

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

Refugee Council, Ipswich – new premises search

The Refugee Council will be leaving its premises at 4-8 Museum Street during June. In the meantime they are searching for new premises and are looking for organisations in Ipswich town centre which might have office space which they need to fill. In the first instance they are seeking space for 3 / 4 desks and a room in which to have small meetings/interviews. If you know an organisation that might be interested please contact: Sharon Holden t: 01473 297906 e: Sharon.holden@refugeecouncil.org.uk

UK Border Agency (UKBA) – update on Case Resolution Directorate (CRD)

CRD continue to progress concluding the remaining older asylum cases, with 403,000 cases concluded by the end of January 2011 and are on track to review all cases in the cohort by summer 2011 or earlier. They are also undertaking transitional work to prepare for the end of the programme. This includes plans for a Case Assurance and Audit Unit (CAAU) which will be responsible for residual CRD archive work - cases of people they have been unable to trace and who may have left the country or cases that have been reviewed but not fully concluded. UKBA will start to move work to CAAU on 1 April, will focus more on CRD's older non-asylum cohort and make changes to the way that these cases are managed too. Details of key areas affecting local authorities are below:

Older asylum cases: those local authorities supporting people who made their asylum claim before March 2007 and wish to refer to the agency should contact Case Audit and Assurance Unit, 7th Floor, The Capital, New Hall Place, Liverpool, L3 9PP. They will supply updates on any cases already referred to CRD.

Older non-asylum cases: Since September 2009 UKBA has been working on archived cases concerning non-charged, non-asylum applications. The cases relate to pre-2008 cases - overstayers or those who have been refused an extension of leave (such as students). It also includes cases where an article 8 claim to private and family life under the European Court of Human Rights has been made. UKBA have committed to reviewing non-asylum cases supported by local authorities to the point that outstanding applications have been closed. They will enforce removal of those whose application has been refused, or who have not made any application for leave on a case by case basis.

These cases have been dealt with by a team in the North West region, however this team is closing so in future refer to the regional contacts for the East of England e: Matthew.Robinson11@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
UK Border Agency, Chadwick House, Blenheim Court, Warwick Road, Solihull, B91 2AA

CRD transitional costs fund will continue to be available in the 2011/12 financial year, although UKBA expects to be taking fewer individuals off support in the next financial year to assist local authorities in preventing homelessness amongst individuals who have previously been in receipt of UKBA support.

Refugee Action's contact details for Assisted Voluntary Returns programme

As reported previously in newsflash, the assisted voluntary returns programmes from UKBA, previously run by IOM are to be run by Refugee Action from 1 April 2011. The programmes are Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration programme (VARRP), Assisted Voluntary return for Irregular migrants (AVRIM) and Assisted Voluntary Return for Families and Children (AVRFC). All applications for voluntary return made on or after April 1 must be made via Refugee Action. Whilst no Refugee Action regional centre exists in the east, anyone wishing to access their service should contact: The Old Fire Station, 150 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8SB
Freephone: 0808 800 0007 F: 0207 401 3699 E: Choices@refugee-action.org.uk For applications and guidance on AVR, please follow this link: <http://www.refugee-action.org.uk/ourwork/assistedvoluntaryreturn.aspx>

No recourse to public funds network (NRPF) report – Social services support to people with no recourse to public funds: a national picture

The report found that social services departments in 51 local authorities across the UK supported approximately 6,500 people with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) in the financial year 2009/10 at a cost of £46.5m. Support, in the form of accommodation, subsistence and in some circumstances additional social care, is provided owing to statutory duties under community care and children's legislation and remains unfunded. Local authorities must therefore meet these costs from existing budgets. The findings of this report show that although local authority practice in this area is on the whole improving, there is still inconsistency of practice between local authorities. Please follow this link to read the report in full: <http://tinyurl.com/6kdns2w>.

