

# EU NATIONALS IN THE UK

**MAY 2016**

# What are they like?

- **EU Free Movers are:**
  - Young, fit and frequently childless
  - Educated
  - Bi-lingual – sometimes multi-lingual
  - Working & paying taxes
  - Generally not claiming out-of-work benefits
  - Generally renting privately or homeowners

# Numbers

- **3 million EU nationals in the UK**
- **Since 2011 six countries have been the source of 80% of EU migrants**
- **Overall rise in migration – the ‘new normal’**
- **Muddle because migration figures and NI numbers don’t match**
- **NI numbers not a reliable way to work out real migration levels**

# Work & Jobs Market

- **EU nationals tend to be better educated than people in the countries they move to**
- **EU migrants fill skills gaps and ‘pay their way’ through taxes and spending power**
- **Net contribution of £20bn to public finances between 2000-2011**
- **Free movers from the EU have brought employment rights with them which all UK workers enjoy**

# Benefits

- **Benefits as a 'pull factor' doubtful**
- **EU migrants only 2.2% of working age claimants**
- **EU migrants:**
  - **Have little contact with benefits system despite low pay**
  - **Have little basic awareness of benefits system**
  - **Surprised by the level of social support available**
  - **Often go home for health treatment**

# Housing

- **No separate housing figures for EU nationals**
- **Migrants in general:**
  - Have lower ownership rates
  - Three times as likely to be in private rented homes
  - Have similar housing profile to home-grown population the longer they stay
- **So more likely to rent or buy their own home than live in social rented homes**

# Health

- **Often go home for health care**
- **NHS and GP waiting times are a problem with the system and not the people trying to use it**
- **3.6% of NHS staff come from EU countries**

# Education

- **EU nationals tend to be better educated than people in the countries they move to**
- **EU students contribute £3.7 bn to the UK university system and the economy**
- **Schools with children who speak another language often perform better**



# Crime & Security

- **EU nationals have to pass through UK border checks**
- **People with criminal records can be stopped from entering the UK – on a case-by-case basis**
- **No evidence EU nationals commit more crime than Brits**
- **No crime wave as a result of migration from EU countries that have recently gained full free movement**

# Conclusion

- **Immigration doesn't cause**
  - Large-scale unemployment in UK
  - Long NHS waiting lists and delays
  - Security or crime risks
- **Immigration from EU is not at expense of Commonwealth migration, which has long been strictly controlled**

**AND**

- **UK will always need migration**