently received their wages 'cash in hand', while the remainder did not. Comparing the respondents in Rochdale and Oldham, however, shows some significant differences. In Rochdale, only 4% of respondents indicated that they were paid 'cash in hand', while in Oldham nearly half of respondents indicated that this was their form of payment.

Comparing this data by the industry that people were currently working in suggests that majority of those who were being paid 'cash in hand' were currently employed in the construction industry. There were also smaller numbers working in arts, entertainment and recreation; other service activities, wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, and manufacturing.

Level of satisfaction with current job

We asked respondents to indicate how satisfied they were, overall, with their current employment (see Table 40 below).

Table 40: Overall satisfaction with current job

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Very satisfied	3	3	1	2	2	3
Satisfied	50	44	22	42	28	45
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	45	39	22	42	23	37
Dissatisfied	13	11	6	12	7	12
Very dissatisfied	3	3	1	2	2	3
Total	114	100	52	100	62	100

Looking at the sample as a whole, nearly half of the respondents (47%) indicated that they were either satisfied or very satisfied with their job, followed by 39% who were more ambivalent about their current employment and 14% who were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. As can be seen, the respondents in Rochdale and Oldham indicate very similar levels of satisfaction with their current employment, with just a slightly higher number of positive responses in Oldham.

We asked respondents to elaborate on the response they had given. The more positive responses included those who indicated that the money was good:

"I get £250 weekly, in my country [Hungary] it is £230 a month and this job not very hard" (Currently a machine operator in Rochdale)

"I can pay my bills and send home money" (Currently a shop assistant in Oldham)

Some respondents offered a number of different reasons for liking their current job:

“Because I can work a long time and its permanent and they respect all the people, not just the English” (Currently a factory worker in Rochdale)

“Very good job, close to home, nice employers” (Currently a machine operator in Rochdale)

“I am very happy here, I get on with everyone fine” (Currently working in a warehouse in Rochdale)

One respondent indicated they were happy because they were currently doing a job that they were qualified to do:

“I am very happy because it is something I was trained in back home” (Currently an electronic technician in Rochdale)

With regards to those who felt more ambivalent with regards to their current job, this primarily related to the pay been inadequate as well as a number of people who suggested it was simply something that was good enough for now as they had no choice:

“[It’s] not good money, but better than nothing” (Currently a labourer in Oldham)

“It’s just OK, [I] can’t find any other job” (Currently a cleaner in Rochdale)

“[I] have no other option” (Currently working in a warehouse in Rochdale)

“[It’s] not really what I like to do, but its OK” (Currently a machine operator in Rochdale)

One respondent stated that the job had been acceptable initially, but that they now wanted to be able to use their qualifications:

“At the beginning it was OK, now it’s not according to my qualification, I want to change job” (Has a Masters in Mathematics, currently working in a factory in Rochdale)

What is also interesting is that there were a number of people who rated their employment as satisfactory, but when looking at the responses given when asked to elaborate they actually indicate a certain amount of ambivalence towards their employment despite giving it a positive rating.

“There is no choice, [I] have to work” (Currently working in a warehouse in Rochdale)

"It's OK, better than being unemployed" (Currently working in a warehouse in Rochdale)

"I like the job. I suppose there is nothing better available now"
(Currently working in a warehouse in Rochdale)

This suggests that there is a potentially higher rate of ambivalence than previously stated, with perhaps more people who are dissatisfied with their work, but feel they have little option at present.

With regards to the responses given by those who stated that they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied, this often related to the rate of pay being too low or the nature of the work:

"Low salary, primitive, boring job" (Currently a factory worker in Oldham)

Like the respondent above, however, a number of people made reference to the fact that their current job not being commensurate with their previous qualifications:

"More qualified for job" (Previously a secretary, currently working a factory)

"I am a qualified teacher in Slovakia, this job is something I have to do" (Currently a cleaner in Rochdale)

"I need a job in my own profession" (Previously an electrician, currently working in a factory in Oldham)

When asked to elaborate on what kind of support was needed to help people find appropriate employment, the majority of people stated that they needed to improve their English language skills, as well as more opportunities for training and general support with finding employment. The following are some of suggestions made for how people could be helped:

"Need to learn English and do training here" (Rochdale)

"List of employers that can be reached" (Oldham)

"Guidance on what and when to go for jobs" (Oldham)

"Need to learn more English and get a certificate from this country"
(Rochdale)

Interest in self employment

We also wanted to ascertain the level of interest people had in self employment. We therefore asked all respondents, including those not currently working, whether or not they would want to be self employed or set up their own business.

There was a significant degree of interest in self employment or setting up their own business with nearly a quarter of respondents (23%) stating they were interested. A further 23% were currently unsure. Comparing the two Boroughs shows that a higher percentage of the sample interviewed in Rochdale were interested in self employment or setting up their own business than in Oldham (27% and 19% respectively). Those respondents who had been in the UK for longer periods were also more likely to want to set up their own business, with around 82% of those who were interested having arrived during 2004 – 2006, compared to around 18% of those who had arrived in 2007 or 2008.

In terms of the types of businesses people were interested, we received a number of responses, including:

“Car mechanic garage” (Rochdale)

“Pharmaceutical related” (Rochdale)

“Self employed as a translator in Polish” (Rochdale)

“Welding and construction” (Oldham)

“Self employed plumber” (Oldham)

In terms of type of support they would need in order to set up their own business or become self employed, finance was an issue; however, people also referred to the need for advice on how to set up a business:

“Need to know how to set up business” (Oldham)

“Knowledge of how things should go in the UK” (Oldham)

“Help to start this work and support for information and how to register” (Rochdale)

“Financial help and help to legally set up business” (Oldham)

“I don’t know what help I can get from government, financial help and help to make this business” (Rochdale)

Previous employment in the UK

In addition to looking at people’s current employment experiences, we also wanted to explore how many and what types of jobs they had previously undertaken in the UK.

Just over half of respondents (54%) indicated that they had had one other job in the UK; 21% had two previous jobs; and, 8% had three previous jobs. Comparing the data for the two Boroughs suggests that the respondents in Oldham were more likely to have had a number of previous jobs than those in Rochdale. For example, of those who had one previous job, 62% were living

in Oldham; of those with two previous jobs, 80% were living in Oldham; and, of those with three previous jobs, 90% were currently living in Oldham.

Looking at the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC), as referred to earlier, the previous jobs people were undertaking were primarily Elementary Occupations, with smaller numbers of people in Skilled Trades Occupations; Process, Plant and Machine Operatives; and, Personal Service Occupations. This represents a much smaller range of occupations than that shown earlier for current occupation.

Comparing the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) of previous jobs to that of current employment suggests that 33% of respondents had experienced some occupational mobility. A number of these had moved from Elementary Occupations to Skilled Trades Occupations; Sales and Customer Service Occupations; or, Process, Plant and Machine Operatives. Three respondents had moved from Elementary Occupations to Managers and Senior Officials. Two respondents currently owned their own business (one did not specify what type of business, while the second was a beautician). They have previously been employed as factory workers in the UK. The third respondent had previously been a care worker for elderly people, but was now working in a management capacity in this field.

The majority of respondents, however, appeared to have stayed in the same occupational category (60%), which was primarily Elementary Occupations, with a small number of people working in Skilled Trades Occupations. Interestingly, four respondents suggested a downward movement in terms of previous and current occupation. Three of these had moved from Skilled Trades to Elementary Occupations. One had been a self-employed builder, one an electrician and one a joiner. They were all now undertaking factory work. The fourth person had moved from Process, Plant and Machine Operatives to Elementary Occupations, which was a move from machine operation to 'picking' in a factory.

Chapter 8: Housing

Introduction

This chapter looks at the accommodation experiences of the respondents interviewed in Rochdale and Oldham. It focuses specifically on their current housing situation, as well as looking at future accommodation preferences and aspirations.

Housing experience

This first section looks at the data for Rochdale and Oldham in terms of number of homes; current tenure; property size; levels of overcrowding; conditions; and, rent levels.

Previous accommodation

We asked people how many different homes they had lived in since they had been in Rochdale and Oldham, including their current property (see Table 41).

Table 41: How many homes have you lived in (including current property)?

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
One	65	52	21	38	44	65
Two	35	28	22	39	13	19
Three	16	13	9	16	7	10
Four	5	4	2	3	3	4
Five	1	1	-	-	1	2
Six	1	1	1	2	-	-
Seven	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eight	1	1	1	2	-	-
Total	124	100	56	100	68	100

Note: excludes one missing case.

As can be seen, the number of properties people had lived in ranged from 1 – 8 different properties; however, the majority of respondents (52%) had lived in just one property. This was followed by those who had lived in two different properties (28%) or those who had lived in three (13%).

Comparing the data for Rochdale and Oldham shows some differences between the two Boroughs. In Rochdale, for example, the percentage of people who had lived in just one property and those who had lived in two properties was nearly the same (38% and 39% respectively), with these respondents making up over three-quarters of the sample. In Oldham, on the other hand, the majority of respondents had lived in just one property (65%). As might be expected, the three respondents who had moved house the most (five, six and eight times) had all been in the UK since 2004/05.

We also wanted to ascertain how people had found out about their first home in Rochdale and Oldham, from a range of options covering both formal and informal methods.

Table 42: How did you find out about your first home?

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Arranged for me before I arrived in the UK	10	8	4	7	6	9
From friends/family living in Rochdale/Oldham	88	71	42	75	46	67
From someone else from my home country living in Rochdale/Oldham (not friend/family)	6	5	1	2	5	7
Via employer in UK	7	6	2	4	5	7
Via local newspapers	2	1	-	-	2	3
Via local estate agents	5	4	2	4	3	4
Other	6	5	5	8	1	1
Total	124	100	56	100	68	100

Note: excludes one missing case

Looking at the sample as a whole, the majority of people (71%) found about their first property by family and friends already living in Rochdale and Oldham, this was followed by accommodation being arranged prior to arrival, albeit by a significantly smaller percentage (8%). When asked to elaborate of who had arranged the accommodation prior to arrival, people referred to friends, family or an agency in their home country. The least common method of finding their first property was via advertisements in local newspapers (1%). With regards to those who indicated they had used other means to find their first property, this included finding accommodation through the Council or through colleagues at work.

Comparing the data for Rochdale and Oldham shows some very slight differences between the two Boroughs. For example, a smaller percentage of people in Oldham found their first property through family or friends already living in the area than the percentage who had used this method in Rochdale (67% and 75% respectively).

Current housing tenure

Table 43 below shows the current housing tenure of the respondents.

Table 43: Current tenure

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Private tenant	70	57	24	44	46	69
Council tenant	25	20	21	38	4	6
Other	17	14	9	16	8	12
Housing Association tenant	7	6	-	-	7	10
Owner occupation	2	2	-	-	2	3
Don't know	1	1	1	2	-	-
Total	122	100	55	100	67	100

Note: excludes three missing cases.

In line with the findings of previous research (as highlighted in Chapter 3), the sample in Rochdale and Oldham show a dominance of the private rented sector, with over half of all respondents currently living in this type of accommodation. This was followed by those renting Council properties (20%) and those who indicated some other form of tenure (14%). When asked to elaborate, this primarily referred to people who were lodging with friends or family. As can be seen, very few people were currently living in Housing Association properties (6%), with fewer still owning their own home (2%).

Some differences in tenure type can be seen according to how long people have been in the UK. Perhaps unsurprisingly, those who currently owned their own home had been in the UK for a longer period (arriving in the first two years of Accession). Similarly, the majority of those who were currently renting from the Council indicated that they had arrived in 2005 or 2006 (76%). With regards to private rented accommodation, however, the level remains consistently high (at round 50%), with the exception of the most recent arrivals, where 80% are living in the private sector.

Some significant differences can also be seen when comparing the current tenures in Rochdale and Oldham. The majority of respondents in Oldham were living in private rented accommodation (69%), with only a handful of people living in Council properties (6%). In Rochdale, on the other hand, although private rented accommodation is still the most common accommodation type, this is at a much lower level than in Oldham (44%). Rochdale also has a greater percentage of people renting Council properties (38%). Stakeholder consultation suggests that there is a higher turnover rate for Council properties in Rochdale than in Oldham, which could make this sector more readily available in Rochdale. In addition, as highlighted in Chapter 4, the respondents in Rochdale had been in the UK for slightly longer periods of time than the respondents in Oldham, which can increase their awareness of (and eligibility for) different tenure options.

