

North and South Korean Needs Assessment Summary

Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames - May 2018

Census data showed 2,285 Kingston residents were born in South Korea

The majority of the Korean population live in and around the **New Malden** area

177 Kingston residents stated they were born in North Korea

Most requested language at Kingston Interpreting service

Korea Connect working with 30 North Korean community members

Between April '17 and March '18, 957 requests have been made for a Korean interpreter

Refugee Action Kingston currently see 387 clients of North Korean origin

Census data is 7 years out of date and it is likely the number of Koreans is underrepresented



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KINGSTON
UPON THAMES

2.0 Background brief on areas of concern/ interest

2.1 The Council has sought to gain a developed understanding of the needs of local Korean residents. At present, New Malden and the surrounding area is home to the largest Korean community in Europe.

In the last three years, 3 serious case incidents (including Child B and a Domestic Homicide Review) have given rise to a number of concerns regarding the borough's engagement with the Korean community. As such, a targeted Korean needs assessment was undertaken to understand Korean community needs.

2.2 A wider piece of research that led to the formulation of the Refugee and Migrant Strategy in Kingston also highlighted a number of health inequalities faced by the Korean population. These were underpinned by North and South Korean division, language and cultural barriers, and service accessibility.

2.3 This needs assessment further investigated the health inequalities faced by Korean communities living locally.

3.0 The main themes of the needs assessment.

3.1 This research highlights that the North Korean population are significantly more vulnerable than those from South Korea. In particular, single mothers and older people were identified as being the most vulnerable within this group. Specific issues relevant to the North Korean community were identified as follows:

Housing

Immigration

Mental health as asylum seekers and refugees

Poverty

3.2 Areas that affected both the South and North Koreans were

Overcoming language barriers

Accessing services (especially mental health)

Young people and education

Cultural Engagement

3.3 The above areas are also reflected in the Refugee and Migrant Strategy and the recommendations in other reports, including the Child B Serious Case Review and Domestic Homicide Review.

4. The main recommendation points that all service providers and commissioners should consider are;

To focus on the needs of the North Korean community and vulnerable groups specifically with: Housing, Immigration, Mental health (as asylum seekers or refugees) and Poverty.

To assist with overcoming language barriers

To enable communities with use & access of appropriate services with particular attention to information and advice, health and mental health

Support young people with wellbeing and education needs

Celebrating culture and engagement between communities

For relevant service providers to implement recommendations from the Domestic Homicide Review and Child B Serious Case Review.

For more details about the action plan, please email nighat.taimuri@kingston.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Korean Population in Kingston – Key Statistics

Census Data: Ethnicity and Main Language

The Census remains a key data source for determining the size of the Korean population in Kingston. Although there is no Census output for North or South Korean nationality, it can be used to consider both Korean ethnicity and language.

In 2011, 3,493 Kingston residents self-identified their ethnicity as Korean and 2,613 identified Korean as their main language. Across England, 15.8% of ethnic Koreans and 17.5% of those whose main language was Korean were residing in Kingston on the day of the 2011 Census.

	Korean in Kingston	% of Kingston Population	% of Cohort in England
Ethnic Group	3,493	2.2%	15.8%
Main Language¹	2,613	1.7%	17.5%

The Korean community in the Kingston area has been reported to be the largest in Europe. Data from the 2011 Census recorded the Korean population in Kingston as 3,495, representing 2.2% of the total population within the borough, although this data is now 7 years out-of-date and is likely to be an under-representation. According to the Korean Information Centre, the population is made up of between 20,000 to 28,000 South Koreans and approximately 700 North Koreans².

Within the borough, the majority of residents of Korean ethnicity reside around the New Malden area in Coombe Vale, Beverley and St James wards as shown on the map on the next page. Old Malden ward also has a large Korean population. The same wards have the highest numbers of residents who identified Korean as their main language. However, when compared to residents of Korean ethnicity, the numbers are relatively lower.

