

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

European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) – Libyan appeal

ECRE is calling on European governments and the European Union to take a stand in preparing to help people fleeing the chaos in Libya. ECRE believes there is an immediate and urgent need to offer humanitarian assistance to the countries in the region to receive and identify people who need protection. Some Libyans and refugees from sub-Saharan countries are unable to go back, are stranded in Libya and will need refuge from violence and human rights abuses. ECRE is asking for the EU to live up to its obligations to protect those fleeing the violence. Please follow this link to read the articles: http://www.ecre.org/resources/ECRE_actions

EU Home Affairs Ministers discuss situation in Northern Africa and arrival of migrants and refugees to Europe

EU Home Affairs Ministers met to discuss the situation in North African countries, particularly the Libyan situation and the arrival of Tunisian migrants to Italy. The Commissioner announced that all Member States had agreed to take a European approach and to support democratic movements. She also said that Frontex and Europol had started a risk analysis regarding Libya and possible arrivals of migrants and refugees in the southern countries of Europe. French, Spanish, Cypriot, Maltese and Greek representatives urged the rest of the EU to share the burden of accepting migrants from North Africa and asked for a special solidarity fund. EU northern countries seemed not to fully support the request - Germany considers that as it had 40,000 asylum seekers last year, Sweden 30,000, Belgium 20,000 and Italy 7,000, while Italy may be facing a challenge, it is far from being overwhelmed. Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Malta, The Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Sweden and Spain will supply experts to identify migrants' nationalities and gather intelligence on people-smuggling networks, with attention given to identifying those who may be in need of international protection. The Commission is also studying different funding possibilities through EU instruments, such as the European Refugee Fund, the European Return Fund and the European Border Fund. Please follow this link to the press release: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/119497.pdf

British Red Cross International Tracing and Messaging Service - Restoring Family Links: Survey request

The International Tracing and Message service, a free service provided by the Red Cross, helps in tracing separated family members and relaying family messages where normal lines of communication (e.g. postal services) have broken down as a result of conflict, political upheaval, natural disaster or migration. To raise greater awareness of this service the British Red Cross is conducting a needs assessment in Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. The assessment is to ascertain 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 want to learn:

- 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 communities face any barriers in accessing the service, including trust?
- What are the potential ways to overcome any barriers in accessing the service?

As part of this assessment the British Red Cross is looking to talk to potential and existing referral organisations, beneficiaries and community groups. Anyone who feels they would be able to contribute to this research should complete a short online survey, by following one of the links below:

For Referral Organisations <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/96Z8P9M>

For Community Representatives <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QT9CX9T>

Anyone who needs more information should get in touch with Natasha Flint, ITMS Needs Assessment Intern, British Red Cross, t: 01733 557472 or e: nflint@redcross.org.uk

Migration

Recent research reports: immigration, the economy and regeneration from the Department of Communities and Local Government

A range of reports under the general themes of 'migration', 'the economy' and 'regeneration' were commissioned by the former government and have now been published for information and transparency, rather than their original purpose of informing policy. Under the 'migration' theme are the following reports: 'Impact of economic downturn on migration', 'Immigration and rural economies' and 'Measuring international and internal migration from the National Pupil Database'. Follow this first link to read and summary of the reports' findings:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/corporate/legacyresearchimmigration> and follow this link to download the reports in full: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/archived/general-content/corporate/researcharchive/volume3>

Forced migration: Attorney general to consider appointing guardians for child trafficking victims

Following a parliamentary question by Labour MP, Lisa Nandy, the attorney general is to examine if trafficked children involved in UK court proceedings should be appointed a guardian to represent their best interests. The MP made the point that she had seen cases where nine-year-olds had "instructed" solicitors that they want to live with their daddy or uncle and the solicitor is forced to go into court and make that case, knowing that the daddy or uncle is in fact the person who has trafficked that child. She recommends appointing a guardian, an independent person put in place to look out for the child's best interests, not merely to take legal instruction. The solicitor-general agreed to take the issue forward with the Crown Prosecution Service. The full article is available via the following link: <http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2011/01/24/116168/attorney-general-to-consider-guardians-for-trafficked-children.htm>

