

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

Legal Services Commission – latest update on allocation of further work previously allocated to Immigration Advisory Service (IAS)

LSC have now published further information on how they intend to re-allocate unused new matter starts (NMS) that had previously been allocated to IAS prior to their going into administration following LSC's previous update. There are just over 8,000 NMS to be re-allocated in 15 Access Points across the country. These are new matters not yet opened and are therefore distinct from those clients whose case is being transferred to providers via the administrator (which also totals roughly 8,000 cases).

The 15 Access Points where work will be re-allocated are as follows: London, Coventry, City of Leicester, South Staffordshire, Sandwell & Birmingham, County Durham East & Teesside, West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, East & West Lancashire, City of Bristol, South Gloucestershire & North Somerset, Cambridgeshire, South Yorkshire, Derby & South Derbyshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Merseyside.

Work will be re-allocated as follows:

A. In some areas, the volume of NMS can be re-allocated between existing providers using the rules for awarding supplementary NMS already within the contract. If providers find they are running short of new matter starts then they should contact their contract manager to discuss.

B. In other areas, where the above method would not allow LSC to allocate sufficient volumes of work, they will follow the approach used to allocate work in the 2010 tender exercise. In these areas LSC will write to all providers who were eligible for a contract in that tender exercise but were either not awarded one owing to the level of competition, or were awarded fewer NMS than they bid for. They will need to confirm whether they wish to take on the NMS bid for and that they have the required capacity to take on this work. LSC will then allocate NMS in line with their ranked position as it was at the time of tender process in 2010.

In a small number of areas where IAS carried out large amounts of work, LSC may need to conduct some additional tender activity. LSC will invite Expressions of Interest in these areas. Any Expressions of Interest will be published on the immigration tender page of the LSC website (see below)

C. LSC will be taking a similar approach in Immigration Removal Centres and will be contacting affected providers separately about this.

For further information on new matter starts in any of the affected access points providers should discuss this in the first instance with their contract manager.

Immigration tender page of the LSC website:

<http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/civil/tendering/immigration.asp>

Monthly asylum application tables - May 2011

This release gives number of applications received for asylum in the United Kingdom in May 2011. It also includes a table of pending applications received for asylum since April 2006.

Monthly asylum application tables:

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

UNHCR offices mark 60th anniversary of landmark UN Refugee Convention

On 28 July UNHCR offices around the world marked the 60th anniversary of the UN Refugee Convention – the legal foundation on which most of the agency's work worldwide is based. The UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees was formally adopted on 28 July 1951 to resolve the refugee problem in Europe after World War II. This global treaty provides a definition of who qualifies as a refugee – a person with a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion – and spells out the rights and obligations between host countries and refugees.

Press release: <http://www.unhcr.org/4e31627f6.html>

Updated support advice sheets available

Asylum Support Appeals Project (ASAP) has published a new series of advice sheets on asylum support. The series now features guidance on ten issues, including section 95 support, filling in an appeal notice, the evidence required for section 4 applications and an introduction to judicial review. They are aimed at helping advisers secure the increasingly limited entitlements to support of asylum seekers and refused asylum seekers. The advice sheets can be downloaded at www.tinyurl.com/636v9w3

Migration

NHS healthcare services now available on myUKinfo

The NHS in the East of England signed up with myUKinfo to ensure equality of access to local health services, and find a cost effective way to reach non-English speaking communities. Information on myUKinfo local information for these healthcare services include:

- Regional healthcare service pages, detailing services available such as GPs, dentists, opticians, pharmacists and NHS walk-in centres
- What the various healthcare services are for, e.g. when to use (and when not to use) Accident and Emergency
- Access to support services, e.g. to support people who want to give up smoking, take more exercise or address alcohol-related problems

Visit the [Local Information section](#) to see NHS Healthcare Services on myUKinfo.

Details of the new 'exceptional talent' route announced

The new 'exceptional talent' route will open on 9 August 2011 and will facilitate 1,000 individuals into the UK who have either been recognised as leaders in their respective fields or have the potential to become one. Those wishing to come into the UK under this route will not need to be sponsored by an employer but will need to be recommended by one of the competent bodies (The Royal Society, Arts Council England, The Royal Academy of Engineering and The British Academy). Each competent body will publish criteria that applicants must meet to be endorsed.

UKBA news item:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/july/31-t1-et>

Further information and related documents:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/workingintheuk/tier1/exceptional-talent/>

Family migration: evidence and analysis

This Home Office research provides additional evidence on the scale and nature of family migration to the UK. It brings together previously published statistics, new information from the UK Border Agency, and some additional data and analysis on specific questions relating to family migration. For more information visit:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/occ94/occ94?view=Binary>

Managing migration community of practice

'Communities of Practice' is a community platform supporting collaborative networks for those involved in local delivery: central departments, local authorities, other public bodies, frontline staff, health staff, people working in charities and the private sector who are in some way delivering for the public. To join the managing migration community, first register on the website. Once you've registered, search for "managing migration".

