

[Asylum Seekers and Refugees](#)[Migration](#)[Events](#)[Funding](#)[Jobs](#)

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 Regional Assembly (EERA) Strategic Migration Partnership, the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) and the Partnership Development Project (MENTER).

Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Report to the United Kingdom Border Agency on “outsourcing abuse”

The UK Border Agency has published an independent report by Baroness Nuala O’Loan into allegations, made in 2007, that UK Border Agency escorts abused individuals being removed from the UK.

Press release:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/255022/41-oloan-report>

Report:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/oloan-report/outsourcing-abuse.pdf?view=Binary>

Refugee Council response:

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/archive/news/2010/March/120310_newsabuseremovals

No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) Bulletin – February 2010

This issue includes an update on the Sojourner Project for victims of domestic violence as well as an article on the National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking. It also provides details of the network’s response to the UKBA consultation on reforming asylum support and of the NRPF Connect Project.

NRPF bulletin – February 2010:

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/GetAsset.aspx?id=fAAzADcAOQA1AHwAfABGAGEAbABzAGUafAB8ADAAfAA1>

Migration

UKBA and the Foreign Office: Strategy on International Migration

UK’s Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Minister Ivan Lewis and Border and Immigration Minister Phil Woolas have recently launched the 2010 UK Border Agency - FCO Strategy on International Immigration. The ‘International Challenges, International Solutions: Managing the Movement of People and Goods’ strategy sets out the main elements of the UK Government’s approach to managing migration to the UK. The strategy is guided by the goals of controlling UK’s borders and attracting migrants whose skills are necessary for the UK economy. It highlights that the UK is “proud to offer protection to those who genuinely need it” but it also stresses the need to “increase efforts to deter and return those who have no legitimate claim”. The strategy also maintains that “our offshore presence is also likely to have contributed to the significant reduction in unfounded asylum claims since 2002”.

Press release:

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=21821034>

Strategy on International Migration:

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/internationalstrategy/strategy-2010.pdf?view=Binary>

New rules for Tier 1 and Tier 2, and other changes to the Immigration Rules

On 6 April the government will make significant changes to Tier 1 and Tier 2 of the points-based system. It will also amend the Immigration Rules covering asylum seekers, English language qualifications and marriage visas for members of the Armed Forces.

The government has accepted changes to Tier 1 recommended by the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC), and has set out details of how it will implement the MAC’s recommended changes to Tier 2. The changes include new

points criteria for both tiers, a simpler route for very highly skilled workers without Master's degrees, greater flexibility for short-term transfers by multinational companies, and more protection against the use of such transfers to fill long-term vacancies that should go to resident workers.

Press release:

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/255022/46-new-rules-for-t1-t2-and-ir>

Statement of policy: Changes to Tier 1 and Tier 2 of the Points-Based System

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/news/statement-of-policy>

Written ministerial statement – changes to the immigration rules:

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/news/wms-armed-forces>

State of the Voluntary and Community sector in the East of England

COVER are carrying out an important piece of work investigating the current state of the Voluntary and Community sector in the East of England. The results of this survey will be used to influence policy makers on behalf of the sector at a regional and national level, and will be available to the sector to use locally as well. The research is looking at the following questions.

- How have Voluntary and Community sector organizations fared during the recent recession?
- What's the outlook for the coming months?
- What are the main issues that the sector is dealing with?

If you are a Voluntary and Community sector organization operating anywhere in the East of England, we would love it if you could take just ten minutes to complete the survey by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/B85TQXW>

COVER are hoping to get a high response rate to maximize the weight that the findings will carry. The survey closes on **31 March 2010**. Thank you very much for your time.

Events

Praxis is holding a conference to share our expertise in working with undocumented migrants

Date: **31 March 2010**, 10:00-16:00

Venue: Clifford Chance, 10 Upper Bank Street, London E14 5JJ

It is widely observed that, professionals encountering undocumented migrants in their work experience great difficulty in knowing how to proceed within the boundaries of the law.

This conference is aimed particularly at workers in the statutory sector, including local authorities, health services, education and criminal justice, who may encounter difficulty when they come across clients with insecure immigration status in the course of their work. The conference will consider and explore the issues which can arise and suggest ways of moving forward. Praxis will also be launching our Manual on Working with Undocumented Migrants, a comprehensive resource written by Sue Lukes, an expert in irregular immigration, and funded by City Parochial Foundation.

Book now and save 20% off the subscription to the Manual on Working with Undocumented Migrants. Please contact 020 77497613 for further information regarding the Manual.

Further information:

<http://illegallives.eazymultimedia.net>

Eastern Region Infrastructure Network (ERIN) Communities Conference

Planned for 7 or 14 June 2010

Precise planning for the conference is ongoing, please see information below which may be relevant for particular groups that you work with. The conference aims to highlight the work of local community groups. Small grass roots community organisations and policy makers will be present. ERIN are actively looking for groups that are small and informal (for example groups that may not yet be constituted). Participation costs will be covered for community groups as well as an additional £50.00 contribution. Groups will be asked to set up a table for the marketplace being planned for the morning coffee break. This will be an excellent opportunity to highlight the valuable role small groups play at a local level, a role that is often overlooked.

There will be some afternoon workshops, which will potentially cover the following topics:

- Inclusive Communities
- Cohesive Communities
- Growing Communities
- Empowered Communities
- Enterprising Communities
- Green Communities (TBC)

Please email Negaya Chorley, at negaya@menter.org.uk, direct with any links to community groups and for any further information, too.

