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The Newsflash is a weekly round up of publications, information, events, funding and jobs relating to asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers for anyone who wants to keep up to date with the latest developments.

The newsflash is produced in partnership with the East of England Local Government Association - Strategic Migration Partnership and the Partnership Development Project (MENTER).

Asylum Seekers and Refugees

British Red Cross international tracing and messaging service restoring family links: help with research

The international tracing and message service (ITMS), a free service from the Red Cross, assists in tracing separated family members and relaying family messages if normal communication lines, such as postal services, have broken down because of conflict, political upheaval, natural disaster or migration. To raise awareness of this service the British Red Cross is doing a needs' assessment in 3 East Anglian counties: Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. The purpose of the assessment is to see if there is a need in the area for the service, if this need is being fulfilled and how it might be fulfilled if it is not currently. In particular they need to know:

- What is the level of awareness and understanding of ITMS and of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement within communities of potential service users?
- Do the communities face barriers in accessing the service, including trust?
- What are the potential ways to overcome barriers in accessing the service?

As part of this assessment they are looking to talk to potential and existing referral organisations, beneficiaries and community groups.

Any organisation, community group or individual who feels able to contribute to this research, or who wants more information about the service should please contact Natasha Flint using the contact details below:

Natasha Flint, ITMS Needs Assessment Intern, British Red Cross. t: 01733 557472 e: nflint@redcross.org.uk

Home Office publishes statistics: asylum data November 2010 & child detention data December 2010

The Home Office has released its most recent asylum data covering the period up to the end of November 2010. It shows that the number of asylum applicants waiting for a decision has dropped from 18955 in June 2010 to 15525 in November 2010 and that numbers of new asylum applications are slightly lower in November 2010 (1645) than November 2009 (1700). The children in detention statistics show that 3 children were held in detention in December 2010. Please follow these links to review the statistics:

<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/asylum-nov2010.xls>

<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/child-detention-dec2010.xls>

HM Inspector of prisons: follow up inspection report, Colnbrook Immigration Centre, Heathrow

Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) is one of the most secure facilities in the immigration estate. Run by Serco, it holds male detainees, most of whom have previously been in prison and some of whom have proved difficult to manage elsewhere. The adjoining short-term holding facility (STHF) houses both men and women and doubles as a first day's unit for the main centre. The last inspection was highly critical and suggested that the facility was at the outer limits of its capacity to cope. On this return for an unannounced follow-up inspection, the inspection team was pleased to find some improvements but also noted a large number of continuing concerns.

Please follow this link to read the report in full:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/inspectors/hmi-prisons/docs/Colnbrook_2010_rps.pdf

Immigration Minister answers Parliamentary question about numbers of detained and removed asylum seeking children (UASC)

The minister was asked how many asylum seekers who arrived in the country as unaccompanied minors have been removed or detained with a view to removal in the last 12 months had been living in the UK for more than (a) three, (b) five and (c) 10 years. The answer given covered January to December 2010, and revealed that 280 UASC or former UASC had been removed, and 198 had been detained.

Please follow this link to read the text in full:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110120/text/110120w0003.htm#1101206400040>

Human Rights Watch 21st annual report

This 21st annual World Report summarizes human rights conditions in more than 90 countries and territories worldwide. It reflects extensive investigative work undertaken in 2010 by Human Rights Watch staff, usually in close partnership with domestic human rights activists. Please follow this link to download and read the full report: <http://www.hrw.org/en/world-report-2011>

UKBA's regular update now available – January 2011

UKBA have issued their latest update, with sections on 'managed migration', which outlines the impact of the government's policies on immigration routes to the UK, as well as a section on the asylum system, looking at the procurement of services for asylum support (COMPASS) and the Early Legal Advice Project (ELAP). The briefing is introduced by the acting head of UKBA, Jonathan Sedgwick. Please follow this link to read the bulletin in full: <http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Policy%20and%20Priorities/Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership/MAF%20updates/UKBA%20News%20Jan%202011.pdf>

Migration

Integration Support Services (ISS), Essex – spring 2011 newsletter now available

The newsletter celebrates the launch of a new family club in Loughton, the start of ESOL classes in Limes Farm and appeals for volunteers to work for them in Epping Forest, Harlow and East Hertfordshire. It also includes national and local news stories and details of services which impact on migrant workers in their community. Please follow this link to access the newsletter <http://www.iss.org.uk/newsletters.php> or visit the website to learn more about the range of activities and services they offer: <http://www.iss.org.uk>

UKBA report: A feasibility study for a survey of migrant workers

The Analysis, Research and Knowledge management directorate (ARK) in the UK Border Agency commissioned Ipsos MORI and the Institute of Education to undertake a feasibility study for a large-scale face-to-face survey of migrants in the UK. A survey of migrants might help fill in evidence gaps important for policy development for UK Border Agency and other government departments which might only be filled by surveying migrants themselves:

- why migrants choose to come to the UK and why they might leave or settle permanently;
- what migrants and their dependants are doing in the UK (e.g. work, education);
- social impacts of migration, including the use of public services and integration;
- how migrants are contributing to the UK;
- experiences of the immigration system; and
- perceptions of the UK and local areas.

The purpose of the feasibility study is to inform the design of a survey of migrants. As part of the feasibility study for a survey of migrants, Ipsos MORI conducted a short consultation exercise with local experts on migration in six areas across Scotland and England. In our region, mini-discussion groups were held in Peterborough.