The data appears to show slightly more variation in tenure types in Oldham, with respondents from all types of tenure, including Housing Association and owner occupation. Interestingly, one person in Rochdale did not know their current tenure, which again, could imply that they were lodging with family or friends.

Size of property

Table 44 below shows the number of bedrooms respondents' current property had.

Table 44: Number of bedrooms

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
One	22	18	15	27	7	10
Two	55	44	24	43	31	46
Three	41	33	16	29	25	37
Four	3	3	1	1	2	3
Five	3	3	-	-	3	4
Total	124	100	56	100	68	100

Note: excludes one missing case.

Looking at the sample as a whole, the size of property ranged from 1 – 5 bedrooms. The most frequent size of accommodation was a two bedroom property (44%), followed by 3 bedrooms (33%) and one bedroom (18%). Very few people lived in four or five bedroom property. Comparing the data for Rochdale and Oldham shows two bedroom properties dominate in both Boroughs, with some variation in the other property sizes. In Oldham, for example, less people were living in one bedroom properties (10%, compared to 27% in Rochdale), while a higher percentage were living in 3 bedroom properties (37%, compared to 29% in Rochdale).

Comparing the size of property by the current tenure shows that no one living in a socially rented property currently had more than three bedrooms; the majority were one bedroom properties (44%). With regards to private rented accommodation, however, the size of property ranged from one to five bedrooms, with the majority of people living in a two bedroom property (51%).

We wanted to ascertain peoples' views on the level of overcrowding in their current home. We therefore asked people whether or not their current property gave them enough space (see Table 45 below).

Table 45: Does your home have enough space?

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	75	61	32	57	43	64
No	47	38	24	43	23	34
Don't know	1	1	-	-	1	2
Total	123	100	56	100	67	100

Note: excludes two missing cases.

The majority of respondents indicated that they had enough space in their current property (61%), with 38% saying that they did not. As can be seen, there are some differences between the two Boroughs. In Oldham, for example, a higher percentage of people indicated that they had enough space

(64%, compared to 57% in Rochdale). This corresponds with the findings above in relation to size of property, which indicated that slightly more respondents in Oldham were living in larger properties.

We asked those who did not currently have enough space to elaborate on why this was the case. Some people referred to having to share with others:

“Five people in two bed, not big enough” (Oldham)

“[I] need my own space, [I am] now sharing everything” (Rochdale)

“[I] have to share bedroom” (Oldham)

While others were concerned about the space required to accommodate their family:

“My children are grown up, they need their own rooms” (Oldham)

“I need a separate house for me and my daughter. We are staying with two friends” (Rochdale)

“Very small rooms, [we] now need room for [our] baby” (Oldham)

“We need a bigger house because I want a family” (Rochdale)

Looking at property tenure, with the exception of the small number of home owners, the respondents living in Council rented properties were the most satisfied with the size of their property. Just 16% of people in this property type indicated that they did not have enough space, compared to 29% of those living in a Housing Association property and 39% of those in private rented accommodation. Perhaps unsurprisingly, 76% of those who indicated they were currently living in some ‘Other’ form of tenure, which was primarily staying with friends or family, felt that they did not currently have enough space.

Size of property was also related to whether or not people felt they had enough space; for, example, 55% of people in one bedroom houses said they had enough space; 60% in two bedroom houses; 63% in three bedroom houses; 66% in four bedroom houses; and, 100% in five bedroom houses.

Living arrangements

We wanted to explore people’s current living arrangements in terms of whether or not they were sharing their property, but also how many people were sharing and whether or not they were family.

Table 46 below shows how many people were currently sharing their home.

Table 46: Do you share your home?

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	102	82	40	71	62	91
No	22	18	16	29	6	9
Total	124	100	56	100	68	100

Note: excludes one missing case.

As can be seen, the majority of respondents were currently sharing their property. The data for Oldham shows higher levels of sharing than that for Rochdale (91% and 71% respectively). The levels of sharing varied slightly across the different tenures, with 84% of people living in a private rented property sharing; 75% sharing in a Housing Association property; and, 72% sharing in a Council property.

The number of people sharing the property (including the respondent) ranged from 2 – 8 (see Table 47 below).

Table 47: Number of people sharing the property

Number of people	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Two	22	22	13	32	9	15
Three	26	26	8	20	18	30
Four	28	27	9	22	19	31
Five	20	20	7	17	13	21
Six	3	3	1	3	2	3
Seven	1	1	1	3	-	-
Eight	1	1	1	3	-	-
Total	102	100	40	100	61	100

In the majority of cases (95%) there were 2 – 5 people sharing the current property, with a fairly even split across this range. Comparing the data for the two Boroughs shows similar patterns in terms of a concentration of 2 – 5 people sharing; however, it appears that that Rochdale has a higher number of cases where just two people are sharing (32%, compared to 15% in Oldham). The sample in Rochdale also has instances of 7 and 8 people sharing. One of these respondents was currently staying with friends, while the other was renting a Council property.

Looking in more detail at the level of sharing by type of tenure, with the exception of the case above, there were generally higher levels of sharing in private rented accommodation. The majority of respondents living in private rented accommodation indicated that there were 3 or 4 people sharing (65%), this was followed by five people sharing (18%). The majority of those living in a Council or Housing Association property, on the other hand, suggested that there were two people sharing (53% and 60% respectively).

In terms of the size of the property, the number of people sharing a one or two bedroom property ranged from 1 – 5, with the majority in both cases having two or three people sharing (50% and 62% respectively); the number of people sharing a three bedroom property ranged from 2 – 8 people, with the majority having four or five people sharing (61%). The data suggests that in 68% of cases where people were sharing a house, the property had less bedrooms than the number of people occupying the house.

With regards to who they were currently sharing with, 40 respondents (39%) were living with family members while 62 respondents (61%) were not. Comparing the data for Rochdale and Oldham, however, shows much higher levels of sharing with non family members in Oldham than in Rochdale (71% and 45% respectively). In terms of current tenure, 37% of respondents in Council properties were sharing with non family members; 62% of respondents in private accommodation; and, 75% of respondents in a Housing Association property (albeit based on a smaller sample size).

In addition to sharing with non family members, 22% of respondents indicated that they did not know the people they were sharing with before they moved into the property. These respondents indicated that they were living in private rented or Housing Association properties (85% and 15% respectively). Comparing the data for the two Boroughs shows that a higher percentage of people in Oldham were sharing with people they did not know than those in Rochdale (26% and 12% respectively).

We also wanted to ascertain which facilities within the property were being shared with non family members (see Table 48 below).

Table 48: Which facilities are shared?

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Bedroom	31	50	10	56	21	48
Bathroom	61	98	18	100	43	98
Kitchen	60	97	18	100	42	95

Note: as above, this is based on 62 people sharing with non family members; 18 in Rochdale and 44 in Oldham.

Looking at the sample who were currently sharing a property with non family members, as can be seen, the majority were sharing bathrooms and kitchens. In addition, of those who were sharing a property with non family members suggested that they had to share a bedroom with a non family member. This percentage was slightly higher for the respondents living in Rochdale (56%). Perhaps unsurprisingly, this percentage was also higher amongst those living in private rented accommodation; for example, 58% were in the private rented sector, compared to 33% in 'Other' and 9% in socially rented accommodation (all of whom were Council rather than HA tenants).

Condition of property

Table 49 below shows how people rated the overall condition of their current property.

Table 49: Overall condition of property

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Very Good	7	6	2	4	5	7
Good	67	54	29	52	38	57
Neither good nor poor	40	33	21	37	19	28
Poor	7	6	4	7	3	5
Very poor	2	1	-	-	2	3
Total	123	100	56	100	67	100

Note: excludes two missing cases.

The majority of respondents rated the overall condition of their current home as good or very good (60%), followed by those with more ambivalent feelings (33%). Only a small number of people rated the condition of their home as poor or very poor (7%). As can be seen, there is a very similar pattern between the responses given in Rochdale and those given in Oldham. Oldham has slightly more positive ratings (64% compared to 56% in Rochdale), while Rochdale slightly more ambivalent responses (37% compared to 28% in Oldham).

With regards to tenure, with the exception of those who owned their own home, socially rented properties generally received more positive ratings than private rented properties. Indeed, 84% of those in a Council property and 71% of those in a Housing Association property rated it as good or very good, compared to 51% of respondents in private accommodation. Private accommodation was also the only accommodation to be given a rating of very poor (3% of respondents).

We asked people to elaborate on the rating they had given and received a number of comments. With regards to those who indicated their property was good or very good, a number of people simply said that house was in good condition, while others made more specific comments:

“Near amenities and town centre, neighbours are OK, not too bad. [The] rent is cheap, it is our property and we can decorate as we please” (Council tenant, Rochdale)

Some people felt that their property was good because it was a Council property.

Others indicated that they had done their own work to improve the property:

“Now it is OK because I do the decorating. Before it was very poor” (Council tenant, Rochdale)

“Because I decorate myself and now it is nice” (Council tenant, Rochdale)

With regards to the negative comments, reference was made to particular problems with the conditions of the property:

“In bad condition, no double glazing” (Private tenant, Oldham)

“Roof leaks and water comes through. Water pressure is very low in the shower. I know it’s only £320 a month, but still...” (Private tenant, Oldham)

“Very poor condition, needs a lot of repairs to all rooms” (Private tenant, Oldham)

Some of the more ambivalent responses referred to a lack of options:

“Average condition, no other house available” (Living with friends/family, Rochdale)

“It’s just OK, not good, but [I] have no choice” (Private tenant, Rochdale)

“It’s OK for now, [I] can’t find anything better” (Private tenant, Rochdale)

Rent payments

Table 50 below shows the rent levels being paid per person per week by the respondents in Rochdale and Oldham.

Table 50: Rent paid per week

Amount	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
£21 – £30	6	5	2	4	4	6
£31 – £40	7	6	4	7	3	5
£41 – £50	25	21	5	9	20	31
£51 – £60	23	19	14	25	9	14
£61 – £70	27	22	11	19	16	25
£71 – £80	12	10	5	9	7	11
£81 and over	15	13	13	23	2	3
Don’t pay rent	5	4	2	4	3	5
Total	120	100	56	100	64	100

Note: excludes five missing cases.

Rent levels varied from £21 to £81 or over per person per week. The majority of respondents (62%) were paying between £41 and £70 per week, followed by those paying £71 or over (23%). Five respondents indicated that they currently did not pay rent; four of these were currently living with family or friends, while one indicated that they were a home owner.

Comparing the data for Rochdale and Oldham highlights some differences in rent levels. There are similar numbers of people paying the lower rents, or not paying rent. However, there appears to be a slightly higher rent level paid overall in Rochdale; for example, 23% of respondents in Rochdale were paying £81 and over, compared to 3% in Oldham. In Oldham, the rent level is concentrated in the range of £41 - £80 per person, while in Rochdale the concentration is £51 - £81 and over.

Table 51 below shows rent level per person by current tenure.

Table 51: Rent paid per week by tenure

Amount	Council		HA		Private	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
£21 – £30	-	-	-	-	6	9
£31 – £40	-	-	-	-	3	4
£41 – £50	1	4	2	29	16	23
£51 – £60	12	50	1	14	8	12
£61 – £70	8	33	3	43	13	19
£71 – £80	3	13	1	14	8	12
£81 and over	-	-	-	-	15	21
Total	24	100	7	100	69	100

Note: excludes two missing cases (one Council, one private).

As can be seen, respondents living in socially rented accommodation paid in the range of £41 – £80 per week. In Council properties, half of the respondents were paying £51 – £60 per week, followed by 33% paying £61 – £70, while in Housing Association properties, the majority were paying £61 – £70 (43%), followed by £41 – £50 (29%), albeit based on a smaller sample size. This indicates a degree of standardisation in terms of the level of rent paid in these properties.

Looking at private rented accommodation, on the other hand, shows a far greater variation in rent, ranging from the lowest through to the highest rent level, with no discernible pattern between the different rent levels. If we take the rent levels shown in Table 51 above and multiply them by the number of people sharing a particular property, it provides an indication of the potential rental income in the private sector, particularly in relation to HMOs. The data suggests that the highest rental income was £1,231 – £1,387 per month, which relates to a property in Oldham where four people were sharing a four bedroom property, each paying £71 – £80 per week. This is potentially £14,768 – £16,640 per annum. The lowest rental income was £403 – £520 per month, which is around £4,836 – £6,240 per annum. Again, this property was in Oldham and consisted of three people sharing a two bedroom property, each paying £31 – £40 per week. In Rochdale, although, as suggested above, the rent levels appear to be slightly higher, the potential rental incomes were lower than in Oldham as there were fewer instances of people sharing.