EU solidarity needed to protect those fleeing Libya

Boats from Libya carrying some 2000 people arrived in Europe, landing in Malta and Italy. While Italy called for EU solidarity, France is reported to have installed border controls between itself and Italy to block Tunisians from entering. With Tunisia and Egypt accepting nearly 400,000 people from Libya, the EU Commissioner has asked EU governments to accept some of the refugees for resettlement. In recommendations from UNHCR regarding protection of people fleeing Libya, UNHCR called on neighbouring countries in North Africa and Europe to maintain open borders for people forced to flee Libya. UNHCR recommends granting Libyan nationals temporary protection pending clarification of their circumstances; third country nationals fleeing Libya seeking international protection should have access to an asylum procedure as long as numbers remain manageable. If third country nationals seeking international protection arrive in such numbers that individual examinations of their needs is not possible, they should be granted temporary protection until their claims can be considered individually. Follow this link to read more in the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) weekly bulletin: http://www.ecre.org/resources/ECRE_weekly_bulletin

UNHCR report – Asylum levels and trends in Industrialized Countries 2010: a statistical overview

The report looks at asylum trends across the 44 industrialized countries of the world, and finds a decline in the numbers of asylum claims reported, down by 5% since 2009. It examines which are the five top recipient countries of asylum claimants and which are the top five source countries for asylum seekers. It also compares the rate at which individual countries grant international protection. To read the report in full, please follow this link: <http://www.unhcr.org/4d8c5b109.html>

Refugee Council's children's project SMILE now over

Over the last 3 years SMILE has worked with refugee children, the majority of whom were separated, helping them to access education and recreational activities, enabling them to increase their educational attainment and their feeling of belonging to the community they are now part of. SMILE's legacy is that the young people they supported have increased confidence and feel better equipped for the challenges ahead. Additionally, the SMILE research report '*Something to smile about: Promoting and supporting the educational and recreational needs of refugee children*' is available via this link: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/position/2011/smilereport.htm> and its legacy is the steer it gives to practitioners and policy makers by making them aware of the specific needs of refugee children and the barriers to their educational attainment, the contributions volunteers make in the lives of refugee and asylum seeking young people and the impact of awareness raising activities.

One million Ivorians displaced following post-election dispute

The UN refugee agency reports that up to a million people may have fled Côte d'Ivoire. The most recent flight, to Liberia and Ghana, is a result of bank and business closures and consequent unemployment, coupled with highly priced, scarce food. UNHCR revised its Emergency Action Plan and budgeted for 126 new staffing positions, mostly in Liberia, to respond to the humanitarian crisis and cover the needs of people in need of protection. The British government's Department for International Development has said it would provide £16 million to humanitarian agencies to provide emergency aid to Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. Please follow this link to read the article in full in the April news bulletin: http://www.ecre.org/resources/ECRE_weekly_bulletin

Winter edition of Runnymede Trust bulletin – article on comprehensive spending review and its impact on refugees and asylum seekers

This edition of the bulletin has as a dedicated theme the Government's comprehensive spending review and its impact on the BME community, with one article exploring the impacts on refugees and asylum seekers. Please follow this link to access the bulletin: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/49772312/Winter-Edition-of-Runnymede-Bulletin-2010-2011-The-Cuts>

Migration

New publication – Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration (OxMo)

This new journal is dedicated to protecting and advancing the human rights of forced migrants. This issue includes short essays and academic articles from authors in Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, Egypt, Ecuador, Hong Kong, the UK, and the USA. The eleven contributors have drawn from first hand experiences, their own academic research and knowledge gleaned from being in the field and working in human and refugee rights advocacy. Please follow this link to read the journal: <http://oxmofm.com>

Consultation from Government Equalities Office – Reform of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)

Government ministers launched a consultation on plans to reform the Equality and Human Rights Commission. The consultation document sets out our plans to reform the EHRC to ensure that it focuses on its core regulatory activities. The consultation runs to **15 June 2011** and views on the proposals are welcomed. Please follow this link to read more and to submit a response: http://www.equalities.gov.uk/what_we_do/ehrc_reform.aspx

Resources

Get Legal – expert advice online for charities, social enterprises and co-operatives from NCVO

Get Legal, is a free online reference and decision-making tool for charities, social enterprises and co-operative organisations. Get Legal has been developed by NCVO, the largest umbrella body for the voluntary and community sector in England, with support from Bates Wells and Braithewaite (BWB) solicitors to enable organisations and their advisors to access information and guidance on the most appropriate legal form and governance structure for delivering their goals.

