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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

Gateway resettlement programme – Norfolk applies to continue to offer protection

Norfolk is currently delivering the only local authority run a Gateway programme in the region. The Gateway Protection Programme is operated by the UK Border Agency in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and offers a legal route for up to 750 refugees to settle in the United Kingdom each year. Norfolk has applied to UKBA to continue to offer this service for another three years. The new programme will offer settlement to those fleeing persecution in the Horn of Africa, Iraq or Burma. Norfolk will hear if they have been successful by then end of May, and the new programme will start in June.

Refugee Council own-language confidential telephone advice service

Since the closure of the regional office of the Refugee Council in Ipswich to drop-in advice, a confidential advice and information line has been set up to take enquiries from refugees and asylum seekers in the east of England. It is free of charge from both landlines and the six main mobile phone networks and is open every morning Monday to Friday, and every week day afternoon except Wednesday. Callers are put through to a client adviser who speaks the caller's language of choice. In the event that the enquiry cannot be handled on the telephone, the client will be given an appointment at the nearest Refugee Council site. The telephone number is 0808 808 2255. There is a leaflet advertising the service which can be downloaded by following this link:

<http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Policy%20and%20Priorities/Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership/Asylum%20and%20Refugee%20Integration/Refugee%20Council%20Trifold%20Leaflet.pdf>

It is also available from Refugee Council is relevant refugee languages.

Migration

First monthly allocation of restricted certificates of sponsorship – UK Border Agency (UKBA)

UKBA announced that the first monthly allocation of restricted Tier 2 (General) certificates of sponsorship took place on 11 April 2011. All valid applications received by 6 April 2011 were successful if they scored at least 32 points. There were 4200 certificates of sponsorship available and 1028 were granted. The allocation was made under the permanent limit on migration through Tier 2 (General), which was introduced on 6 April 2011. The May allocation will take place on 11 May, at which time there will be 4672 certificates of sponsorship available. Please follow this link to read the story in full:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/april/29-first-allocation-cos>

Ask the immigration minister – YouTube questions and answers from Damian Green

Last week, immigration minister Damian Green answered questions from the public on a range of issues about the government's reform of immigration policy.

Please follow this link to watch him give answers on the Home Office YouTube channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3MRn8SsOfuI>

Mobile Europeans Taking Action – META – drop-in service in Thetford to continue

Throughout the last year META, the drop-in information and support service for migrant workers in the Thetford area, has been part-funded by the Thetford Healthy Town project. META's role has been to help clients register with local GPs and make them aware of local health projects and services. META has secured funding from Breckland Council and other sources to continue running its drop-in service for migrant workers two days a week from April 2011. The service will still be provided in Portuguese, Polish, Lithuanian, Russian and English. For more information about META's services, please call The Limes on 01842 754639.

Stop the Traffik launches its Global Travel Alert campaign

People from 400 hundred community groups attended the Stop the Traffik's Global Freedom Summit in London last month, sharing their strategies for combating human trafficking and launching their Global Travel Alert campaign in the run up to the London Olympics. Anyone interested in running a local awareness raising campaign 'Active Communities against Trafficking' (ACT) - can draw on resources devised by Stop the Traffik, by following this link: http://www.stophetraffik.org/resources/travelalert/howto.aspx?dm_i=D5L,ESPZ,3SJ9C9,16RGU,1 Alternatively, an ACT organiser in Suffolk, Ben Wale, would be happy to offer advice and guidance to anyone wishing to establish a local group. Please contact him on e: leanneandben@hotmail.com m: 07722058962

Labour mobility within the EU: the impact of enlargement and the functioning of the transitional arrangements – discussion paper from National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR)

The paper by NIESR analysed the effects of labour mobility within the European Union following EU enlargements of 2004 and 2007. Its preliminary findings are that the UK has probably benefitted from most EU-15 countries placing transitional restrictions on A8 migrants accessing labour markets, while the UK opened its labour market from 2004. NIESR research suggests that these arrangements could have raised UK output by 0.3-0.5 percent while in Germany the 'permanent scar' on output could be of 0.1-0.5 percent. This has happened because restrictions in countries like Germany diverted workers from traditional destinations to those with more open labour markets such as the UK. The effect on output in Ireland has been greater than that for the UK.