Interestingly, as mentioned previously, the data also showed that there was one person who did not know the current tenure of their property; however, they were paying £51 – £60 per week to live there.

In 10 cases, respondents indicated that the rent level being paid also included bills. These respondents were all living in Oldham and were mainly living in private rented accommodation or living with family and friends, although two respondents referred to living in the socially rented sector.

Tied accommodation

One of the concerns raised in previous research is the potentially vulnerable position of migrant workers whose accommodation is tied to their employment. We wanted to ascertain to what extent this was the case in Rochdale and Oldham. From the sample as a whole, just 5 respondents (3 in Rochdale, 2 in Oldham) indicated that their accommodation was in some way tied to their employment. When asked to elaborate on how their accommodation was tied, two people made reference to agents being involved in their accommodation:

“Agency arranged with landlord, [I] pay rent to agency” (Rochdale)

“Peoples Resources arrange accommodation and work for me”
(Rochdale)

While one respondent referred to their employer actually owning the property:

“Employer owns it and [I] pay him rent” (Oldham)

Awareness of housing options

We wanted to explore respondents’ level of awareness of the different housing options available to them in Rochdale and Oldham. Table 52 below shows the number of respondents who indicated an awareness of each particular option.

Table 52: Awareness of housing options

Options	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Renting from a private landlord	107	86	50	89	57	84
Renting from the Council	106	85	55	98	51	75
Buying your own home	77	62	34	61	43	63
Renting from a local HA	57	46	23	41	34	50
Don't know the housing options	4	3	-	-	4	6

Note: based on 124 responses (56 Rochdale, 68 Oldham)

Given that the majority of respondents were living in private rented or Council accommodation, it is unsurprising that these two options were the ones most familiar to the respondents. As can be seen, taking the sample as a whole, the level of awareness of both appears to be the same. There is also a relatively high level of awareness of the option to buy your own home (62%). Comparing the data shows similar levels of awareness of the housing options across the two Boroughs, with the exception of Council renting where there is a greater level of awareness in Rochdale than in Oldham (98% and 75% respectively).

In both Boroughs, there was less familiarity with the option of renting from a Housing Association. There were slightly higher levels of awareness in Oldham; however, this would be expected given that some of the respondents in Oldham were living in this type of accommodation. Stakeholder consultation with a Housing Association with properties in the study area highlights that there is often a lack of awareness of this tenure amongst migrant workers. They suggest that there is a need to find ways to raise awareness about this tenure amongst those who are eligible.

As can be seen from Table 52 above, four respondents were not aware of the housing options available in Rochdale and Oldham. Three of these were currently living with friends/family, while one was renting from a private landlord.

As would be expected, awareness of housing options shows an increase with length of time in the UK. For instance, all respondents who arrived in 2004 indicated an awareness of the option of renting from the Council, compared to 88% in 2006; 87% in 2007; and, 20% of 2008 arrivals. Respondents from all years (2004 – 2008), however, show consistently high levels of awareness of private rented accommodation, while awareness of renting from a Housing Association over the time period remains consistently lower than the other tenures.

Housing aspirations

Although it is evident that some respondents are not fully aware of the range of housing options available in Rochdale and Oldham, we wanted to give an indication of future accommodation aspirations. We therefore asked people to indicate their preference from the range of options already referred to (see Table 53 below).

Table 53: Future accommodation preference

Preference	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Renting from the Council	72	58	38	68	34	50
Buying your own home	31	25	13	23	18	27
Don't know	10	8	5	9	5	7
Renting from a local HA	6	5	-	-	6	9
Renting from a private landlord	5	4	-	-	5	7
Total	124	100	56	100	68	100

Note: excludes one missing case.

Over half of the sample (58%) expressed a preference for renting from the Council; this percentage was higher again in Rochdale (68%, compared to 50% in Oldham). The majority of those who wanted a Council property were currently living in private rented accommodation (63%).

A quarter of the sample indicated a preference for buying their own home (this included those who already owned their own home). Again, the majority of these were currently living in private rented accommodation (50%), but also included a number of people living in Council properties (36%). Comparing Rochdale and Oldham shows an increased preference for owner occupation in Oldham, albeit slight.

Six people indicated a preference for renting from a Housing Association (HA). Three of these were already HA tenants, while three were living in private rented accommodation. All of these respondents were currently living in Oldham.

Furthermore, as can be seen, only five respondents expressed a desire for living in private rented accommodation in the future. Three of these respondents were already living in private accommodation, while two were currently living in a Housing Association property. No respondents interviewed in Rochdale wanted to live in this type of accommodation.

Looking at people's accommodation aspirations by their intended length of stay in the UK, as might be expected, those with longer-term intentions (for example, 5 years or more or indefinite stay) were more likely to have aspirations of home ownership. Those with longer term intentions also indicated a preference for living in a Council property.

We asked people to provide a little more information on why they had particular preferences. With regards to wanting a Council property, a number of people felt this was the cheapest option for them, as well as the perception that Council properties were well maintained:

"Cheap rent and good homes" (Oldham)

"Council property are well maintained and cheap" (Oldham)

"I am in Council housing now and want to stay with Council because it's quite cheap and the repairs are done by the landlord" (Rochdale)

People also felt that this was a more secure or permanent form of tenancy:

"At least I don't have to keep moving from one property to another. I need a permanent home" (Rochdale)

"I like Council property. Firstly it's cheaper and secondly more secure" (Rochdale)

"Own home and it's cheaper rent, plus can stay forever" (Rochdale)

"Peace of mind. Permanent place, also a lot cheaper than privately renting" (Oldham)

Interestingly, some people thought that living in a Council property gave them the option to eventually buy the property:

"You can buy the flat after some time" (Oldham)

"I would like to rent from the Council and then maybe buy from the Council" (Rochdale)

Those who expressed a preference for buying their own home made a number of comments. Some liked the idea of having something of their own that they can make improvements to:

"Financial security and [I] can make improvements to it" (Oldham)

"No trouble with any landlord and [I] can make improvements" (Oldham)

"It is something of my own and that is good" (Rochdale)

While others wanted to be paying for a property that they actually owned:

"Because I don't want to pay rent" (Rochdale)

"It would be cheaper to rent, but I would like to be paying for something that is mine. It seems a waste not to" (Oldham)

"Because I would like to buy this flat, because I [repaired] it and I spent a lot of money" (Rochdale)

One respondent also referred to the fact that owning your own gave you more choice:

"If I buy I have choice, if I get Council I have no choice, and some properties and area are trouble and not good" (Rochdale)

The issue of choice was also raised during stakeholder consultation, where it was suggested that the current system for allocations does not offer any choice with regards to where people are accommodated. It was suggested that in Rochdale there was going to be a move towards a Choice-Based Lettings (CBL) system for housing allocations, which offers more choice to applicants. Concerns were raised, however, about the complexity of this system, particularly for those from outside the UK.

The small number of people who wanted to rent from a Housing Association generally suggested that this was a cheap and easy option, while those who expressed a preference for private renting again referred to it being an easier option. Indeed, one respondent made the following comments with regards to this type of accommodation:

"Because there are not many papers asked for" (Oldham)

Chapter 9: Community integration

Introduction

This chapter aims to offer some insight in relation to life in Rochdale and Oldham outside of the workplace. In particular it offers an analysis of the data with regards to issues of community relations. It looks at peoples' views on living and working in Rochdale and Oldham; access to community facilities and other services; experiences of racist and anti-social behaviour, and, general feelings of involvement with the local community.

Views on Rochdale and Oldham

This section focuses on peoples' general views on living and working in Rochdale and Oldham, as well as focusing on their experiences in their specific neighbourhood.

View on Rochdale and Oldham as a place to live and work

In order to ascertain peoples general feelings on Rochdale and Oldham, we asked whether or not they would recommend the two Boroughs as places to live and work to friends/family back home (see Table 54 below).

Table 54: Would you recommend Rochdale or Oldham as a place to live and work?

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	73	61	38	70	35	54
No	10	9	6	11	4	6
Don't know	36	30	10	19	26	40
Total	119	100	54	100	65	100

Note: excludes six missing cases.

Looking at the sample as a whole, it can be seen that the majority of respondents (61%) would recommend the two Boroughs as places to live and work, with only 9% indicating that they would not. Comparing Rochdale and Oldham, however, shows some differences between the two Boroughs. The percentage of those who would recommend Rochdale to family/friends back home, for example, is greater than the percentage who would recommend Oldham (70% and 54% respectively). The percentage of those who would not recommend an area is slightly lower in Oldham; however, Oldham has a far greater percentage of ambivalent responses than Rochdale (40% and 19% respectively).

When asked to elaborate on their answer, the positive responses included:

"Cheap housing and good jobs available" (Oldham)

"I like it here, I am happy and there is no problems" (Rochdale)

“I like it here so I would recommend it to them” (Oldham)

Some people liked the fact that they had links with people from their home country:

“I like it here. A lot of people from Poland already live here” (Oldham)

“I like it here. We are slowly building up a community” (Polish respondent, Rochdale)

While the more negative responses included:

“Don’t have any clubs or shopping. It’s not like Manchester” (Oldham)

“Too many people here, not enough houses, drinking and drug problem, fighting with each, other friends beaten by English people” (Rochdale)

“Too small and boring, no cultural facilities” (Romanian respondent, Rochdale)

“Too hard work for little wages” (Rochdale)

Views on their specific neighbourhood

We asked people to indicate to what extent they were satisfied or dissatisfied with their particular neighbourhood, on a scale from very satisfied to very dissatisfied (see Table 55 below)

Table 55: Level of satisfaction with neighbourhood

Level of satisfaction	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Very satisfied	5	4	4	7	1	1
Satisfied	82	66	28	50	54	80
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	25	20	17	30	8	12
Dissatisfied	10	8	5	9	5	7
Very dissatisfied	1	1	1	2	-	-
Don’t know	1	1	1	2	-	-
Total	124	100	56	100	68	100

Note: excludes one missing case

As can be seen, people were generally satisfied or very satisfied with their neighbourhood. Only 9% of the sample as a whole were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with where they were currently living. Comparing the two Boroughs shows a slightly higher level of dissatisfaction in Rochdale. Oldham has a higher percentage of people who were satisfied or very satisfied compared to Rochdale (81% and 57% respectively). Rochdale also has a higher level of ambivalent responses than Oldham (30% and 12% respectively).

There appeared to be no pattern in the data in relation to how long people had been in the UK and level of satisfaction with their neighbourhood.

We asked people to elaborate on why they had given that particular rating. There were a number of different responses. Those who had given negative ratings of their neighbourhoods made a number of comments, many of which related to anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhood:

“Because a lot of people on the estate and some are badly behaved, criminals, playing loud music, youths gathering. It’s not nice when you have to walk past them, [they have] no respect, and rubbish gets thrown” (Rochdale)

“I am getting a lot of problems in the area. My house is regularly targeted and vandalised” (Rochdale)

“Noisy, alcohol and drugs by kids” (Rochdale)

“This area is OK, but there is some youth nuisance problem” (Rochdale)

“Mostly young people make trouble, violent, drinking, disturbing [the] neighbourhood” (Rochdale)

“Too noisy, alcohol, too afraid to go out sometimes because of people drinking” (Rochdale)

“Youth nuisance” (Oldham)

One respondent felt that local people did not like them and this was the reason for their negative view on where they lived:

“Because people don’t like us” (Oldham)

With regards to the positive comments, again there were a range of responses. Some people focused on having a good relationship with their neighbours:

“Good neighbours and no trouble” (Oldham)

“I have good neighbours” (Rochdale)

“The neighbourhood is good, people are friendly” (Rochdale)

One respondent was positive about the area not only because of their neighbours, but also because of the support of their housing provider. They were currently living in a Council property:

“When we have a problem the housing office is all the time helping me, and the neighbours are nice and chatting” (Rochdale)

Others were happy with the area because they had friends living with them or nearby:

"I have friends living here, living next door. No problem at all"
(Rochdale)

"I am with friends so we all get on well together" (Rochdale)

While others were happy because they were in what they described as a quiet neighbourhood:

"It's a very nice area and very quiet" (Rochdale)

"Nice and quiet, no trouble" (Oldham)

"Oldham is quiet and peaceful"

A number of people from Oldham also made reference to a combination of their neighbourhood being quiet and having low crime levels.