Forced migration: Safeguarding trafficked children, guidance and toolkit from London Safeguarding Children Board

The London Safeguarding Children Board has launched a set of guidance to help agencies identify and support children who have been trafficked, available to download below. The guidance aims to support social workers, teachers, police, health workers and other professionals who may come into contact with suspected victims of trafficking, and has been piloted extensively in a number of local authorities across London and the UK over the past 18 months. The guidance is linked to the London Safeguarding Trafficked Children Toolkit 2011, which includes additional tools to help professionals, both in assessing the needs of the child and the continuing risks that they may face, and referring their case to the competent authority.

Please follow this link for the guidance, toolkit and monitoring report: <http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/trafficking>

Those interested in learning more about identifying and protecting child victims may wish to attend training being offered in Suffolk at EELGA by ECPAT: <http://www.eelga.gov.uk/events/view-event.aspx?ID=2690>

Student migration in the UK – publication and articles from Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR)

The report finds that student migration from outside the EEA will have to be cut by more than half to meet the government's objective to reduce total net immigration 'from the hundreds of thousands to the tens of thousands' by the end of the current Parliament. The report concludes that cuts of the scale sought by the government will not be achieved by eradicating abuse of the student visa system or even stopping all student migration for courses below degree level. They believe there is a risk that proposed changes to the student visa regime will deliver substantial costs to the education sector and the wider economy to achieve the reduction in migration numbers. Please follow this link to read the publication in full:

<http://www.ippr.org/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=802>

Please follow these links to read the articles: <http://www.ippr.org/articles/?id=4364> &

<http://www.ippr.org/Blogs/NickPearce/LetTheRightOneIn.aspx>

Regional Characteristics of foreign-born people living in the United Kingdom - Office for National Statistics (ONS) article

This article examines the characteristics of foreign-born people living in the UK, how they differ between regions and countries and from people that were born in the UK. Demographic, social and economic characteristics are examined using data from the Annual Population Survey, 2009 (APS).

Follow this link to read the article in full: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/article.asp?ID=2601>

Approaches to health provision in the age of super-diversity: Accessing the NHS in Britain's most diverse city – research from Birmingham University

Variables of difference in ethnicity, immigration status, rights and entitlements, age and gender profiles and patterns of distribution of new migrants mean that the UK is now home to the most diverse population ever experienced – so-called 'super-diversity'. Super-diversity challenges multicultural models of welfare provision originally based on an understanding of migrants as large and geographically contained clusters of mainly postcolonial migrants. These changes come at a time when migration has become politicized, multiculturalism is being questioned, a shift is under way towards assimilation and welfare provision has become re-racialized. This paper argues that models of welfare provision should be rethought to take account of super-diversity in a way that is affordable, politically acceptable and meets the needs of all. Using data from studies of health service provision in the West Midlands the paper explores the challenges of meeting the needs of new migrants under existing provision, the costs of failing to adapt to super-diversity and the reasons why provision has failed to adapt. The paper concludes by arguing the need for different approaches and suggesting new ways forward. Please follow this link to read the report in full: <http://csp.sagepub.com/content/31/1/5.abstract>

UK Border Agency (UKBA) research report on users' views of points based system

The report presents a summary of findings from research conducted with applicants, sponsors and UKBA staff regarding their experiences of the Points-Based System (PBS), which was introduced in February 2008. The aim of the research was to explore how the PBS was being received by those using it in its early stages and to identify potential areas for improvement. In general, it finds a high level of satisfaction with the PBS application and sponsorship processes, with around eight in ten applicants and sponsors saying they were very or fairly satisfied with the process, across all the groups surveyed.