The paper also suggests that the overall impact of A8 and A2 workers has been small on receiving countries with a small increase in GDP and negligible impacts on unemployment and per capita GDP, but the impact on sending countries has been more pronounced. The paper suggests that less than half of the macro-economic impact of A8 migrant workers in the UK is directly attributable to EU enlargement in 2004, meaning that some of the impact would have happened regardless of EU enlargement and the opening of the UK's labour market.

Please follow this link to read the paper in full: http://www.niesr.ac.uk/pdf/270411_143310.pdf

International migrants' rights organisation, December 18 (D18), considers its future

The global migrants' rights organisation, D18 has been forced to reconsider its future after losing financial support from key donors. The donors have advised that this decision has been taken with regret, owing to cost pressures they have encountered over the last few years. D18 was established in 1999, working as a non-profit organisation to fill a gap on information and advocacy for a human rights based approach to migration at the international level. Fundraising was problematic for the Brussels-based international NGO as it was positioned in favour of ratifying the international human rights treaty that Western governments have refused to ratify – the UN Migrant Workers Convention. D18 persevered and was central to a number of global initiatives over the past decade. D18 team of volunteers will continue to work over the course of 2011 to maintain their website and hopes to keep alive the Radio 1812 project. It has appealed to supporters to keep its team informed about radio programmes which feature discussions about migrants and migration. D18 also welcomes suggestions from supporters about how they can develop the project's work through this period of transition. Please follow this link to read their press release in full: http://www.december18.net/sites/default/files/d18_transition_year_message_final.pdf

Events

Organisations help to celebrate Africa day – 28 May, City Academy, Norwich

The Norwich Mind Inclusion Project will be holding an event to celebrate Africa Day, and is inviting individuals, businesses and organisations to participate. The event will be at City Academy, Earlham Road, Norwich, NR4 7NU, from 11am-4pm and will be a celebration of the food, music, crafts, culture, stories and history of the continent. They are looking for people to get involved in the following ways:

- Organisations providing services to the African community to raise awareness of their offer to run a stall
- Businesses specialising in African goods, such as clothes, crafts or jewellery, to run stalls to showcase their products.
- African-inspired performers who can sing, drum or dance at the event.
- Food producers who can make any African dishes to bring along and share with the community.
- Workshop facilitators, who can run anything, from 'Swahili for beginners' to African percussion.
- Anyone with a knowledge and passion about an area of African history or culture who could give a talk on it.
- Anyone who has any photos, artworks, flags or material they could borrow to decorate the venue.

Due to the charitable status of Norwich Mind, this event will be entirely not for profit. This means that no one will be able to sell anything on the day and those booking stalls can only display their products to the public to provide publicity for the businesses, plus details of where people can go if they wish to buy anything they see on the day. Anyone with questions or who is interested in getting involved should contact the Inclusion Team t: 01603 432457 (option 6) or e: alex.sheppard@norwichmind.org.uk

Refugee Council – range of training dates now available, Summer 2011 Brixton, London

Monday 16 May – [An introduction to working with unaccompanied children](#)
Tuesday 17 May – [Cultural aspects of working with refugees and asylum seekers](#)
Monday 23 May – [Key issues in asylum](#)
Tuesday 24 May – [An introduction to asylum support](#)
Wednesday 22 June – [An introduction to child protection issues in working with children from abroad](#)
Monday 27 June – [Refugees and migrants: Entitlement to housing and other services](#)
Tuesday 28 June – [End of process: Support for asylum seekers who have been refused asylum](#)
Wednesday 29 June – [Age assessment awareness and working with age-disputed young people](#)
Thursday 30 June – [Working with refugee children in schools](#)
Friday 1 July – [The Refugee Council Therapeutic Casework model: Supporting clients with mental wellbeing needs](#)
Monday 18 July – [Working with interpreters](#)
Tuesday 19 July – [Emotional wellbeing of refugee children and young people](#)
Wednesday 20 July – [Supporting women affected by sexual violence](#)

Refugee Council trainers are practitioners and their training reflects the expertise gained through front-line service provision, making it relevant, up to date and practical. For enquiries about [scheduled or in-house](#) training courses [email](#) Refugee Council. All courses cost the following:
£109 (reduced rate for registered charities) £175 (standard rate)

International student recruitment: understanding the points based system – 23 June, London

Following public consultation, new measures designed to curb the abuse of the student visa system have recently been announced. The proposed reforms seek to make entrance criteria tougher, introduce new limits on work entitlements and close the post-study work route. With the international student market providing a significant economic, academic and cultural contribution to this country's education sector, it is imperative that institutions are up to speed with the new system and are fully compliant with UK Border Agency procedures.

