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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

Rights of Women Advice line – Immigration advice

From 1 April 2011, some changes have been made to the Rights of Women advice lines. Immigration and asylum law advice on issues including the rights of EEA nationals and their family members, claiming asylum in the UK, trafficking, domestic violence and immigration law, and no recourse to public funds: Call t: 020 7490 7689 or 020 7490 2562 textphone on Mondays between 2pm-4pm and Wednesdays between 11am-1pm

No recourse to public funds (NRPF) network April bulletin issued

The latest bulletin from the NRPF network has been issued and contains the following:

- NRPF Network Research Report – *Social Services Support to People with NRPF: A National Picture*
- Case Resolution Directorate – Update for Local Authorities
- Refugee Action Voluntary Return Services
- Department of Health Access of Foreign Nationals to NHS – Proposals Announced
- The Sojourner Project – Update
- NRPF Network/British Red Cross Conference
- NRPF Network Training Programme – New Open-access Dates Added
- Changes to Rights of Women Advice Lines
- AIRE Centre/MRN Training – Changes to A8 entitlements.

Please follow this link to read the articles in full:

<http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Policy%20and%20Priorities/Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership/Health%20and%20Housing/April%202011%20Bulletin.pdf>

Information note from Children’s Legal Centre: R (FZ) v London Borough of Croydon [2011] EWCA Civ 59

The case involved an unaccompanied Iranian asylum seeker, with known mental health problems, who claimed to be 17 years of age. Though this age was accepted by the UK Border Agency, the local authority assessed the appellant to be two years older: 19 years old. The judgement looks at what happened when the local authority conducted an initial assessment without the presence of an appropriate adult:

http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/Resources/CLC/Documents/PDF%20N-Z/R%20_FZ_%20v%20London%20Borough%20of%20Croydon.pdf

Finding ESOL courses in Suffolk

Anyone in Suffolk looking to find a local ESOL course for clients can tap into the Leap website to find suitable provision. The Leap Project, formed in 2007 by University Campus Suffolk (UCS), Suffolk Learning and Skills Council, Suffolk County Council and the East of England Development Agency, aims to make access to education and skills as local as possible in response to the rural nature of the county. Please follow the link below and in the search field type ‘ESOL’ to see what is available. Providers whose courses are not yet on the site should contact leap to have them included. <http://www.leap.ac.uk/home>

Mayor of London launches Integration strategy action plan from London Strategic Migration Partnership

The London Strategic migration partnership launched the year 2 implementation plan of London’s refugee and migrant integration strategy – *London Enriched*. It is arranged under 7 core objectives and cross-cutting themes:

- English language provision
- Access to housing
- Employment, skills and enterprise
- Eliminating health disadvantages
- Community safety and cohesion
- Overcome the challenges faced by children and young people

- Strengthen the ability of migrants to engage in community life

Authorities producing action plans around any of these objectives may find this document of help. Please follow this link to read it in full: http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/London_enriched_Year_2.pdf

Migrant Communities and the big Society – a report from Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum (MRCF) and Migrants' Rights Network MRN)

This report looks at five London Community groups – the West and North West London Vietnamese Association, The Chinese National Healthy Living Centre, The Zimbabwe Women's Network in Isleworth, Shpresa Programme for Albanian speakers and the Midaye Somali Development Network to explore how their work contributes to a better society. This report forms part of MRCF's 'Engage to Change' project, which aims to bring out the experiences, perspectives and concerns of migrants and refugees in London in order to develop their capacity to inform public debate and contribute to change. The aim of this report is to present the case for, and explore the critical role of, Migrant and Refugee Community Organisations (MRCOs) in providing social protection, accelerating integration and improving lives in London's diverse communities. In other words, the report aims to show why MRCOs are a crucial part of the Big Society. Please follow this link to read the report in full: http://www.mrcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Migrant-Communities-and-the-Big-Society-report-MRCF-2011.pdf?dm_i=IMP,EM04,3039NF,163U2,1

Migration

Eligibility for Jobcentre Plus services for A8 nationals after 1 May – briefing note from Homeless Link