To read the report in full, please follow this link: <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/horr49c.pdf>

Migration data – briefing Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR)

The following migration data was available in the last newsflash:

[Migration Statistics Quarterly Report Statistical Bulletin - February 2011](#)

[Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom - Fourth Quarter 2010](#)

[Monthly Asylum Statistics - December 2010](#)

National Insurance Numbers allocations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/index.php?page=nino_allocation

Please follow this link for a briefing from IPPR which draws out key issues from the figures, such as the rise in net migration being due to reduced emigration: <http://www.ippr.org/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=803>

Events

International Women's Day celebration, 12 March, Harlow

This event to celebrate women will include a display of information about services available in the area followed by an inspirational talk, a fashion parade and a pampering session. The event will conclude with a multicultural dinner for participants to choose from. It will take place on 12 March between 5.30 and 8.30pm at St Paul's Church Hall, town centre Harlow. Tickets, at £10 each, can be bought by contacting ISS on t: 01279 639442 or e: info@iss.org.uk

Are we being served? Service review from Suffolk County Council and Ipswich & Suffolk Council for Racial Equality (ISCRE), 17 March, Ipswich

Members of black and minority ethnic groups are invited to attend this event at the Corn Exchange in Ipswich on 17 March, 11am – 2pm, which will enable them to talk directly to service providers about the barriers they face accessing services in Suffolk as well as learning about how service delivery in Suffolk is changing because of Suffolk County Council changes. Anyone interested in attending, arranging for an interpreter to attend or having a stall at the event should contact Tanesha at ISCRE on t:01473 408111 or e: Tanesha@iscre.org.uk

Cultural awareness workshop; Overcoming language and cultural barriers in care, 22 March, Brentwood

This free workshop from Essex County Council is open to anyone (or their relative) receiving care from social services or care provider. It will take place at Adult Community Learning, Brentwood, Bishops Hill, Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood CM13 1BD from 10am and includes lunch, but those interested in attending must first book a place. If someone without English as their first language wants to attend let the organiser know as an interpretation service may be available. To book a place, those interested should email or telephone below:

e: workforcecommissioning.ahcw@essex.gov.uk t:01245 430442 Those making a booking should leave their full name, address, telephone number and any language or special requirements.

Funding

Adult and Community learning contract for Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire County Council is inviting applications to provide learning opportunities for adults (19 and over) and families across the county. The value of the contract is between £25000 and £50000 for one year from August 2011. A successful applicant will be expected to reach those who have had fewest opportunities to access learning and those hardest to engage in learning – of particular interest to newsflash readers are those from black and minority ethnic groups (including travellers) and those from the most deprived wards in Hertfordshire. There are three subject areas where learning is to be focussed:

- Information and Communications Technology.
- Arts, Media and Publishing.
- Preparation for Life and Work.

Anyone interested in bidding for a contract should follow this link to register with the 'Supply Hertfordshire' website and submit an expression of interest: <http://supplyhertfordshire.g2b.info/hpf>.

The deadline for applications is noon on **22 March 2011**. For further information on how to obtain this funding opportunity locally, please contact the following:

Contact details: Julie Arrundale, Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford SG13 8DF
t: 01992 555685

<http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk/SchemeList.aspx?RF=NEWS&WCI=htmResults&WCU=CBC=View,DSCODE=0TSCONLIVE,SCHEMEID=249-S2782,UDATA=SCHEMEVIEWBACK=HOME>

British Red Cross – Youth activities to promote positive attitudes towards migrants

Grants of between £50 and up to £1000 are available to help to support youth action activities that promote positive attitudes towards vulnerable migrants and awareness of development issues. Grants are for schools, colleges, universities, youth groups and student groups working with young people aged 12 to 25. Those working with older young people, aged 18-25, such as a youth group or student group, can also apply using the grant application and the [Positive Images Call to Action](#). Additionally, the Positive Images youth action competition funded projects can also nominate a young person to take part in the Austrian Youth Red Cross international youth camp, 13-17 July 2011.

The British Red Cross can accept grant applications at any time until **17 June 2011** and expect that youth action activities should have been completed by the 31 July 2011. The East of England is one of only three areas in country to be eligible for funding. Please follow this link for more information: <http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Teaching-resources/Teaching-packages/Positive-Images/Get-involved>

Jobs

There are no job updates in this edition

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