This special one-day training seminar provides an opportunity for education providers, international student recruitment officers and advisers to understand the new immigration landscape and its impact on vetting, sponsoring and recruiting overseas students. Please follow this link for more information and to register:
<http://publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/BF23-PPE.php>

Trafficking, forced labour and irregular migration: tackling the issues and supporting the victims in the lead up to the Olympics and beyond – 30 June, Birmingham

This seminar will outline current trends, national policy and good practice regarding the UK as a destination for traffickers of women and children, and it being a focal point for domestic slavery and forced labour. An increase in human trafficking and irregular migration to the UK is expected in the run up to the 2012 Olympic Games.

This seminar will enable policy makers, service managers and front line service providers to update their knowledge on trends and national initiatives, and to hear from projects which work with victims of trafficking, forced labour and irregular migration.

The seminar is priced at £165 plus VAT per delegate, but those who work for small charities may be able to pay the reduced rate of £140 plus VAT. To register, please go to:
http://www.cclimited.org.uk/trafficking_30_06_11.html or for more information please call t: 0115 916 3104

Funding

DAPHNE III funding partner, focus on women from immigrant families – Götene Sweden

The unit for social services in the Municipality of Götene, West Sweden, is interested in participating as a project partner in a proposal under the forthcoming Daphne III Call for proposals. The focus of the project is new ways of interaction between social services and nongovernmental organisations to raise awareness about men's violence against women in intimate relationships and how it affects children. The unit for social services in Götene would like to focus on special target groups, including families with an immigrant background who are exposed to violence. The municipality of Götene is situated in the south west part of Sweden. Götene has approximately 13200 inhabitants. Götene is situated in a rural part of Sweden. More information about the municipality can be found at www.gotene.se

Anyone interested in exploring this partnership should contact Mikael Lundgren, Development officer
e: Mikael.lundgren@gotene.se or t:+46 511 386283

Mid Suffolk Community Grants

The Community Grants scheme is provided and administered by Mid Suffolk District Council. Funding is intended for voluntary and community organisations which provide a service for the benefit of Mid Suffolk people. Grants can be used for the costs associated with providing new and innovative projects and activities in Mid Suffolk. Applications are assessed on a rolling basis and should provide services which accord with Mid Suffolk District Council's own priorities, which are different to those already being provided/grant aided, and meet proven identified needs. Matched funding is required for projects where the total costs exceed £10,000. Where the estimated or total project costs are less than £10,000, the amount of grant available is up to 50% of costs to a maximum grant of £5,000.

Anyone interested in making an application or for more information about eligibility and the funding process, please contact: Tom Barker, Community Development, Mid Suffolk District Council, Council Offices
131 High Street, Needham Market, Ipswich IP6 8DL
t: 01449 724647 or e: tom.barker@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Jobs

British Red Cross – National Citizen Service Project Coordinator - Chelmsford, fixed term contract May – September 2011 £10 per hour

3 days per week 16 May - 10 July, full time from 11 July to 11 September and 3 days per week 12 - 30 September. This is an opportunity to co-ordinate the British Red Cross National Citizenship pilot programme for young people; the "Summer of a Lifetime" project. The post holder will work with a group of 15 young people supporting residential programmes and community action projects, offering young people the chance to learn and develop new skills. Successful candidates will have experience in project management and managing volunteers, as well as knowledge of the voluntary sector and good communication skills.

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is **10 May 2011** and interviews will be held on Monday 16 May 2011. The British Red Cross is committed to welcoming people from the widest possible diversity of background, culture and experience. Please follow this link for more information and details of how to apply:
http://gs11.globalsuccessor.com/fe/tpl_redcross01.asp?s=IrTqWByLjAMrOoAjq&jobid=34131,8868218972&key=28233344&c=022334122172&pagestamp=seuzzqlwfojhtlbqy

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