In addition, people made positive comments on their neighbourhood in relation to its proximity to local facilities and amenities:

"It's got a nursery next door, good mix of people live in the area"
(Rochdale)

"My kids are attending the local school, it's very close to the house"
(Rochdale)

The maps in Appendix 5 of this report offers an indication of where the respondents were currently living in the two Boroughs, based on the postcodes provided in the interviews.

Crime and racist harassment

Linking in with what has already been highlighted above, what is apparent is that one of the issues that caused the most concern about where people lived was the issue of anti-social behaviour and crime. We aimed to establish to extent to which people or members of their family had experienced any such behaviour, in addition to the instances described above.

Table 56 below shows people's responses to whether or not they had experienced any crime or racist behaviour.

Table 56: Experiences of crime or racist behaviour

Experience of crime	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Crime against property (i.e. burglary)	13	10	4	7	9	13
Crime against person (i.e. mugging)	3	2	1	2	2	3
Racist harassment (verbal)	6	5	4	7	2	3
Racist harassment (physical)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	10	8	7	12	3	4

Note: The percentages shown represent the percentage of the sample as a whole (based on 124 interviews, with one missing case); the percentage of the Rochdale sample (based on 57 interviews); and, the percentage of the Oldham sample (based on 67 interviews, with one missing case).

As can be seen, there were relatively low levels of experience of crime and racist behaviour. Crime against property was the most common type of crime experienced. Only six people referred to experiencing racist behaviour in the form of verbal harassment and no one had experienced physical violence against them on the basis of their national or ethnic group. Comparing the two Boroughs shows slightly higher levels of crime against property experienced in Oldham than Rochdale (13% and 7% respectively).

With regards to those who indicated 'Other' to this question, when asked to elaborate, this generally referred to what would be regarded as anti-social behaviour (ASB), particularly in relation to local youths:

"Youth problem in the area" (Rochdale)

"Low level nuisance by youth in the area" (Rochdale)

"Suffered from youth problem on the estate" (Oldham)

"Youth nuisance on the street" (Rochdale)

One respondent made reference to their car getting broken into in Oldham, while another respondent had problems with their neighbours:

"Neighbours nuisance and unsocial activities, loud music" (Rochdale)

Access to facilities and services

We wanted to find out people's level of engagement with and use of local facilities and services. This focused on what people currently had access to (including financial services such as bank accounts, credit cards, insurance, etc.). It also looked at the respondents' level of awareness and any issues around equality of access.

Awareness of local facilities/services

We asked people whether or not they felt they were aware of local community facilities in the neighbourhood where they were living (Table 57 below).

Table 57: Awareness of local community facilities/services

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	75	60	42	74	33	49
No	31	25	7	13	24	35
Don't know	18	15	7	13	11	16
Total	124	100	56	100	68	100

Note: excludes one missing case.

From the sample as a whole, 60% of people felt that they were aware of the local community facilities, 25% said they were not aware, while 15% answered that they did not know, which implies a lack of awareness. Differences can be seen in terms of the level of awareness across the two Boroughs. In Rochdale, for example, people appear to have greater awareness of the facilities than in Oldham (74% and 49% respectively indicated that they were aware). Just over half of the people interviewed in Oldham were not aware or indicated that they did not know compared to a quarter of the respondents in Rochdale.

As might be expected, those who had been in the UK for longer periods suggested greater level of awareness of local facilities and services; for example, two thirds of respondents who arrived in 2005/06 indicated that they were aware of local facilities compared just over half in 2007/08.

Level of access to facilities/services

In terms of what people were accessing, firstly they were asked if they currently accessed any of the following:

- Community centre/social club
- Local church/place of worship
- Doctor/GP
- Dentist
- Sports facilities

Table 58 below shows the level of access to such services.

Table 58: Access to selected services

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Doctor/GP	72	58	48	84	24	35
Local church/place of worship	60	48	43	75	17	25
Community centre/social club	43	34	28	49	15	22
Sports facilities	43	34	21	17	22	32
Dentist	26	21	14	11	12	18

As can be seen, the service that most people had access to, albeit only 58% of the sample, was a doctor/GP. This was followed by a church or place of worship (48%). Perhaps unsurprisingly, there was less access to a dentist; however, this is an issue for the indigenous population as well. Comparing the two Boroughs shows generally lower levels of access to these selected services/facilities in Oldham; for example, 35% of people indicated that they had access to a doctor/GP in Oldham compared to 84% in Rochdale, while 22% of people in Oldham had access to a community centre or social club compared to 49% in Rochdale. The exception was sports facilities and dentists, whereby the Oldham respondents indicated higher levels of access.

Table 59 below shows those who currently accessed selected services by year of arrival.

Table 59: Access to services by year of arrival

	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Doctor/GP	11	92	20	74	27	69	13	21	-	-
Local church/place of worship	8	67	15	56	20	51	16	47	1	20
Community centre/social club	6	100	10	37	21	53	6	18	-	-
Sports facilities	6	50	7	28	17	44	12	35	1	20
Dentist	3	25	4	15	13	33	6	18	-	-

Again, as can be seen, those who had been in the UK for longer periods indicated higher levels of access to these selected services.

Secondly, people were asked to indicate whether or not they had access to any of the following financial services and household goods:

- Bank/Building Society Account
- Credit card
- Store Card
- Home contents insurance
- Pre-pay meter for gas and/or electricity
- Landline phone
- Mobile phone
- A computer at home
- Internet access
- Car or van
- Interactive digital TV (e.g. SKY, NTL, etc)

Table 60 below shows the level of access to such services/facilities.

Table 60: Access to financial services/household goods

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Mobile phone	121	97	55	96	66	97
Bank/Building Society Account	95	76	56	98	39	57
A computer at home	82	66	48	84	34	50
Internet access	73	58	45	79	28	41
Car or van	53	42	26	46	27	40
Interactive digital TV (e.g. SKY, NTL, etc)	41	33	29	51	12	18
Pre-pay meter for gas and/or electricity	37	30	10	18	27	40
Credit card	33	26	21	37	12	18
Landline phone	30	24	18	32	12	18
Home contents insurance	14	11	8	14	6	9
Store Card	13	10	3	5	10	15

Looking at the sample as a whole, as can be seen, the majority of respondents had a mobile phone (97%), compared to only 24% who had a landline. The second most common service was a bank or building society account (76%). In addition, 66% of people indicated that they had a computer at home and over half had access to the Internet (58%), most of whom indicated that this was at home, with a small number of people accessing it elsewhere; for example, *'through friends'* or at the local library. Very few people had a credit or store card (26% and 10 % respectively) or home contents insurance (11%).

Again, there are some notable differences between the people interviewed in Rochdale and Oldham. The level of mobile phone ownership remains high for both Boroughs. In Rochdale, however, access to bank or building society account is the most common service, but it also at a far greater level than in Oldham (98% and 57% respectively). Indeed, the people interviewed in Oldham appear to have less access to the majority of the services and goods listed above, with the exception of a car or van, where there is a similar level of access and a store card. Furthermore, 40% of those interviewed in Oldham indicated that they used a pre-pay meter for gas/electricity compared to 18% in Rochdale. The implication is that there is potentially more financial exclusion in Oldham, less access to household goods and services, as well as the possibility of people paying more for utilities in Oldham.

Table 61 below shows those who had access to financial services/household goods by year of arrival.

Table 61: Access to financial services/household goods by year of arrival

	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Mobile phone	12	100	27	100	39	98	38	97	4	80
Bank/Building Society Account	11	92	24	89	29	73	29	74	1	20
A computer at home	10	83	19	70	26	65	25	64	2	40
Internet access	10	83	17	63	23	58	22	56	1	20
Car or van	7	58	16	59	25	63	5	13	-	-
Interactive digital TV (e.g. SKY, NTL, etc)	8	67	11	41	14	35	8	21	-	-
Pre-pay meter for gas and/or electricity	7	58	10	37	8	20	11	28	-	-
Credit card	4	33	10	37	12	30	7	18	-	-
Landline phone	4	33	11	41	13	33	2	5	-	-
Home contents insurance	2	17	7	26	3	8	2	5	-	-
Store Card	4	33	7	26	2	5	-	-	-	-

Once again, the length of time people had been in the UK affected their level of access to specific financial services and household goods. Interestingly, those who had been in the UK for longer periods also appear to have an increased level of use of a pre-pay gas and electricity meter.

Furthermore, although access to a landline phone, home contents insurance and credit/store cards increase over time, they still remains consistently lower than access to the other services/household goods. With regards to credit or stores cards specifically, one respondent highlighted a very pertinent issue, which will affect people's ability to access certain financial services:

"I can't get credit because I don't have a credit history here. I can get credit in the future based on my mobile contract, but it will take a while" (Hungarian respondent living in Oldham)

We also wanted to explore issues relating to school attendance of those with school aged children currently living with them. In total, 16 respondents indicated that the children in their household were currently attending local schools in the study area (11 in Rochdale, 5 in Oldham). Five respondents indicated that their children received support in schools, in the form of additional language support (3 in Rochdale, 2 in Oldham), while eight suggested they did not receive any support (6 in Rochdale, 2 in Oldham). The remainder indicated that they did not know if their children received any additional support in schools.

Interestingly, one respondent indicated that their children had returned to their home country to finish their education:

"[Our] children were sent back to Poland to finish the current school year...we had to send them back because we haven't got enough space in the house and there was no school places available near where we live" (Rochdale)

While another respondent referred to the issue of childcare:

“My girlfriend has problems because she can’t find day care that is cheap. It is too expensive here. It means she cannot go out to work because she can’t afford to – all her wages would go on childcare”
(Oldham)

Equality of access

In addition to looking at level of access to different services and facilities, we also wanted to ascertain whether or not people felt that they had equal access. Firstly, we asked if people had equal access compared with other migrant workers (see Table 62).

Table 62: Equality of access compared to other migrant workers

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	61	49	24	43	37	55
No	13	10	4	7	9	13
Don’t know	50	41	28	50	22	32
Total	124	100	56	100	68	100

Note: Excludes one missing case.

Looking at the sample as a whole, there is a fairly even split between those who felt there was equal access to services and facilities to those who felt there was not or did not know (49% and 51% respectively). In Oldham, a slightly higher percentage of people felt they had equal access compared to other migrant workers than those interviewed in Rochdale (55% and 43% respectively). In Rochdale, very few people (7%) felt that there was not equal access; however, half of the respondents did not know.

Secondly, we sought to identify whether or not people had equal access to services and facilities compared to the indigenous population (Table 63 below).

Table 63: Equality of access compared to people from the UK

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	36	29	19	34	17	25
No	28	23	4	7	24	35
Don’t know	60	48	33	59	27	40
Total	124	100	56	100	68	100

Note: excludes one missing case.

As can be seen, the data indicates that people feel there is less equality of access compared with people from the UK; for example, 29% felt there was equal access. In Rochdale, the percentage was slightly higher (34%) than in Oldham (25%). As above, a large number of people indicated that they did not know whether or not they had equal access.

In addition, respondents also made reference to other issues; for example:

“I want to be in voters poll or register to vote” (Oldham)

“[I] need advice on how to get citizenship and help bring family over” (Oldham)

One respondent referred to a particular problem they had in relation to Council tax.

“We didn’t receive any information about Council Tax for four months, then got sent a letter telling us we owed £400. why didn’t they tell us about it sooner? It is a lot of money to pay at once...[We] find the Council Tax a little high for two people” (Oldham)

Community engagement

This section explores respondents’ engagement with the local community and their social interaction with the indigenous population, as well as with people from their home country. It also explores views on what could be done to assist people to settle and feel part of the community.

Contact with people from their home country

People were asked to indicate how much contact they had in Rochdale or Oldham with people from their home country (see Table 64 below).

Table 64: Contact with people from their home country

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
A lot	17	14	12	21	5	7
Quite a lot	43	35	27	48	16	24
A little	45	36	15	27	30	44
None at all	19	15	2	4	17	25
Total	124	100	56	100	68	100

Note: excludes one missing case.

Looking at the sample as a whole, as can be seen, it was most common for people to indicate that they had quite a lot of contact or a little contact with people from their home country. Only 14% of people indicated that they had a lot of contact with people from their home country, while only 15% said they had no contact at all. One respondent, for example, stated:

“I don’t know many people from Slovakia” (Rochdale)

Comparing the two Boroughs indicates that people living in Rochdale have much more contact with people from their home country than those living in Oldham. In Rochdale, the majority of the sample (96%) had some form of

contact with people from their home country, compared to 75% in Oldham. In addition, a quarter of the respondents in Oldham had no contact at all, while in Rochdale only 4% had no contact with people from their home country.