Data on short-term residents was not made available at a comparable level of detail. The 2011 Census showed that 255 non-UK born short-term residents in Kingston were from an 'Asian/Asian British: Other Asian'³ background and 154 (aged 3 and over) identified their main language as 'Any other East Asian language'⁴.

NOTE: There was not a specific tick box for Korean ethnicity or language on the 2011 Census. Respondents wrote 'Korean' after ticking 'Any other Asian background', 'Any other Mixed/multiple ethnic background' or 'Any other ethnic group' in order to describe themselves as being of Korean ethnicity, and were required to write 'Korean' after ticking 'Other' when asked 'What is your main

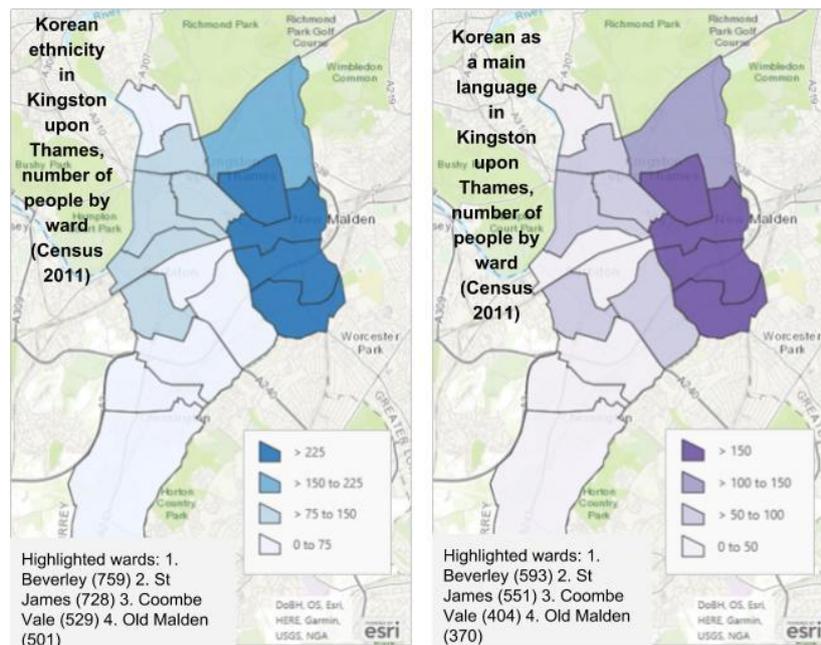
¹ Usual residents aged 3 and over

² Korean Information Centre website.

³ All Asian or Asian British excluding Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Chinese (does not account for Korean residents self-identified as Other Mixed or Any other ethnic group)

⁴ All East Asian excluding Chinese

language?’ in order to indicate Korean as their main language. It is not known if this had any effect on a respondent’s likelihood of declaring themselves Korean or Korean as their main language.



Maps created using ESRI with ONS ward boundaries

Census Data: Country of Birth

Kingston has both North Korean and South Korean populations. Country of birth data from the 2011 Census (from a commissioned table requested by the Greater London Authority) provides an indication of the relative sizes of these populations. The data showed that 177 Kingston residents were born in North Korea and 2,285 in South Korea. Please note that country of birth data does not account for residents who identify themselves as North Korean or South Korean but were born elsewhere. Therefore these figures will probably not equate to the total numbers of North Korean and South Korean residents in Kingston.

GLA Projections: Ethnicity

The Census figures are now 7 years out of date. More recent data sources only provide information for broad ethnic groups. For example, the GLA 2016-based Housing-Led Projections can be used to determine the current size of the ‘Other Asian’ ethnic group, which includes Korean.

The GLA projections show that between 2011 and 2018 the number of residents of the ‘Other Asian’ ethnic group increased from 13,071 to 18,640. However, before making any deductions, it is important to note that Kingston has other relatively large ethnic groups that would be included in this category. In the 2011 Census, 4,012 residents self-identified their ethnicity as ‘Asian/Asian British: Sri Lankan’ and 1,066 residents as ‘Asian/Asian British: Tamil’.