'Challenges and Commonalities in Providing Objective Evidence for Refugee Status Determination' International Conference - 10 and 11 June 2010

Country of Origin Research and Information (CORI) is holding a two day conference on 10 and 11 June 2010, drawing together experts and practitioners involved in providing objective evidence within refugee status determination to discuss 'Challenges and Commonalities in Providing Objective Evidence for Refugee Status Determination'.

This will be an opportunity for academic, experts and legal practitioners to debate;

- Challenges in producing, assessing and applying objective evidence
- Commonalities between the professional groups providing objective evidence
- Best practice
- Professional standards (as academic, as expert)
- Paradigm clashes between the standards, assumptions and expectations of academic disciplines and the nature of evidence as required by in a legal context
- Credibility, impartiality and objectivity

The conference will explore the key issues and challenges of the following professional groups, in providing, assessing or applying objective evidence;

- COI Researchers
- Country Experts
- Language Experts
- Medical Experts
- Psychological Experts
- Legal Representatives
- Judges

The conference will be of interest to all stakeholders to RSD, in particular to legal practitioners, decision makers, COI Researchers, language, medical, psychological, country and thematic experts, NGO's, professionals and students in the fields of Human Rights, Law, Anthropology, Medicine, Psychology, Sociology, Linguistics, Religion and Gender.

The conference will be held at the University of Westminster, New Cavendish Street, W1W 6UW.

Further information:

<http://www.cori.org.uk/3.html>

Schedule and booking form:

<http://www.cori.org.uk/resources/CORI+Conference++Objective+Evidence++10th+and+11th+June+2010.pdf>

Funding

People's Postcode Trust

The next round for the People's Postcode Trust in England is open.

The Trust funds projects with grants of £500 - £10,000. Its priorities are:

- To prevent poverty, sickness and distress for the benefit of the public
- To promote, maintain, improve and advance health
- To advance citizenship or community development

- To advance public participation in sport
 - To promote, improve and advance human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation
 - To promote and advance environmental protection or improvement.
- There is an updated application form, application process and guidance notes which must be used when applying.
The deadline for applications is **23 April 2010**.

People's Postcode Trust website:

<http://www.postcodetrust.org.uk/apply.php>

Jobs

Service Connector Team Manager

Ref: 79-09

Grade 8

Salary £24,931 - £29,916 per annum

Fixed Term 12 month Contract/Secondment opportunity

Based in Thetford 2 days a week, across Breckland District for 3 days a week

37 hours a week including occasional Saturdays/ evening work

A fantastic opportunity to manage the Service Connector team who will be customer service focussed, bringing public services to those hard to reach migrant & rural communities at a place and time that suits their needs.

The successful candidates will have to have the following skills and abilities

1. Proven track record of team leadership and the motivation to achieve targets
2. Must have excellent communication skills to engage pro-actively & positively with all sections of the community including businesses, schools, partner agencies and community groups.
3. Flexibility – able to change working hours & days to suit the communities needs
4. Organisational skills – to co-ordinate and maximise the 'Service Connector' benefits
5. Approachable and pro-active

You will need to be enthusiastic, self-motivated and a desire to deliver excellent customer service. Able to work on own initiative but also follow instructions. To work closely with the Customer Programme Manager & Partnership (LSP) Officer ensuring the team are constantly kept up to date and motivated. Report statistical data accurately and timely.

Closing date: 5pm on Wednesday **31 March 2010**

For an application form please visit our website www.breckland.gov.uk or email recruitment@breckland.gov.uk
Please quote relevant reference number 79-09

Service Connector Officer x 2

Ref: 80-09

Grade 10

Salary £16,219 - £19,955 per annum

Fixed Term 12 month Contract/Secondment opportunity

Based in Thetford 2 days a week, across Breckland District for 3 days a week

37 hours a week including occasional Saturdays/ evening work

A fantastic opportunity to work within the Service Connector team who will be customer service focussed, bringing public services to those hard to reach migrant & rural communities at a place and time that suits their needs.

The successful candidates will have to have the following skills and abilities

1. High standards of customer service delivery
2. Must be a confident communicator who will own and resolve complex and in-depth enquiries
3. The ability to deal with challenging behaviour
4. Flexibility – able to change working hours & days to suit the communities needs
5. Approachable and pro-active

You will need to be enthusiastic, self-motivated and a desire to deliver excellent customer service. Able to work on own initiative but also follow instructions. To work closely with the Service Connector Team Manager gathering and logging statistical data accurately and timely.

Closing date: 5pm on Wednesday **31 March 2010**

For an application form please visit our website www.breckland.gov.uk or email recruitment@breckland.gov.uk
Please quote relevant reference number 80-09

Suffolk Refugee Support Forum, Ipswich (*Charity No. 1078794*) is seeking a:

Part-time Trainee Support Worker

for 6 months (April to October 2010)

16 hours per week

£3,340

We will train you to give advice and support to refugees.

Must speak English and a refugee language and have experience of refugee issues.

Closing date: **7 April 2010**, 5pm.

For application pack, please email rcrerar@srsf.org.uk or phone 01473 400785 leaving name, address or email address and telephone number

If you have had this passed on to you and you want to receive e-mail updates yourself, you can subscribe by emailing malgorzata.strona@eera.gov.uk

If you wish to unsubscribe to the Newsflash please email malgorzata.strona@eera.gov.uk

