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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, the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) and the Partnership Development Project (MENTER).

Asylum Seekers and Refugees

New advice leaflets on the Refugee Council's multilingual website

Two new advice leaflets on asylum support have been uploaded on the Refugee Council's multilingual site. The first leaflet explains how to apply to receive cash only support when moving from accommodation provided by the UK Border Agency to living with family or a friend. It also outlines what needs to be considered before doing so. The second leaflet explains how the Section 4 support Azure payment card works and provides information on what to do if there are problems.

Multilingual site:

<http://languages.refugeecouncil.org.uk/english/index.htm>

'Applying for cash only support: moving in with family or a friend' leaflet:

http://languages.refugeecouncil.org.uk/pdf/English/Moving_English.pdf

'Section 4 support 'Azure' payment card' leaflet:

http://languages.refugeecouncil.org.uk/pdf/English/Azure_payment_card_English.pdf

Migrant Children's Project Update April 2010

The Migrant Children's Project (previously Refugee and Asylum Seeking Children's Project) aims to help non-immigration specialist professionals working with asylum seeking and refugee children find out about this group of children's rights and entitlements.

April update:

<http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/newsletter/Migrant+Childrens+Project+Update+April+2010>

Migration

The Migration Parliamentary Group (MPG) 'myth busting' fact sheets

The Migration Parliamentary Group (MPG) has produced a series of concise 'myth busting' fact sheets designed to cover a range of issues that feature in the current debate on migration; employment/jobs and wages, skills, population, housing, public services and education/higher education. They aim to help deliver a more balanced and less emotive debate on the benefits of migration in advance of the forthcoming General Election.

Migration:

http://www.connectpa.co.uk/downloads/mpg_mythbusting_factsheet1.pdf

Migrant contribution:

http://www.connectpa.co.uk/downloads/mpg_mythbusting_factsheet1.pdf

Housing:

http://www.connectpa.co.uk/downloads/mpg_mythbusting_factsheet_3.pdf

Health:

http://www.connectpa.co.uk/downloads/mpg_mythbusting_factsheet_4.pdf

Employment:

http://www.connectpa.co.uk/downloads/mpg_mythbusting_factsheet_5.pdf

Education:

http://www.connectpa.co.uk/downloads/mpg_mythbusting_factsheet_6.pdf

Alienation not immigration fuelling BNP support, says new Institute for Public Policy Research (ippr) report

It is not immigration but alienation and an inability to overcome social challenges such as isolation and low skills which are the main drivers for BNP support, says a study covering 150 local authorities launched by ippr. This important finding contradicts the argument that immigration is to 'blame' for pushing voters into the arms of the BNP. It suggests the opposite in fact, that where people have experience of living with migrants they are less likely to vote for the BNP.

Press release:

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/pressreleases/?id=3957>

Report (click on 'download without registration' link):

<http://www.ippr.org/members/download.asp?f=%2Fecomm%2Ffiles%2FExploring+the+Roots+of+BNP+Support%2Epdf>

Handbook on Integration for policy-makers and practitioners (3rd edition - 2010)

Seven years ago, at the European Council in Thessaloniki, the Heads of State and Government called for more discussion on integration between Member States with a view to learning from one another. The European Commission, in cooperation with the National Contact Points on Integration, experts who meet together regularly, decided to draw up a handbook of good practice. The third edition of this handbook has just been published. It covers various subjects including: 'the mass media and integration', 'awareness-raising and migrant empowerment', 'dialogue platforms', 'acquisition of nationality and practice of active citizenship' and 'immigrant youth, education and the labour market'.

Handbook on integration:

http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/UDRW/images/items/doc/12892_168517401.pdf

Events

Protecting Unaccompanied Child Asylum Seekers – Improving Local Provision through Multi-Agency Working

9 September 2010; 10.40am-3.15pm; [The Commonwealth Club, Westminster](#)

The Government has recently acknowledged that much more needs to be done to ensure the protection and safety of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) entering the UK. Increased statutory duties to protect children placed on the UK Border Agency, along with recent reports critical of local provision, reinforce the need for local authorities, UKBA and their partners on Local Safeguarding Children Boards to improve multi-agency working from entry in to the UK through to the conclusion of the asylum process and beyond.

Objectives and outcomes

The morning of this Policy and Practice Briefing will provide delegates a forum to discuss and debate recent Government guidance and how successfully child asylum policy is being implemented across the country. Delegates will consider the key issues raised by recent reports.

The afternoon will investigate successful examples of partnership working and information sharing between UKBA and other stakeholder agencies, as well as case studies of best practice through Local Safeguarding Children Boards. Delegates will gain ideas and insights to take back to their organisations and roles.

Who should attend?

Delegates will be drawn from local authorities, Local Safeguarding Children Boards, UK Border Agency, local refugee co-ordination teams, refugee support services, local refugee offices, early years and children's and education services, asylum charities, refugee legal service organisations, Sure Start centres, refugee healthcare organisations, police authorities, Connexions, charities and academia.

Cost: £225 per place, £175 for two or more places

Further information and online registration:

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/?p=13056>

Agenda:

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/ChildasylumA3.pdf>

Funding

Awards for Bridging Cultures (UK)

Community and voluntary organisations that are working towards making a real and meaningful contribution towards the mutual understanding of cultural differences within communities are being invited to enter the Awards for Bridging Cultures (ABC). There are three different categories of the Awards for Bridging Cultures: voluntary or community groups or organisations running projects to promote intercultural dialogue with gross annual financial income of over £100,000 (in the last two financial years), voluntary or community groups or organisations running projects to promote intercultural dialogue with gross annual financial income of £100,000 or under (in the last two financial years), local authorities, public sector organisations and private companies who can demonstrate their support for voluntary sector projects which promote intercultural dialogue by financing, initiating or supporting grassroots projects. The winners of each of the two categories for voluntary organisations will receive £10,000 and commended organisations in these categories will receive up to £5,000 each. The deadline for applications is 5pm on **13 September 2010**.

<http://www.bridgingcultures.org.uk/About>

Jobs

Bedfordshire Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support (BRASS) vacancy - Part Time Facilities Officer

16 hours per week. Fixed for 1 year

Actual salary £7,060; full time equivalent £15,444

You will be responsible for the smooth running of the premises from which BRASS and other organisations operate, including health and safety, suppliers, administration and some basic book-keeping duties.

Closing date: **3 May 2010**

Contact Brian Cunningham for further information about the post or BRASS at brian@brass27b.org ; tel. no.: 01234 211 381

The post is employed by BREC on behalf of BRASS.

Contact Bedford Race Equality Council purvabrec@btinternet.com for an application pack.

BRASS website:

www.brassbedford.org.uk

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