As would be expected, there was an increased level of contact with people from their home country the longer that respondents had lived in the UK; for example, 70% of respondents who arrived in 2005 indicated that they had a lot, or quite a lot, of contact with people from their home country, compared to 58% of those who arrived in 2006; and, 28% of those who arrived in 2007.

For those who indicated that they did have contact with people from their home country, we wanted to ascertain if there were particular places that people would go to meet. There were a range of different responses including people's houses; pubs; churches; sports centre; work place; country-specific shop; Hungarian social club; Polish social club. By far the most common response was meeting at people's houses; however, it was often the case that people indicated using a mixture of the places listed above in order to meet:

"I normally meet people at houses, shops, sometimes at school"
(Rochdale)

"We normally meet at houses, sometimes in shops or workplace"
(Rochdale)

"Polish store, Polish association and work" (Oldham)

One Hungarian respondent currently living in Oldham indicated that they travelled over to the Hungarian Social Club in Rochdale in order to meet people from their home country. Those living in Oldham were also slightly more likely to indicate that they met people in pubs than those living in Rochdale.

Feeling part of the community

Table 65 below illustrates peoples' feelings of involvement in the local community in Rochdale and Oldham.

Table 65: Feeling of involvement in the local community

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Very involved	3	2	2	4	1	1
Fairly involved	16	13	12	21	4	6
Not very involved	26	21	16	29	10	15
Not at all involved	45	37	10	18	35	52
Don't want to be involved	17	14	8	15	9	13
Don't know	16	13	7	13	9	13
Total	123	100	55	100	68	100

Note: excludes two missing cases.

Looking at the sample as a whole, it can be seen that only 15% of respondents were either very involved or fairly involved in the local community. Over half of the sample (58%) indicated that they were not very involved or not at all involved. Comparing the respondents across the two Boroughs shows some interesting differences. In Rochdale there appears to be a higher level of community involvement than in Oldham; for example, a quarter of the sample in Rochdale were either very involved or fairly involved compared to just 7% in Oldham. In addition, only 18% of people indicated that they were not at all involved in Rochdale as opposed to 52% in Oldham.

Furthermore, while level of involvement did increase with length of time in the UK, it still remained quite consistently low across the time period. There was also no discernible pattern between level of involvement and intended length of stay in the UK. Some of those with longer-term intentions were currently fairly involved in their local community, while a number of others indicated that they did not want to be involved, despite their long-term intentions.

Qualitative information gathered during the interview indicates a number of different reasons for peoples' lack of, or limited, community involvement. The majority of respondents referred to a lack of time, particularly due to work commitments:

"I am not involved with the local community much. I just meet my friends sometimes because I work long hours so there is not much time to socialise" (Rochdale)

"Always busy with shifts and seeing other relations" (Oldham)

"[I] don't have time to be involved, just with friends in the same house" (Rochdale)

"My work is night shift, all day I sleep" (Rochdale)

Some respondents indicated that there was perhaps a lack of awareness of how to become involved in the local community:

"[I] don't know how to be involved" (Oldham)

"[I'm] not aware of anything" (Oldham)

"Never found time and nobody has consulted me about it" (Oldham)

While, a small number of people had quite ambivalent views towards engaging with the local community:

"[I'm] not really trying to be involved" (Oldham)

"[I] only get involved if necessary" (Rochdale)

"They don't have anything for me to like" (Rochdale)

Interestingly, 17 people indicated that they did not want to be involved in the local community. Again, the majority of these indicated that the main reason was because they did not have time; while one respondent indicated that they did not want to be involved because of the local youths:

“I don’t like the youths making too much trouble” (Rochdale)

There were positive responses to community involvement as well, with some respondents indicating that they got on well with people in the local area:

“I get on well with my neighbours, there is a mixed community, all very friendly” (Rochdale)

“Get on with the community very well, although [I] don’t have time to socialise a lot” (Rochdale)

One person indicated that language was important in being able to be involved in the community:

“I got my degree here so I can communicate with everyone. My neighbours are very friendly” (Rochdale)

Assistance to settle into the community

Finally, we wanted to gain some insight into whether or not anything could be done to help people from outside the UK to settle into the local community (see Table 66), as well as exploring what specific kind of assistance people wanted.

Table 66: Can anything be done to help people from outside the UK settle into the local community

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	34	28	17	31	17	25
No	15	12	6	11	9	13
Don’t know	74	60	32	58	42	62
Total	123	100	55	100	68	100

Note: excludes two missing cases.

As can be seen, the majority of respondents (60%) did not know what could be done to help people who come from overseas to settle into the local community, while 28% felt that something could be done. In Rochdale, the percentage of those who thought something could be done was slightly higher than in Oldham (31% and 25% respectively).

Of those people who indicated that something could be done to assist people from overseas, when asked to elaborate, we received a number of responses. Some people referred to very specific issues:

“Need more information for Council house” (Oldham)

“Language classes [would] be helpful and financial help with fees” (Rochdale)

“We don’t know where and how to get jobs. I’ve got a good degree and I speak good English but still can’t get a job” (Oldham)

“The hard thing is getting a place to live. You need references, but obviously you don’t have them because you have come from another country” (Oldham)

This latter respondent was referring to needing references for accommodation; however, this can just as equally apply to references for employment purposes.

Others referred to requiring assistance for a range of needs:

“Help with paperwork and information about housing and benefits” (Rochdale)

“In Rochdale there are a lot of mixed people; therefore, services should be geared to meet the needs of these people”

“[Need] translator for languages, more information about work, how to set up business and help with facilities like shops” (Rochdale)

Some felt that there should also be help to meet people from the same country:

“Have contact details of fellow Poles so they can be contacted” (Oldham)

“Guidance on where and how to meet other Poles and find work and accommodation” (Oldham)

“Help to settle in and find work and other Polish people” (Oldham)

While others felt that more needed to be done to ensure that people from other countries felt safe in the UK:

“More safety required for Polish people, my friend was attacked in the pub a few days ago” (Rochdale)

“Increase community Police coverage” (Oldham)

Aspirations to move to a different area

We asked respondents if they would like to move out of their current neighbourhood and to another area of Rochdale or Oldham (see Table 67 below).

Table 67: Would you like to move to another area?

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	44	36	31	56	13	19
No	53	43	22	40	31	46
Don't know	25	21	2	4	23	34
Total	122	100	55	100	67	100

Note: excludes three missing cases.

As can be seen, just over a third of respondents (36%) expressed a desire to move to another area, while 43% did not want to move. Comparing the data for the two Boroughs shows that, in line with the findings above in relation to level of satisfaction with their neighbourhood, those living in Rochdale had a greater desire to move to an another area than those living in Oldham. Indeed, over half of the respondents in Rochdale expressed a wish to move, compared to 19% in Oldham. There were, however, a greater number of people who were unsure as to whether or not they wanted to move in Oldham (34%, compared to only 4% in Rochdale).

We asked people to elaborate on why they wanted to move to a different neighbourhood. Once again, people referred to where they were living as not being a nice area, particularly in relation to anti-social behaviour:

"I just want to get my own house in another area because this area has lots of youth problems" (Rochdale)

"Dirty area and expensive" (Oldham)

"[Our] house was broken into a few times so now we'd like to move to a different area" (Rochdale)

"Anywhere quiet, [it's] too noisy here and youth gangs" (Rochdale)

"This is a dangerous area, I want a quiet and nice area" (Rochdale)

Some respondents who were living in Oldham indicated that they wanted to move to Rochdale, mainly due to having friends there:

"I would like to move because I have some friends, also my works headquarters is in Rochdale"

"[I] would like to move to Rochdale, [I] have more friends there"

“I would like to move to Rochdale and I have applied for a house there. I have friends living there”

One respondent expressed concern about living in an area which was predominantly Asian:

“[I] have heard it is not nice here, [I] think the area is mainly for Asian people” (Oldham)

This respondent was feeling particularly isolated as there appeared to be no other migrant workers living in that area.

Looking at peoples' aspirations to move by the current tenure that they were living in shows a similar desire to move for those in Council and private rented accommodation (36% of respondents for both tenure types). Just over half of those who were living in some other form of tenure, which was primarily staying with friends/family indicated that they wanted to move to another area; however, some of these responses may be attributed to their overall dissatisfaction with their current living arrangements. None of the respondents living in Housing Association properties indicated that they wanted to move to another area.

As the findings above suggested, those currently living in Rochdale were more likely to want to move to another area of the Borough. Looking at this in terms of their current tenure, 43% of Council tenants wanted to move (compared to none in Oldham) and 63% of private tenants (compared to 22% in Oldham, although Oldham had high numbers of people who responded that they did not know).

We also wanted to explore what was currently stopping people from moving to another area. The most common responses, in order of frequency, were: waiting for, or needing, a Council property; work commitments in the area; financial constraints; and, not wanting to leave family and friends. In Rochdale, it was most common for people to indicate that they could not move until they had a Council property to move into, while in Oldham, the majority of respondents referred to work commitments preventing them from moving.

Chapter 10: Future intentions

Introduction

This chapter provides information with regards to peoples future intentions and aspirations. It focuses specifically on how long people anticipate staying in Rochdale and Oldham, whether or not they will return to their home country, as well any intentions to be joined by other family members.

Aspirations to move

This section looks at respondents' aspirations to move in the future. This includes ascertaining their intentions with regards to returning to their home country, as well as any aspirations to move within the UK.

Intended length of stay

We asked people how long they were intending to live in Rochdale and Oldham (see Table 68).

Table 68: Expected length of stay in Rochdale and Oldham

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Up to 6 months	1	1	-	-	1	1
6 – 12 months	1	1	-	-	1	1
1 – 2 years	4	3	-	-	4	6
2 – 3 years	5	4	-	-	5	7
3 – 4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 – 5 years	2	2	-	-	2	3
5 years or more	16	13	12	22	4	6
Indefinitely	33	27	17	31	16	24
Don't know	61	49	26	47	35	52
Total	123	100	55	100	68	100

Note: excludes two missing cases

Looking at the sample as a whole, nearly half of all respondents did not know what their expected length of stay would be. This is followed by just over a quarter (27%) who indicated that they would stay indefinitely, with 13% intending to stay for 5 years or more. Comparing the data for Rochdale and Oldham indicates that, aside from those who currently do not know how long they will stay, the people interviewed in Rochdale appear to have more long-term intentions to stay. Indeed, no one interviewed in Rochdale indicated that they would leave within five years and over half of the sample suggested they would be here for more than five years or indefinitely. In Oldham, 18% of respondents expected to leave within five years, while a smaller, but still significant percentage (30%) suggested that they would remain for at least five years or remain indefinitely.

The respondents who had been in the UK for longer periods were less likely to indicate that they did not know the intended length of stay; for example, just 8% of those who arrived in 2004 said they did not know, compared to 44% who arrived in 2005; 51% who arrived in 2006; and, 69% of the 2007 arrivals. Half of those who arrived in 2004 indicated that they would stay indefinitely compared to 10% of those who arrived in 2007.

Future destination

For the 29 respondents who gave a time specific answer in relation to how long they intended to stay, we wanted to explore where they expected to go once they left Rochdale and Oldham (see Table 69 below).

Table 69: Where do you intend to go after leaving Rochdale and Oldham?

	All	Rochdale	Oldham
Back to home country	22	8	14
Another country	1	-	1
Another part of the UK	2	1	1
Don't know	4	-	1
Total	26	9	17

Note: excludes three missing cases

As can be seen, one respondent intended to move to another country and indicated that they would move for “*work opportunities*”; however, they did not specify where. Three respondents suggested that they would be moving to another part of the UK; one indicated that they would be moving to Manchester, while the others did not specify where.

The majority of respondents indicated that they intended returning to their home country. When asked why this was the case, there were a variety of responses; however, the majority of people indicated that they wanted to go back to their home, where their family were settled:

“To settle with [my] own family members” (Rochdale)

“[I have] friends in Poland and [my] whole family there” (Oldham)

“Missing family and friends” (Rochdale)

“Because that’s home” (Oldham)

“[I] want to settle in my own country” (Rochdale)

Some respondents also referred to leaving to find employment in their home country, including those who wanted to run their own business:

“[I] would like to settle there, maybe open a business” (Rochdale)

“Settle in Poland and maybe open a business” (Rochdale)

One respondent indicated that they wanted to return home to start studying.

