This Research Briefing describes a project currently underway in Middlesbrough to map migrants and their impact in Middlesbrough.

Teesside University is carrying out a project commissioned by Middlesbrough Borough Council (funded through the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Home Office Controlling Migration Fund) to explore the impact of migration in Middlesbrough. There are two stages to the project:

1. The first stage is mapping the demographics of communities in Middlesbrough using existing data, with an emphasis on understanding the formation of new migrant populations and established migrant communities. This will initially be explored through the collation and analysis of publicly available data, using 2011 Census data as a baseline. Local, and recent, sources of data will be identified through engagement with local agencies to build an understanding of the information collected and held, that might be of relevance to migration. This quantitative data will be requested, collated and analysed in conjunction with the publicly available data. There are two aims to this stage: first, to provide a picture of Middlesbrough’s population and an understanding of migration patterns over time; and secondly, to identify gaps in current data and develop recommendations for future data collection. This second aim will inform stage two of the research where qualitative research will be employed to address the identified gaps.

2. The second stage will use qualitative research to: first, explore the gaps
identified in the quantitative data; and secondly, to develop an understanding of any potential impact of migration on local services (e.g. health, education, housing and social care), looking at service demands and pressures and barriers to service access for members of different communities. This stage will also consider the themes of community relations and crime, including hate crime and human trafficking. Focus groups and interviews will be carried out with service providers, service users and people within local communities to achieve these aims.

The outcome of the project is the development of a toolkit for the local authority, and partner agencies, to use better to understand population changes, and service needs, in local communities. This improved information can inform the commissioning and delivery of services that are appropriate and relevant to the entire local population and group within it.

Contact: For further information about this project please contact Carol Devanney at c.devanney@tees.ac.uk

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The North East Race Equality Forum is a Network of around 300 individuals and organisations in the North East Region committed to promoting racial equality in the context of social justice. No one organisation is necessarily committed to every idea published in the name of the Forum. The Forum is supported by the ‘Race’, Crime and Justice Regional Research Network, which includes researchers from each University in the region.