To read the study in full, please follow this link: <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/occ92-technical-report.pdf>

Migrants' Rights Network (MRN) publishes annual report for 2010

This report offers an overview of the work MRN has done in 2010, with insights into network building activities, communications strategy and approaches to collaborative working. It also looks into the future and takes stock of the challenges ahead. Their core activities for 2011 remain centred around promoting discussion, fact-finding, policy analysis and advocacy, seeking to make sense of local situations and build on good practice towards meeting their mission of supporting the rights of migrants in the UK. Please follow this link to read the report in full: http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/publications/MRN_annual_report_2010.pdf

Events

Big Lottery funding workshops exclusively for Suffolk, 10 March, Needham Market

There is an opportunity for groups across Suffolk to attend a workshop hosted by Suffolk Local Infrastructure Partnership and The Big Lottery Fund. The Big Lottery Fund is keen to encourage eligible groups to apply to their Reaching Communities programme. This event is aimed at voluntary and community groups across Suffolk. In particular, Forest Heath, Ipswich and Suffolk Coastal are districts currently under-represented in the take up of Reaching Communities funding and groups from these areas are encouraged to attend. The first half of the morning will provide an overview and question and answer session about the Reaching Communities programme.

The second half of the morning will provide information on other Big Lottery Fund programmes. On the day, organisations will have the chance to register their interest in a further workshop. This will provide training on completing the first stage of the application process for those who have a clear idea for a project and are ready to make an application to the Reaching Communities programme. The workshop is free of charge and will enable successful schemes to tap into revenue funding of between £10,000 and £500,000 or small capital schemes of up to £50,000, or large capital schemes of between £100,000 and £500,000. It will be held at Needham Market Community Centre IP6 8BB from 10 – midday.

To register for the event, please contact Sue Stephens on e: sue.stephens@savo.org.uk or t: 01473 275191

Making services more effective for refugee community organisations – 22 & 23 February, London EC1R

This free two day course organised by Charities Evaluation Services course will help refugee community organisations to review their service provision, plan more strategically, improve their funding applications, demonstrate effectiveness and benefits to funders and others. Anyone who would like to attend one of the training courses, call Jill on t: 020 7713 5722 or e: training@ces-vol.org.uk For more information, please follow this link, which also includes access to a registration form <http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/events/2011/making-your-services-more-effective-refugee-community-organisations>

Funding

Paul Hamlyn Foundation: grants for education and learning

There is no minimum or maximum grant size and applicants should request the amount they need. The Foundation normally expects the amount requested to be a substantial part of the amount required to fund a distinct activity or a substantial part of the work of the applicant organisation. The length of grant depends on the activity proposed and its intended outcomes and impact. The Foundation is keen to allow applicants sufficient time to deliver substantial work and, therefore, tends to fund work for up to three years. On occasion it may indicate a willingness to consider funding for a longer period up to a maximum of six years, but usually this would comprise an initial grant followed by the applicant making an application for further support at a later date. Of specific interest to newsflash readers may be the granting of funds to supplementary schools: the Foundation wishes to support work of supplementary schools that expect to make a positive impact on young people's academic attainment, achievements, aspirations, life chances and/or their sense of wellbeing and belonging. Applications can be made at any time and follow a two stage process. Potential applicants are invited to use an online eligibility checker before making an application. If the applicant passes the eligibility check they will be able to make an Outline Application online, which will be automatically acknowledged by e-mail. The Foundation aims to contact applicants within four weeks of application and if the outline application is accepted, a grants officer will contact the applicant to progress the proposal.

Please follow this link for more information: <http://www.phf.org.uk/landing.asp?id=3>

Big Lottery funding for Suffolk projects

'Reaching Communities' funds projects that help people and communities most in need. Projects can be new or existing, or be work which is core to the organisation. Every project they fund must respond to a problem or issue which needs change to occur to make things better for a person, a group of people or the environment. Currently, projects in Suffolk are under-represented, especially in Forest Heath, Ipswich and Suffolk Coastal. To encourage more applications from organisations in Suffolk, please register to attend a grant funding workshop in March – for full details, see 'Events' in this newsflash.

Jobs

Job Vacancies with Integration Support Services (ISS), Essex – Play workers £7.50 - £8.55 per hour

ISS are looking to recruit experienced play workers to assist them on Saturday activities for children 0 to 10 years old. The salary is £7.50 - £8.55 per hour (depending on experience), a minimum NVQ 2 qualification or equivalent in play work is required. Normal hours will be Saturdays 10.00am to 1.00pm and 4th Saturday of each month from 1.00pm to 4.00pm. The successful candidate will be providing an inclusive play facility for children aged up to 10 years old where they will benefit from a safe, stimulating and enjoyable experience. The role will also require close working with ISS staff and volunteers to develop the service and ensure that any special needs are met. Previous experience of working with children of this age group is essential. For an informal discussion or for an application pack please contact the ISS office on 01279 639442.

Home Office asks for expressions of interest to assess the Early Legal Advice Project (ELAP) pilot in East Anglia & East Midlands

The ELAP pilot is a joint project run by the UK Border Agency and the Legal Services Commission. The objectives of the ELAP process are to get more cases right first time, identify those who are in need of protection earlier, manage public funds effectively, and increase confidence in the asylum system. The business need is for a contractor to undertake research to capture the development of the ELAP project and review its activities and effectiveness including roll out, confidence in the credibility of the asylum system and cultural change over time. The contractor will be asked to design the methodology, conduct the fieldwork, analyse the data and produce a report describing the extent to which the objectives of the project have been met. For this study, the contractor shall be required to review relevant documentary evidence, design, pilot, and conduct interviews and focus groups with a wide range of stakeholders including asylum seekers, legal representatives, case owners, judges, and refugee community groups.

Expressions of interest must be submitted by 12:00 **4 February** to the following email address:

srgprocurement@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk The contract for service will run from March 2011 to February 2012. For more information, please follow this link: <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/eoi-elap-260111.pdf>

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