We asked the respondents who intended to leave, if there was anything that would help them to remain living in Rochdale and Oldham. The main responses can be categorised as better job; increased language skills; a permanent house; financial help; and, having more friends/family living in Rochdale and Oldham. The following provides an indication of some of the responses:

“Better job security and reunion with my family” (Oldham)

“Better language skills” (Oldham)

“Financial help and better area to live” (Rochdale)

“More benefits” (Oldham)

“A house, no property available yet” (Rochdale)

“Need new housing in a different area and new jobs” (Rochdale)

“Need to get a permanent job in my own trade” (Rochdale)

Family reunification

We also wanted to ascertain whether or not any of the respondents in our sample would be joined by other members of their family (see Table 70 below).

Table 70: Will you be joined by other family members?

	All		Rochdale		Oldham	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	20	17	10	19	10	15
No	72	60	31	57	41	63
Don't know	27	23	13	24	14	22
Total	119	100	54	100	65	100

Note: excludes six missing cases.

As can be seen, the majority of respondents (60%) suggested that they would not be joined by other family members, followed by those who were unsure (23%). Comparing the data for the two Boroughs shows a relatively similar pattern of responses, with a slightly increased percentage of people in Oldham suggesting that they would not be joined by family members.

It was indicated that the majority of people would be joined by their family over the next 12 months (see Table 71).

Table 71: When will you be joined by other family members?

	All	Rochdale	Oldham
Within the next 12 months	13	7	6
Within the next 2 years	3	1	2
Don't know	3	2	1
Total	19	10	9

Note: excludes one missing case

In terms of which family members were likely to join them, all respondents indicated that they would be joined by immediate family members (see Table 72 below).

Table 72: Which family members will be joining you?

	All	Rochdale	Oldham
Brother/sister	9	7	2
Son/daughter	2	1	1
Wife	1	-	1
Wife and child/children	6	2	4
Nearest family ⁹⁰	1	-	1
Total	19	10	9

Note: excludes one missing case

In the majority of cases, people suggested that they would be joined by one more family member; however, 7 respondents suggested that more than one would be joining them.

⁹⁰ This was an open-ended question. All responses given could be categorised with the exception of this response.

Chapter 11: Conclusions and ways forward

This final chapter brings together the findings of the survey to highlight some of the key issues that have emerged and the implications of these, offering some suggested ways forward for stakeholders in order to meet the needs of the new and emerging communities in Rochdale and Oldham. The aim of this study was to provide information on a range of different issues, focusing specifically on employment, housing, education and training, community integration, access to selected services and future intentions. Naturally, it raises a number of pertinent issues worthy of further investigation.

The size and characteristics of the migrant worker population

As has been highlighted in Chapter 3 of this report, there are widely acknowledged difficulties with attempting to estimate the size of the migrant worker population. The data available does not always give the complete picture. Indeed, official data can underestimate the number of migrant workers living in an area, as well as the number of different national groups. Furthermore, official data does not show who has returned home, nor does it allow for secondary migration, which, as this survey shows, does occur, with people following employment opportunities and making use of social networks within the UK.

It is accurate to say that no one knows the true size of the migrant worker population. The Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) data suggests that there were 1,121 registrations for Rochdale and 736 registrations for Oldham from the A8 countries (i.e. excluding Bulgaria and Romania) between May 2004 and December 2007. Looking at the interviewees in our survey, however, suggests that around 37% of the sample overall were not registered on the Worker Registration Scheme, breaking down to 2% in Rochdale and 66% in Oldham. If we apply these percentages to the WRS data for the two Boroughs it offers a range of 1,143 – 1,536 for Rochdale (based on applying both a 2% and 37% multiplier) and 1,008 – 1,222 for Oldham (based on applying a 37% and 66% multiplier). We are by no means suggesting these to be the true figures for movement to Rochdale and Oldham since May 2004 and care needs to be taken when making assumptions based on a relatively small sample; however, it illustrates that there is a potentially larger population living in the two Boroughs than the official data suggests. There data also suggests a potentially more diverse population; indeed, contrary to official data, Rochdale and Oldham has representatives from all A8/A2 national groups, with the exception of Bulgaria (this is not to suggest that there are no Bulgarians living in the two Boroughs).

This research provides a 'snap-shot' of the current population, but regular surveys are needed given the diverse and fluid nature of these communities. Stakeholder consultation, for example, suggests there may be a slowing in the number of people from the EU, with more people from China, as well as the African countries. As highlighted in Chapter 3, research has been published which suggests that approximately half of all A8 migrant workers have left the

UK⁹¹. As different nationalities moving into the two Boroughs there may be new issues for authorities and service providers to consider in relation to these communities. Some agencies are making efforts to find out about the local community; for example, Greater Manchester Police indicated that some of their officers are carrying out 'community mapping' exercises. Such initiatives should be encouraged for all service providers in order to ensure that up-to-date information is available.

Skills, qualifications and employment

In line with previous research, the migrant workers currently living in Rochdale and Oldham were diverse in terms of their skills and experiences. This ranged from Masters degrees through to having no formal qualifications. In addition, 60% of people indicated that they had a trade or skill, many of whom had been using this trade or skill for a number of years. This included a number of people with skilled trades relating to the construction industry, such as joinery, plastering and plumbing, but also other skills such as computers, teaching, physiotherapy and hairdressing. Looking at the Standard Industry Classification (SIC), the majority of people had previously worked in the construction sector; however, a range of sectors were represented in the sample. With regards to the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC), people were mainly drawn from Skilled Trades Occupations (as highlighted above). Again, the respondents represented a wide range of previous occupation levels, from Elementary Occupations through to Managers and Senior Officials.

Comparing previous and current employment shows a significant shift in occupation level, with the majority of respondents' current employment being categorised as Elementary Occupations. The range of industries has also reduced, with concentrations of people in the manufacturing industry. This appeared to be particularly pertinent for the female respondents. As has been highlighted in previous research, there is a need to look at how best to match people's skills and qualifications to the appropriate jobs, as well as looking at how to get overseas qualifications recognised by employment agencies and employers. Those with vocational qualifications were more likely to find employment appropriate to their education; for example, working in Skilled Trades Occupations, while the respondents with university degrees were often found in lower skilled occupations.

There is also clearly a link between language and employment. In order for occupational mobility to occur, people need to necessary language skills; however, with work commitments and the price of ESOL classes, people are often unable or unwilling to access language courses. There is a need to ensure that there is adequate and affordable provision, as well as looking at ways to make provision flexible to meet the needs of those working long or anti-social hours. This could include exploring the possibility of employers

⁹¹ Pollard, N., Latorre, M. and Sriskandarajah, D (2008) *Floodgates or turnstiles? Post-EU enlargement migration flows to (and from) the UK*, London: IPPR.

building language capacity of overseas employees, particularly in relation to vocational language skills.

Housing experiences

The research has shown, like previous studies, that there is a dominance of the private rented sector in Rochdale and Oldham. Certainly, private rented accommodation is the first port of call for most migrant workers. This is perhaps to be expected given the restrictions placed on eligibility to social housing, but also the fact that the majority of people find their accommodation through friends, family or other people from their home country who are themselves already living in the private rented sector. One of the issues that has been raised in previous research, and is a concern in this study, is the proportion of properties that would be classified as Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), many of which are not known to the local authorities. Our study has shown evidence of overcrowding, as well as non family members having to share a number of facilities, including bedrooms. Stakeholder consultation in Oldham suggests that there is a voluntary register for private landlords; however, many landlords will choose not to register and therefore do not adhere to the standards set by this register.

Looking at the rental figures indicated in the survey and the number of people sharing some of the properties, it reveals opportunities for high rental incomes for some landlords, which again may deter landlords from registering the property. Authorities therefore need to explore different ways to ensure that properties are registered and landlords adhere to appropriate standards in terms of the conditions of the properties. For example, stakeholder consultation highlighted a temporary project in Rochdale, which focused on this issue; however, such initiatives are needed on a longer-term basis.

What is clear is that there is a need to look at the role of the private sector in greater detail, in relation to HMOs, as highlighted above, but also in relation to any potential implications for the indigenous population. The down turn in the housing market has left many people with little option but renting a property. Does the concentration of migrant workers in the private rented sector have an affect on the ability of other people to access this sector? Or is it the case that migrant workers are concentrated in the lower-end private properties, that many of the indigenous population would not live in? A concentration in lower-end properties could explain the overall dissatisfaction with the private rented sector that many respondents had. What is interesting to note, however, is that poor conditions are not necessarily always recognised by migrant workers themselves, perhaps due to the living arrangements in their home country or their acceptance of lower standards because of the perceived temporary nature of their stay.

Consideration also needs to be given to the small, but significant number of people who can be described as 'hidden homeless'. This refers to those individuals who indicated that they did not have their own house, but rather, were staying with friends, family and other acquaintances. There was

evidence of suppressed households in equal measures across both Boroughs. The number represented in the sample may be just a fraction of who are currently in this situation.

Finally, in relation to housing, there is a need to consider people's future accommodation aspirations. There was an overwhelming preference for renting Council properties, which are perceived to be better quality, cheaper and more permanent, as well as offering people their 'own' accommodation rather than having to share. Authorities need to consider the implications of a potential increase in demand socially rented accommodation in future years, not only in terms of availability, but also any potential community cohesion issues that may arise from this. As highlighted earlier in this report, there is often the perception that migrants receive preferential treatment with regards to housing (and other services).

Community integration and engagement

What emerged from the research was that people were currently engaging with people from their own country, but there was very little involvement with the wider community in Rochdale and Oldham. Indeed, community involvement appeared to be consistently quite low regardless of how long people had been in the UK. With work and family commitments there can sometimes be little time to 'get involved' in the community; however, there are other issues to consider. Stakeholder consultation, for example, revealed that many migrant workers have a 'heads down' approach, whereby they want to avoid possible confrontation with the indigenous population. The study revealed evidence of anti-social behaviour amongst local residents, particularly in Rochdale. Fear of such behaviour may prevent people from making efforts to engage with the wider community. It was suggested that EU migrants were able to integrate better because they are 'White'; however, the issue may be that they are more able to make themselves 'invisible', for the reasons outlined above, rather than having meaningful engagement and integration. Stakeholder consultation also suggested some division in the workplace between migrant and indigenous workers.

With regards to access to local services and facilities, naturally, people's awareness increases with length of settlement; however, there was a feeling that their level of access was not always equal. In line with previous studies, this survey reveals a need for support from service providers, particularly for new arrivals, to assist them to settle into the community and provide information with regards to the local facilities and services, as well as information on their rights (for example, with regards to employment, housing, etc.) and responsibilities (for example, the legal requirement to send children to school, as well as simple things like refuse collection, etc.). It must also be remembered that migrant communities often work longer or anti-social hours, which means that 9 to 5 support is not always appropriate or accessible. The Polish clubs in Oldham and Rochdale and the Hungarian society in Rochdale provide the opportunity for service providers to engage with migrant communities, as well as being a resource for migrant communities themselves.

Given that people tend to move to areas where they have social networks, the current patterns of settlement are likely to continue with concentrations of migrants in particular areas. As highlighted above in relation to housing, consideration needs to be given to the impact on community cohesion and the local infrastructure, with more detailed research at a local level.

Service providers should also consider the needs of migrants' children and other family members. Although we touch briefly on children's attendance at local schools, this is an area requiring further research, particularly in relation to language requirements. Furthermore, stakeholder consultation also raised the issue of domestic violence and the lack of support for migrant women who are suffering domestic abuse.

Stability of the communities in Rochdale and Oldham

This final section explores some of the issues relating to the possible attraction of Rochdale and Oldham and the indications of long-term settlement. The evidence suggests that a conscious choice was made to move to Rochdale and Oldham, with people being attracted by job opportunities, as well as the already established communities of migrant workers, particularly in relation to Polish workers. The proximity to Manchester was also a pull factor for some migrant workers.

There are, however, some differences between the two Boroughs, particularly in terms of the stability of the communities. In Rochdale, evidence suggests a greater level of stability, with more people living *and* working in the area, as well as wider social networks. There are also more people living in Council properties in Rochdale, which for some respondents was key to a feeling of stability and indicated a certain level of permanency to their settlement. In Oldham, there appears to be a more transient population, with people working in a wider range of other towns and cities. A large number of those currently living in Oldham did not know their future intentions and some may choose to move to where they are currently working.