From 1 May 2011 A8 nationals, in common with other European Economic Area (EEA) nationals, may be eligible for income-related benefits provided by Jobcentre Plus if they meet the requirements of the Habitual Residence Test and the conditionality of the particular benefit. This access had been restricted under the terms of the Worker Registration scheme (WRS), which ceases at the end of April. This briefing note looks at income based and contributory based benefits, worked examples and has a section of FAQs. Please follow this link to access the document: <http://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/A8EligibilityForJCP-from1stMay11.pdf>

Forced migration: 'Understanding child trafficking and private fostering' and 'Safeguarding children trafficked to the UK to work in cannabis factories' - briefing papers from End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking Children (ECPAT UK)

Child victims of trafficking are often hidden from the authorities whose duty it is to safeguard their welfare. Many children are brought to the UK under private fostering arrangements; ECPAT UK works with such victims who have experienced abuse by the adults who have privately fostered them. This document provides an overview of private fostering and the current trends in the UK, exploring the links between private fostering and child trafficking and identifying good practice for professionals in the field of safeguarding children.

Please follow this link to read the private fostering paper in full:

http://www.ecpat.org.uk/sites/default/files/understanding_papers/understanding_private_fostering.pdf

There is increasing evidence that children from South East Asia, particularly Vietnam, are being trafficked to the UK and forced to work cultivating cannabis. ECPAT UK is concerned that these trafficked children are not recognised as victims of crime but are treated as criminals and are often prosecuted for drug or immigration offences. This document highlights key trends, the extent of the problem in the UK and the current response of the UK authorities. It also provides an overview of existing guidance.

Please follow this link to read the trafficked children in cannabis factories paper in full:

http://www.ecpat.org.uk/sites/default/files/understanding_papers/understanding_trafficking_for_cannabis_cultivation_2011.pdf

Immigration changes effective from April 6: fees and 'the cap' – UK Border Agency (UKBA)

New immigration fees came into force from 6 April for foreign nationals applying to visit, study, work or settle in the UK and for employers and education providers applying for a sponsor licence. Those making an application after 6 April 2011 should ensure that they pay the correct fee. Follow this link for full details:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/fees>

The cap on non-EU migrant workers also takes effect from 6 April. Under the annual limit, employers can bring 20,700 people from outside the EU to work in skilled professions under Tier 2 of the points-based system. 1,000

more visas will also be available to people of 'exceptional talent' and will be given to those whom experts believe will make the biggest contribution to science and the arts in the UK. Prospective workers will need to have a graduate level job, speak an intermediate level of English and meet specific salary and employment requirements. Those earning a salary of £150,000 or more will not be subject to the limit. Please follow this link to read the story in full: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/april/07annual-limit-immigration>

Listening to migrants' voices – appeal from Bedford LINK

Bedford LINK wants to develop in all communities as it rolls out HealthWwatch this month and is appealing to Polish, Italian, Afro-Caribbean, Asian and others to come forward. More than 40,000 people living in Bedford are from a non White British minority backgrounds. They would like to meet with them and to get their communities involved in helping to shape the future of their Health and Social well being. Anyone with thoughts or ideas, which can help them achieve their objectives to develop the LINK should contact Daniela Lomonaco t: 01234 276082 e: daniela.lomonaco@bedford.gov.uk or the Chairman Arthur Dennis t: 07050 132444 or e: cleveland114@gmail.com

COMPAS launches new migration organisation and website: Migration Observatory

A new organisation/website *Migration Observatory* based at the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) at the University of Oxford has been launched to provide independent, authoritative, evidence-based analysis of data on migration and migrants in the UK, to inform media, public and policy debates and to generate high quality research on international migration and public policy issues. The Observatory's analysis involves experts from a wide range of disciplines and departments at the University of Oxford. Please follow this link to access the website: <http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk>

A Guide to the Points Based System (PBS) – new publication from Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI)

The new JCWI book - *A Guide to the Points Based System* - at more than 500 pages, is full of the information practitioners - lawyers and advisers - need to get the most out of the PBS. Those who purchase the guide will be entitled to updates as they are produced in this fast changing field. The book is priced at £45.00; members of JCWI may claim a 10% discount. Please follow this link to place an order: <http://www.jcwi.org.uk/Resources/JCWI/PDF%20Documents/PBSHandbookAd.pdf>