Please follow this link to access the website: <http://www.getlegal.org.uk>

Events

Suffolk ‘stop and search’ reference group meeting. 5 April, Ipswich

This community-led group exists to improve trust and confidence in the way the police conduct ‘stops’, openly discuss the issues which lead to ‘stops’ being made to black and minority ethnic (BME) people and hold the police accountable for their actions. Anyone who has experience of this issue is welcome to attend the meeting which is being held at the Ipswich & Suffolk Council for Racial Equality (ISCRE) offices in Ipswich 5 April, 6pm. Please contact Leon Hall for more information t: 01473 408111 e: leon@iscre.org.uk

Child trafficking – Advanced course on safeguarding children. Bury St Edmunds, 24 May 2011

There are a few places left on this course, being run by ECPAT UK, the charity active in research, campaigning and lobbying to prevent child exploitation and child victims of trafficking. This advanced course aims to build on practitioners' knowledge of child trafficking and assumes a basic understanding of the key issues. The focus will be on supporting and safeguarding suspected victims of child trafficking and some of the complexities this area of practice can create. The course will include changes in practice since the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against the Trafficking in Human Beings including the National Referral Mechanism and new Trafficking Toolkit. The need for a multi-agency approach will underpin the course content, so delegates from a range of agencies are welcome to attend, from social care professionals and police working in child protection to UKBA local immigration teams and health or education professionals working in child protection. We would particularly welcome delegates from child-centred third sector organisations who get referrals from the public.

For further information please contact Louise Gooch, Strategic Migration Partnership, East of England LGA, e: louise.gooch@eelga.gov.uk t:01284 729438 or follow this link to book a place at £90 per delegate plus VAT for a day's session, including lunch: <http://www.eelga.gov.uk/events/view-event.aspx?ID=2690>

Funding

£7 million boost for Big Society as 183 more charities get cash support

The Government's Transition Fund, to help charities prepare for Big Society opportunities and face current challenges, will have an additional £7million from the Department of Health taking the total fund to £107million. At the same time, the Cabinet Office announced the next 183 charities to receive immediate payouts totalling nearly £15million. In our region, of the 11 charities receiving funding, two provide services to migrants and refugees – Integration Support Services (ISS) in Essex and Great Yarmouth Refugee Outreach & Support (GYROS) in Norfolk. The Fund closed to applications on 21 January 2011. To date nearly 17million funding has been committed. The remaining £90million will be awarded from the fund from April 2011 onwards. Please follow this link to read the complete list of newly funded charities:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/immediate-payouts-22052010.pdf>

Jobs

Youth and Schools Service Coordinator, British Red Cross, Norfolk. 21 hours per week, £11,114, fixed term post to December 2012

This role is to help coordinate, develop and expand the British Red Cross' youth provision within East Anglia. This will include humanitarian education, peer education, resilience building among young people, first aid education and general young volunteering opportunities. An important aspect of the job will be networking with schools, colleges and other educational institutions as well as local councils, organisations and other charitable organisations.

To be successfully appointed to this post, the candidate must have experience of working with young people in formal and informal settings. Experience of recruiting, selecting and managing volunteers or of working with refugees and having a youth qualification would be an advantage. The successful candidate will need to be able to travel across the South East for training and meetings and be able to work evenings and weekends for which time in lieu may be taken.

For more information and application details please follow this link:

http://gs11.globalsuccessor.com/fe/tpl_redcross01.asp?s=TcEbHMjWuLXcZzLur&jobid=34073,3498231434&key=26969114&c=214854959859&pagestamp=seqyqhbnuhqybageuc

Alternatively contact Margaret Brett on for an application pack on t: 01284 727248 or e: mbrett@redcross.org.uk.

For informal enquiries please contact Martyn Peck on t: 01473 219260 or e: mpeck@redcross.org.uk . Closing date is **8 April 2011**

Volunteering England – Infrastructure Development Manager, London, full time £31,936, fixed term 2 years

The main scope of the post is to support the development of an effective and sustainable volunteering infrastructure. It will involve strengthening existing relationships with Volunteer Centres, The Council for Voluntary Services, Volunteer-Involving organisations, Higher Education & Further Education Institutions and Local Authorities. Interested applicants should apply by following this link:

http://www.volunteering.org.uk/WhoWeAre/jobvacancies/Infrastructure+Development+Manager.htm?dm_i=IMP,E,F5S,3039NF,15H9O,1 The closing date for applications is **11 April 2011**.

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