The current economic climate is also a significant consideration. One employer who was consulted during the research revealed that they have employed temporary workers from Poland for a number of years; however, it was indicated that there was no longer this steady supply of workers. Furthermore, given that a number of migrant workers are employed in construction, particularly those living in Oldham, consideration needs to be given to the implications of the current downturn in the construction industry.

Unfortunately, it is difficult to predict future intentions, particularly with regards to a population whose migration is temporary in nature; indeed, a large number of people interviewed in this survey were unsure about their future intentions. What we need to recognise is that migrant workers are creative and adaptive, making use of social networks and responding to potential employment and housing opportunities. Decisions on whether or not to remain in Rochdale and Oldham will therefore be based on a combination of

factors, relating to the economic considerations already highlighted in this and previous research, but also based on their experiences of living in Rochdale and Oldham and the opportunities available to them.

Appendix 1

Rochdale and Oldham Migrant Workers Study

Questionnaire

Introduction

My name is [] and I work for the University of Salford in Manchester [show badge]. We have been asked by the council in this area (**Rochdale or Oldham**) to speak to migrant workers living and working in this area. We are hoping to gain a greater understanding of the work and housing experiences of this group in the community and the type of help or assistance they need now or in the future.

We are completely independent of any local council or the government. Would you be willing to talk to me? If you agree it will probably about 20 minutes. I have a number of questions I would like to ask but I would like to hear about anything else you feel is relevant. I will be writing down your answers but the interview will be confidential and no one will be identified in any report that we write, and there is no way that anyone will be able to trace any particular answer back to you.

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Date of Interview: _____

Interviewer name: _____

Language of interview: _____

SECTION A: Migration history

Q1. When did you first arrive in the UK: _____ / _____
(month) / (year)

Q2. Before coming to the UK (and apart from your home country), have you lived in any other countries in the European Union?

Yes **Go to Q 3**

No **Go to Q 5**

Don't know **Go to Q 5**

Q3. If **YES**, which countries (list 3 starting with most recent)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Q4. Why did you choose to leave these and come to the UK?

Q5. Do you have family living in other parts of the UK?

Yes **Go to Q 6**

No **Go to Q 7**

Q6. If **YES**, where?

Q7. Have you lived anywhere else in the UK?

Yes **Go to Q 8**

No **Go to Q 10**

Q8. If **YES**, where? (**List 3 places starting with most recent**)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Q9. Why did leave these other towns/cities (**Interviewer to find out why left each place?**)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Q10. Why did you decide to come to Rochdale or Oldham rather than another town/city? **Tick ✓ one only**

I had family already living in Rochdale/Oldham

I had friends already living in Rochdale/Oldham

Had heard about the town/area from other people

Had heard that there were job opportunities in Rochdale/Oldham

Other (**please explain below**)

SECTION B: Employment, education and training

Q11. How would you rate your English language skills when you first came to the UK? **Tick ✓ one only**

Very good

Good

Neither good nor poor

Poor

Very poor

Q12. Thinking about English language courses, which of the following applies to you: **Tick ✓ one only**

I am currently enrolled on an English language course **Go to Q 14**

I am on the waiting list for an English language course **Go to Q 14**

I would like to study on an English language course, but am not currently enrolled **Go to Q 13**

Other (**please specify below**) **Go to Q 14**

Q13. Why are you not currently enrolled? (**Interviewer: probe for what is stopping them, i.e. don't know where to go, not enough time, etc.**)

Q14. What is your highest level of qualification? (**Interviewer: record equivalent English qualification if possible i.e. A Levels, degree, or say high school education, etc. Please include work related qualifications as well**)

Q15. Do you have a particular trade or skill?

Yes **Go to Q 16**

No **Go to Q 18**

Q16. What is this trade or skill?

Q17. How many years have you spent in this trade/using these skills?

Q18. What was the last job you had in your home country just before coming to the UK?

Q19. Are you currently in paid work?

Yes **Go to Q 21**

Yes, but not started yet **Go to Q 21**

No **Go to Q 20**

Q20. If **NO**, how long have you been without a job? **Tick ✓ one only**

Less than 1 month **Go to Q 21**

1 – 3 months **Go to Q 21**

4 – 6 months **Go to Q 21**

7 – 9 months **Go to Q 21**

10 – 12 months **Go to Q 21**

More than 12 months **Go to Q 21**

Never worked in this country **Go to Q 32**

Don't know **Go to Q 21**

Q21. Since arriving in the UK what type of work have you been doing?
Please start with your current job and list the last four jobs you have had.

Current: (please write job title or explain what type of work)

Please also write down address/location of current job:

Previous jobs:

1: _____

2: _____

3: _____

4: _____

Q22. Thinking about the first job you did in the UK, were you recruited in your home country for this job?

Yes **Go to Q 23**

No **Go to Q 24**

Q23. If **YES**, who recruited you?

Q24. If **NO**, how did you find your first job? **Tick ✓ one only**

Through friends/relatives already here

Employment agency in UK (please specify which)

Other (**please specify below**)

Q25. In terms of your current job, is this?:
Tick ✓ one only

Temporary

Permanent

Fixed term contract

Seasonal/ad hoc

Not currently working

Don't know

Other (**please specify below**)

Q26. Are you registered for on the Worker Registration Scheme and for payment of National Insurance Contributions?

WRS registered

NIC registered

Neither

Don't know

Q27. Are you paid 'cash in hand' for your work?

Yes

No

Q28. How much are you currently paid per week for your job? £ _____

Q29. How many hours do you work per week? _____ hrs

Q30. Overall, how satisfied are you with your current job?

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Very satisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 31 |
| Satisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 31 |
| Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 31 |
| Dissatisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 31 |
| Very dissatisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 31 |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 32 |

Q31. Why do you say that?

Q32. Ideally, what type of employment would you like?

Q33. What help do you think you need to get your ideal job?

Q34. Would you be interested in being self-employed/setting up your own business now or in the future?

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 35 |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 37 |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 37 |

Q35. If **YES**, what type of business?

Q36. What help or assistance do you think you need to become self employed/ set up your own business?

Section C: Housing

Q37. Since you first arrived in Rochdale/Oldham how many homes have you lived in?

_____ (Interviewer: this includes their current home)

Q38. How did you find out about your first home in Rochdale/Oldham?
Tick ✓ one only

Arranged for me before I arrived in UK (please specify who)

From friends/family living in Rochdale/Oldham

From someone else from my country living in Rochdale/Oldham (**not friends/family**)
(**please specify who**)

Via employer in UK

Via local newspapers

Via local estate agents

Other (**please specify below**)

Q39. Thinking about your current property, are you:
Tick ✓ one only

A home owner

A tenant of a council property (RBH or FCHO)

A tenant of a Housing Association

A tenant of a private landlord

Other (**please specify below**)

Don't know

Q40. Is your current home linked to your work?

Yes **Go to Q 41**

No **Go to Q 42**

Don't know **Go to Q 42**

Q41. If **YES**, how?

Q42. How much rent do you pay per week for your current home?

Tick ✓ one only

Less than £20

£21-£30

£31-£40

£41-£50

£51-£60

£61-£70

£71-£80

£81 or over

Don't know

Don't pay rent **Go to Q 44**

Q43. Does this rent include bills?

Yes

No

Don't know

Q44. Do you share your home with other people?

Yes **Go to Q 45**

No **Go to Q 49**

Q45. If **YES**, how many people share? _____ (including yourself)

Q46. Are they family?

Yes **Go to Q 49**

No **Go to Q 47**

Q47. Do you share any of the following with people other than your family/relations? **Tick ✓ all that apply**

Bedrooms

Bathrooms

Kitchens

Q48. When you first moved to the property did you know the people you are sharing your home with?

Yes

No

Q49. How many bedrooms does the property have? _____

Q50. Would you say you have enough space in this home?

Yes **Go to Q 52**

No **Go to Q 51**

Don't know **Go to Q 52**

Q51. If **NO**, please give details of why?

Q52. How would you rate the overall condition of your home?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Very good | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 53 |
| Good | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 53 |
| Neither good nor poor | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 53 |
| Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 53 |
| Very poor | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 53 |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 54 |

Q53. Why do you give this rating?

Q54. Are you aware of the following housing options available in Rochdale/Oldham? **Tick ✓ all that apply**

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Renting from the Council (RBH or FCHO) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Renting from a local Housing Association | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Renting from a private landlord | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Buying your own home | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Don't know the housing options | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q55. Thinking about the future, what housing option would you like?
Tick ✓ one only

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Renting from the Council (RBH or FCHO) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 56 |
| Renting from a local Housing Association | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 56 |
| Renting from a private landlord | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 56 |
| Buying your own home | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 56 |
| Other (please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 56 |
-

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 57 |
|------------|--------------------------|-------------------|

Q56. Why would you like this type of housing option?

Section D: Community Integration

I would now like to ask you about the specific neighbourhood where you live

Q57. What were the main reasons for moving to this neighbourhood?
(Interviewer: some prompts may be work reasons; friends/family in the area; schools and other services; no choice; etc.)

Q58. To what extent are you satisfied/dissatisfied with your neighbourhood?

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Very satisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 59 |
| Satisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 59 |
| Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 59 |
| Dissatisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 59 |
| Very dissatisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 59 |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 60 |

Q59. Why do you give this rating?

Q60. Do you feel that you are aware of the local community facilities in the neighbourhood where you live? (i.e. community centres, clubs, etc)

- | | |
|------------|--------------------------|
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q61. Do you currently access any of the following facilities/services?:
Tick ✓ all that apply

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Community centre/social club | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Local church/place of worship | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Doctor/GP | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dentist | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sports facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q62. Do you feel that you have equal access to the local facilities and services compared with other migrant workers?

- | | |
|------------|--------------------------|
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q63. Do you feel that you have equal access to the local facilities and services compared with people from the UK?

- | | |
|------------|--------------------------|
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q64. Do you currently have any of the following?
Tick ✓ all that apply

- Bank/Building Society Account
 - Credit card
 - Store Card
 - Home contents insurance
 - Pre-pay meter for gas and/or electricity
 - Landline phone
 - Mobile phone
 - A computer at home
 - Internet access (**please specify where**)
-

- Car or van
- Interactive digital TV (e.g. SKY, NTL, etc)

Q65. How much contact do you have in Rochdale/Oldham with people from your own country?

- A lot
- Quite a lot
- A little
- None at all

Q66. Are there particular places you meet? (**Interviewer: some prompts might be clubs; churches; people's houses. Please try to find out addresses/locations if possible**)

Q67. Overall, how involved do you feel in your local community?

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Very involved | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 68 |
| Fairly involved | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 68 |
| Not very involved | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 68 |
| Not at all involved | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 68 |
| I don't want to be involved | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 68 |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 69 |

Q68. Why do you say this? (**Interviewer: you are probing to find out why they gave the previous response**)

Q69. Since living in Rochdale/Oldham have you, or members of your family, experienced any of the following: **Tick ✓ all that apply**

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Crime against the property (e.g. burglary) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Crime against the person (e.g. mugging) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Racial harassment (verbal) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Racial harassment (physical) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
-

Q70. Is there anything that could be done in Rochdale/Oldham to help people from other countries settle into the local community?

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 71 |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 72 |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 72 |

Q71. If **YES**, what could be done?

Q72. Would you like to move to another area of Rochdale/Oldham?

Yes **Go to Q 73**

No **Go to Q 75**

Don't know **Go to Q 75**

Q73. If **YES**, why would you like to move?

Q74. What is stopping you from moving?

Section E: Future Intentions

I would now like to ask you about what you would like to happen in the future

Q75. How long do you think you will continue to live in Rochdale/Oldham?
Tick ✓ one only

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Up to 6 months | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 76 |
| 6 months or more but less than 12 months | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 76 |
| 12 months or more but less than 2 years | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 76 |
| 2 years of more but less than 3 years | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 76 |
| 3 years of more but less than 4 years | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 76 |
| 4 years of more but less than 5 years | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 76 |
| 5 years or more | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 76 |
| Indefinitely | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 79 |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 79 |

Q76. Where are you going to go after this?
Tick ✓ one only

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Back to home country | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Another country (please specify which) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <hr/> | |
| Another part of the UK (please specify where) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <hr/> | |

Q77. Why?

Q78. What would help you to remain living in Rochdale/Oldham?

Q79. Do you think in the future that you will be joined by members of your family currently living in your home country?

