

East of England LGA Strategic Migration Partnership update for Multi-Agency Fora – November 2011
(also available on: <http://www.eelga.gov.uk/campaigns-and-projects/strategic-migration-partnership/multi-agency-fora-mafs.aspx>)

Migrant Worker issues

1. Migration Advisory Committee call for evidence on annual migration limit

The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) has been asked by the Government to advise on what level the annual limit for Tier 2 should be set at for 2012/13 and on some associated policies including the minimum skill level for Tier 2, intra-company transfers and the Resident Labour Market Test. In order to assist in its consideration of these issues, the Migration Advisory Committee has launched a call for evidence and would like to hear from all those with an interest.

The call for evidence document detailing the questions and relevant background information is available on the MAC website <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/workingwithus/indbodies/mac/>. The deadline for responses is **21 December 2011**.

To support the call for evidence, the MAC are holding two events at which partners can come to discuss this work on the **6 and 13 December 2011** in London. If you wish to attend these events, please contact MAC@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

2. Immigration data released Office of National Statistics

Please follow this link to read the data relating to period July to September 2011:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q3-2011>

Please follow this link to read the data relating to long term international migration, 1991 – 2010:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-235198>

Please follow this link to read the data regarding the allocation of National Insurance Numbers allocated to adult overseas nationals entering the UK:

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

Please follow this link to read the quarterly summary of migration trends, which are the final figures for 2010, showing the annual net migration of 252,000, the highest annual figure on record, with emigration at its lowest figure since 2001 and immigration remaining steady:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_242548.pdf

Please follow this link to read how this data was reported by the BBC: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-15868793> and the Guardian <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/nov/24/uk-net-migration-record-high>.

3. Embedding Ambassadors in Community Health (EACH) – European Integration Fund project run by the Strategic Migration Partnership

The EACH Project is a collaboration between the East of England Strategic Migration Partnership, the health service and community groups run by and for minority ethnic women in the East of England. The project aims to bring representatives from the community groups together with health professionals to improve outcomes for both, now and in the future. The launch event in Cambridge on 18 October will be followed by training sessions delivered for NHS front line staff by community groups and interpreting agencies. The first phase of the project lasts until the end of June 2012. If all the objectives are achieved and funding secured, the project will continue for another two years, until the end of June 2014.

Project leaflet: [publicity leaflet](#)

Further information on the project:

<http://www.eelga.gov.uk/campaigns-and-projects/strategic-migration-partnership/each-project.aspx>

Asylum and refugee issues

1. **East of England referral system for legal services for refugees & asylum seekers**

1. Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk

The Cambridge Immigration Legal Centre (CILC) and the Refugee Council (RC) will now be working together to provide a legal service for refugees and asylum-seekers from a new RC office, c/o ICVS, 1 Cornhill, Ipswich IP1 1DD. Potential clients should call **01473 297 906** or **07527 686 937** and ask for Sally McEwen and request an appointment. A referral will take approximately 40 minutes.

Applicants must bring:

- evidence of means (essential): legally aided/free legal advice WILL NOT be given until at least one of the following documents is provided: recent benefits statements if the applicant is unemployed and on benefits, or, if the applicant is working, payslips (x 3 for monthly pay, x 4 for fortnightly pay, x 6 for weekly pay)

- documents that detail their case (very helpful but not obligatory): such as decision letters, Statements of Entry Forms (SEF), asylum interviews, contact details of previous solicitors.

New applications for legal advice involve filling out some forms and providing signatures and we can help the applicant with this and the information will be treated in confidence. After the appointment the applicant will quickly receive an email to indicate the referral has been successful. Applicants who do not have an email account will have one set up for them. Applicants must then check their email accounts for a further communication from CILC giving a more detailed summary of their case and its merits.

All fees are listed on the CILC website www.cilc.co.uk

NOTE: The Refugee Council moved to a new office on 19 August and while their telephone numbers will remain the same, it may take up to six weeks for their landlines to be established, so please use the Refugee Council Own Language Telephone Advice Service (OLTAS) where possible 0808 808 2255. In the interim, for legal advice contact m: 07981 112372 or for Development Manager m: 07904 406635.

2. Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

Potential clients may call the Cambridge Immigration Legal Centre's head office on **01223 308 745** or enquire via their website www.cilc.co.uk or visit their office at 114-116 Newmarket Street, Cambridge, CB5 8HE. The same process as above will apply and applicants must bring the same documents.

3. Access via the RC free help and advice line.

New applicants may also request legal advice on the RC's OWN LANGUAGE TELEPHONE ADVICE SERVICE (OLTAS) on this number: **0 808 808 2255**

2. **Regional Asylum Support Stakeholder group**

These meetings, organised quarterly by UKBA, are aimed at organisations supporting asylum seekers across the East of England. They focus on updating participants on recent developments in the field of asylum and help resolve practical issues. If you would like to learn more about this group, please contact Gosia Strona malgorzata.strona@eelga.gov.uk or 01284729 433. The next meeting is on **19 January 2011** at Peterborough UKBA office.

3. **Refugee Action delivering assisted voluntary return service to the East of England**

From April this year, Refugee Action have been newly contracted to deliver the 3 strands of UK Border Agency's voluntary returns programme, previously delivered by IOM:

- Single asylum seekers and refused asylum seekers (VARRP programme)
- Families and children – both from the asylum system and irregular migrants (AVRFC programme)
- Single irregular migrants (AVRIM programme)

They provide confidential and impartial advice via their free to call telephone number **0808 800 0007**. In addition to advice, planning and obtaining travel documents, both VARRP and AVRFC have a financial reintegration package attached to them. Refugee Action has four hub offices across the UK, with the Birmingham office handling the majority of cases in this region and the London office handling a few in the south of the region. Whilst most enquiries can be handled by case managers over the telephone, Refugee Action is interested in exploring links with agencies across this region willing to host Refugee Action staff who can inform people face to face about return options. Please contact Phil Davis at Refugee Action if you are interested in exploring such a link: philipd@refugee-action.org.uk. Please follow this link for more information about the service, both in English and in refugee community languages: <http://www.refugee-action.org.uk/ourwork/assistedvoluntaryreturn.aspx>

4. NRPF network

Next regional NRPF meeting is planned for **25 January 2012 at 1:00pm**. For further information please contact Pa Musa Jobarteh (MENTER) on 07717220209 or e-mail: pamusa@menter.org.uk

Latest national NRPF bulletin (October 2011):

<http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Policy%20and%20Priorities/Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership/Asylum%20and%20Refugee%20Integration/NRPF%20Network%20-%20October%202011%20Bulletin.pdf>

New Pathway to Support for Homeless People with NRPF:

[Download Pathway to Support for Homeless People with NRPF \(pdf - 34KB \)](#)

NRPF Guidance for Local Authorities:

http://www.islington.gov.uk/community/equalitydiversity/refugees_migrants/nrpf_network/policy_guidance.asp