Communities of Practice website:

<http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/welcome.do>

UK Border Agency news – July 2011

This bi-monthly update for partners includes information from UKBA on border control, migration and strategic partner groups.

Latest issue: [UKBA News July 2011](#)

Events

Refugee Council Training

- An introduction to child protection issues in working with children from abroad - 14 September, London
 - An introduction to working with unaccompanied children - 20 September, London
 - Key Issues in Asylum - 21 September, London
 - Introduction to Asylum Support - 22 September, London
 - End of process: Support for asylum seekers who have been refused asylum - 28 September, London
 - Age assessment awareness and working with age-disputed young people - 4 October, London
 - The Refugee Council Therapeutic Casework model: Supporting clients with mental wellbeing needs - 5 October, London
 - Supporting women affected by sexual violence - 12 October, London
 - Refugees and migrants: Entitlement to housing and other services - 19 October, London
- To book email training@refugeecouncil.org.uk All courses cost £109 for registered charities and £175 for all other attendees, or 10% less for early birds (bookings before 31 August 2011).
For a complete list of our current training courses, please visit [our website](#), to make an enquiry [contact us](#).

Funding

Community Outreach Grant Fund 2011-12 - new funding application round open

Thanks to the financial support of Nominet Trust - www.nominettrust.org.uk - applications are now being sought to fund organisations wishing to develop their outreach activity, reach new audiences or communities and help people take their first steps online.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available to for both revenue and capital expenditure.

Applications close on **19 August 2011**, with projects taking place between September 2011 and 31 March 2012.

We are particularly interested in supporting projects that want to use unusual places and spaces to learn.

Organisations can register any location where people do learning – we are not just interested in established training organisations that reach digitally excluded people. If you can meet the minimum criteria described in this funding round, and you have access to people that you will help to access and use the internet, we want to hear from you!

The key is to show us you understand where the people are that need help, and you have the vision and the expertise to reach them. Successful applicants will be able to demonstrate they can:

- Deliver a social impact as a result of their activity
- Evidence their community as being 'hard to reach'
- Hold at least one supported training session per week
- Take part in Get online week in a meaningful way
- Attract people that have never used the internet before, or don't have the skills and confidence to go online without support
- Collect/collate evidence of their learners' contact details for evaluation purposes.

Further information on the fund and related documents:

<http://www.ukonlinecentres.com/corporate-pages/community-outreach-grant-funding.html>

Homelessness Transition Fund administered by Homeless Link

Applications for grants of up to £250,000 are now being accepted by the Homelessness Transition Fund - designed to help organisations to tackle rough sleeping and reduce homelessness in England.

Launched as a key part of the [Government's new rough sleeping strategy](#), this independent fund aims to protect essential services for homeless people, encourage innovation and support communities to adopt the 'No Second Night Out' standard. This first funding round will award grants totalling £8 million, with a total of £20 million to be awarded over the next three years.

To help you get started, we have launched a [new website](#) to explain [what the fund is for](#) and detail the [types of projects that are eligible to apply](#). You'll find [details of the application process](#) and downloadable application materials, and we'll also keep adding to the [questions and answers](#) page to reflect your queries over time.

The deadline for the current round of standard applications is **30 September 2011**. For urgent applications, the deadline is the 31 August 2011.

Jobs

Communications and Strategy Director posts at a new communications agency

This is an opportunity to join the staff team at a new communications organisation, which will seek to inform media debate on migration.

Applications are sought for two key roles as part of the organisation's staff team of four, to work with newly appointed Director, Sunder Katwala, to launch the new organisation this autumn, and to establish its programme of activities.

Director of Communications

The post-holder will lead on the organisation's media strategies. £35k-£40k plus up to 10% pension contribution.

For an application pack, please visit www.prospect-us.co.uk/jobs or call 0844 880 5159 quoting ref: T4357-1-1 (Communications). Closing date: **15 August 2011**.

Director of Strategy and Relationships

The post-holder will lead on the organisation's relationships with external organisations, including current and potential allies, to extend the reach and impact of core narratives and messages, both with groups currently working on migration issues, and particularly seeking to broaden the range of advocates. This will include developing new campaigns; potentially helping to facilitate new organisations; and integrating key messages into relevant campaigning and advocacy by others. £30k-£40k plus up to 10% pension contribution

For an application pack, please visit www.prospect-us.co.uk/jobs or call 0844 880 5159 quoting ref: T4357-1-2 (Strategy). Closing date: **15 August 2011**.

For full details of the two vacancies, and more information about the new agency, visit the

website: <http://www.prospect-us.co.uk/social-justice-communication-organisation-about-the-new-organisation>

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