Yes **Go to Q 80**

No **Go to Q 82**

Don't know **Go to Q 82**

Q80. If **YES**, when do you think this will happen?
Tick ✓ one only

Within next 12 months

Within next 2 years

Within next 3 years

Within next 4 years

Within next 5 years

Longer than 5 years

Don't know

Q81. If **YES**, who is likely to join you from your home country?

Q82. Would you recommend Rochdale/Oldham as a place to live and work to family/friends at home?

Yes **Go to Q 83**

No **Go to Q 83**

Don't know **Go to Q 84**

Q83. If **YES or NO** why?

Section F: About Yourself & Your Household

Finally, I would like to ask you some questions about yourself and your household.

Q84. What is your nationality? **Tick ✓ one only**

Polish

Latvian

Lithuanian

Czech

Slovakian

Estonian

Hungarian

Slovenian

Romanian

Bulgarian

Other (**please specify below**)

Q85. How would you describe your ethnicity?

Q86. What are your religious beliefs?

Q87. Thinking about your immediate family, how many people are there?
How many of these are currently living with you in Rochdale/Oldham?
How many live in other parts of the UK?

Total number (**including self**) _____

Number living in Rochdale/Oldham _____

Number living in other parts of UK _____

Q88. Thinking about your immediate family, can you tell me, their ages, whether they are male or female and their relationship to you, starting with those currently living with you in Rochdale/Oldham and then those still living in your home country. Please indicate whether they are living in the UK or in your home country (**Please begin with yourself as 'number 1 family member'**)

AGE	HOUSEHOLD MEMBER									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0 – 5 years										
6 – 10 years										
11 - 16 years										
17 – 24 years										
25 – 39 years										
40 – 49 years										
50 – 59 years										
60 – 74 years										
75 – 84 years										
85 years +										
GENDER										
Male										
Female										
RELATIONSHIP										
Partner										
Son or daughter										
Mother or father										
Sister/brother										
Uncle/aunt										
Cousin										
Grandparent										
Grandchild										
Other										
WHERE LIVING										
UK										
Home country										

If respondent has school-age children living with them, ask:

Q89. Are your children attending a local school?

Yes **Go to Q 91**

No **Go to Q 90**

Q90. If **NO**, why not?

Q91. If **YES**, do they receive additional support to help them with their learning?

Yes **Go to Q 92**

No **Go to Q 93**

Don't know **Go to Q 93**

Q92. If **YES**, what support?

Q93. Finally, are there any other issues/concerns that you'd like to mention?

For further details on the study please contact Dr Lisa Hunt on
0161 295 5078

Further Contact

1. If we needed to contact you again to ask for additional information would you be happy for us to do so?

Yes Name: _____

Tel no.: _____

No

2. Would you like a copy of the final report when the study is completed?

Yes **(please ensure their address is clearly written on the front of the questionnaire)**

No

Prize Draw

1. Do you wish to be entered into our prize draw for your chance to win £150?

Yes Name: _____

Tel no.: _____

No

Agreement and signature

This form is to be signed by the respondent to state that they saw your identification badge and were left with a letter explaining the survey.

I (respondent) confirm that **(please tick the boxes)**:

I saw the Identification Badge of the person who interviewed me; and

I was given a copy of the letter from the University of Salford explaining the survey

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Thank you very much for your time

Appendix 2

Previous towns/cities

Region	Location
North West	Ashton-under-lyne Bolton Bury Crewe Hyde Liverpool Manchester Nantwich Oldham Prestwich
East	Bedford Cambridge Luton
North East	Darlington Middlesbrough Stockton-on-tees
East Midlands	Leicester Northampton
West Midlands	Birmingham Coventry
Yorkshire and the Humber	Leeds
South East England	Slough
London	London

Appendix 3

Last job in home country

Account Manager	Office worker
Bricklayer	Own business (garment)
Builder	Painter/Decorator
Care Assistant	Petrol Station Assistant
Car Mechanic	Pharmacist Manager and Human
Child Minder	Resources Manager
Cleaner	Plasterer
Computer Administration	Plumber
Computer Technician	Postman
Confectioner	Restaurant Manager
Customer Services	Retail Manager
Driver (HGV/LGV/Forklift)	Roofer
Electrician	Sales Assistant
Factory worker/technician	Salesman in distribution industry
Finance Specialist	Secretary
Fixer/Dry Liner	Security Guard/Supervisor Officer
Hairdresser/Beauty salon	Sewing Machinist
Hotel office worker	Shift Manager in furniture company
Hyper Supermarket worker	Shop Assistant/worker
Joiner	Shopkeeper/Manager
Labourer	Teacher
Locksmith	Technician of Physiotherapy
Machine Setter	Train Driver
Nursery	Upholsterer
Odd job man	Warehouse Manager
	Welder

Appendix 4

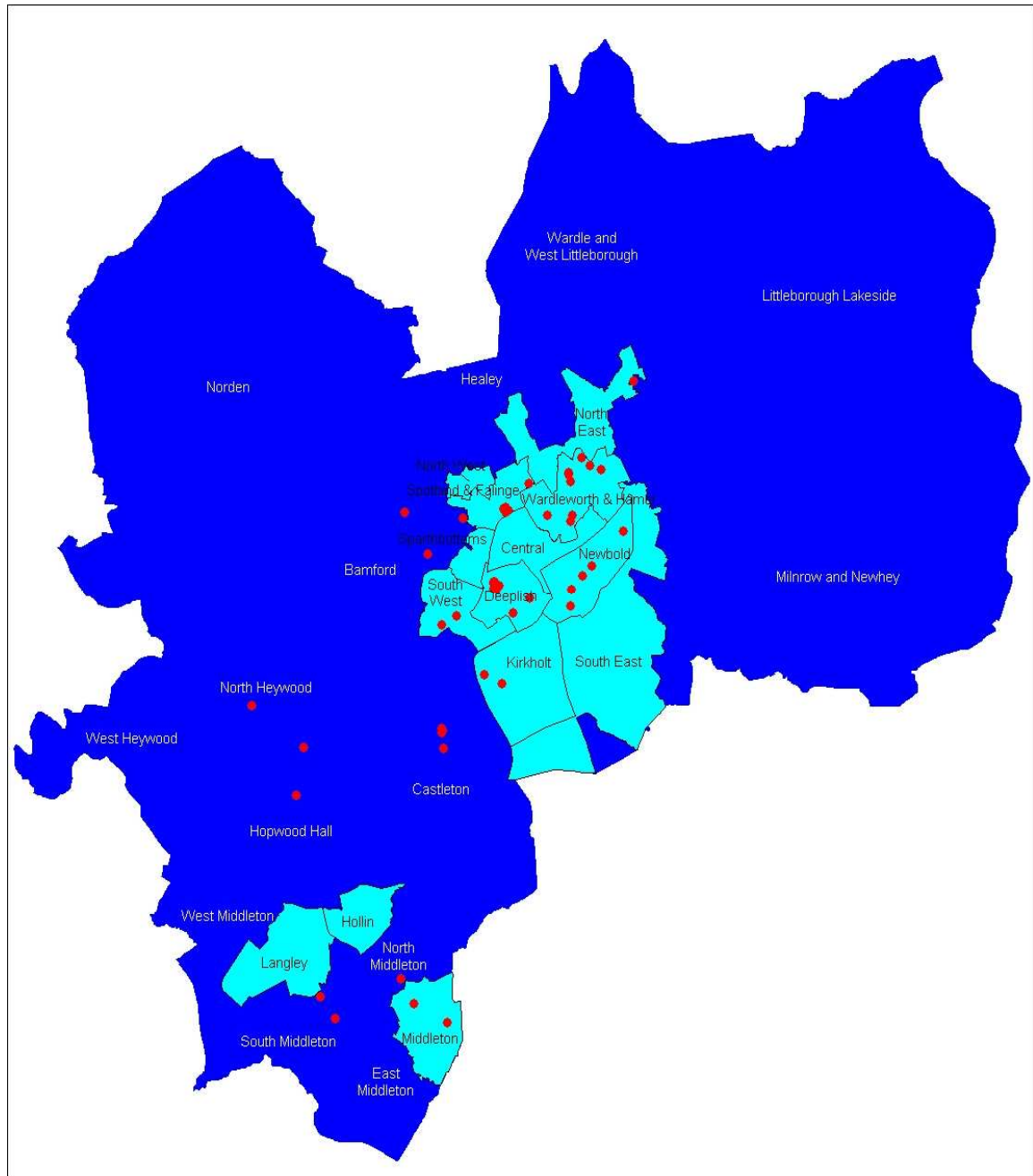
Current job

Assistant Librarian
Baker
Builder
Business owner
Car mechanic
Carpet maker
Cleaner
Driver (HGV/LGV/forklift)
Electrician
Electronic technician
Garment decoration
Hairdresser
Joiner
Labourer
Machine operator
Market worker
Order picker
Packer/packing line operator
Pharmacist
Plasterer
Plumber
Roofer
Sales/shop assistant
Upholsterer
Waiter
Warehouse operative
Welding Engineer

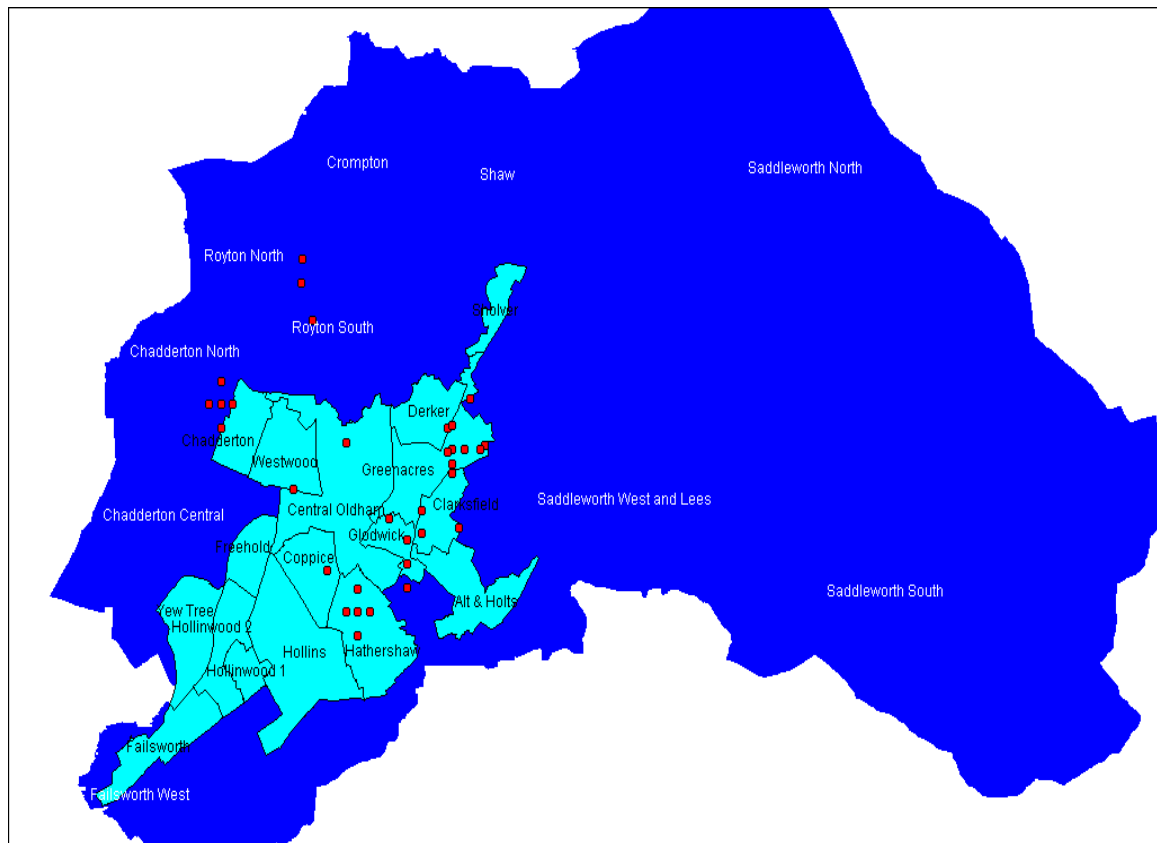
Appendix 5 Where respondents were currently living

These maps illustrate where the respondents were currently living in Rochdale and Oldham. Please note that the light blue areas on the maps represent Housing Market Renewal (HMR) areas.

Rochdale



Oldham



Please note that the information for Oldham is based on 33 postcodes provided in the interviews. The remaining respondents did not provide postcodes.