Multi-Agency practice guidelines: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) - Government guidelines

This document provides advice and support to frontline professionals who have responsibilities to protect adults and safeguard children and from abuses associated with FGM. As it is unlikely that any single agency can meet the multiple needs of someone affected by FGM, this document sets out a multi-agency response and strategies to encourage agencies to cooperate and work together. It helps professionals identify those at risk of FGM, how to respond those who have been subjected to FGM and measures which can be taken to help eradicate the practice. Please follow this link to access the guidelines: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/travel-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/multi-agency-fgm-guidelines.pdf>

Events

Big Lottery Fund (BLF), Improving Futures briefing event, 12 April, London

Improving Futures is the Big Lottery Fund's newest funding programme. It is a £20m investment aiming to improve outcomes for children in families experiencing multiple disadvantage. It will provide funding to partnerships led by the voluntary and community sector which can show that they can build on best practice and provision already in their area, to make a difference for families. Families supported via Improving Futures will have an oldest child aged between 5 – 10 years and will not already be in an intensive support programme.

Places on the briefings are limited to one per organisation. If this is an issue, please contact BLF t: 0207 296 6880 or e: improvingfutures@local.gov.uk. Please click on this link to see all the event dates and venues, and to access the booking form: <http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageld=26593649>. Anyone unable to make the briefing event can access the resources on offer at the events via a dedicated Community of Practice (CoP) which has been opened for partnerships interested in this programme and useful documentation, advice, and frequently asked questions and answers. To join the CoP, please click on the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/4lk7wm2>

Social networking opportunities for migrant community organisations – 15 April, London

On 15 April 2011, from 10:00 - 15:30 at Just IT training, 7 Sandys Row, London E1 7HW, representatives of migrant community organisations or those working with refugees and asylum seekers are invited to register for a one-day workshop on social networking for activism and collaboration on refugee issues. The event is organised by the Refugee Health Network and the aim of the workshop is to inform participants about opportunities and models of online collaboration for action and information sharing relevant to refugee groups. It will include discussions of the social media tools available and projects using these resources. The workshop is limited to just 18 participants so register now to avoid disappointment. Representatives of migrant community organisations will be given priority. To learn more about the workshop and to register, please follow this link:

<http://refugeehealthnetwork.org/library/social-networking-opportunities-for-migrant-community-organisations>

Who's telling our stories? Unheard Voices: Mobilising migrants to speak up. April 15-16, London

Migrant Voice is organising this spring conference over two days, from 1pm on Friday to 2pm on Saturday, at Amnesty International's Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA.

The event will examine public attitudes and media representation of migrants and explore strategies for migrants' engagement in the public conversation on migration. The conference is the first event of the new 'Migrant Voices for Change Network', with membership from migrant and refugee communities' leaders and professionals, media experts, academics and other stakeholders from across the UK. The event will bring together experts in the field of messaging, public attitude and migration to look at research and activities, including the Barrow Cadbury Trust, Oxfam, The Searchlight Educational Trust, Institute of Public Policy Research, Migrants Rights Network, Open Society Foundation and others. A panel of journalists from the BBC, The Guardian, Channel 4 and other media will provide an insight into the British media perspective on the coverage of migration and highlight opportunities for migrants to engage with and influence the media. The conference will be a market place for exchanging innovative projects and initiatives from across the UK.

Day two will engage members of the Migrant Voices for Change Network in hands-on media training and facilitated discussions on strengthening the network and developing and implementing communication strategies to get more migrant voices heard in the media and the debate on migration. For further information and to attend please e: info@migrantvoice.org or t: 020 8960 0121, indicating if you would like to attend day one of the conference only or if you would like to join the Network and participate in both days of the conference. Attendance is free but places are limited and will be given on a first come first served basis.

3 Faiths Tour, Bedford Council of Faiths – 17 May, Bedford

Starting at 6.30pm promptly from the Guru Nanak Gurdwara in 84 Ford End Road, Queen's Park, Bedford MK40 4JX, the walking tour will take in the Gushan E Baghdad Mosque and finish at 8.00pm at All Saints Church. Food will be served at the Gurdwara from 6pm. For more information, please see the website: www.bcof.org.uk

No recourse to public funds (NRPf) network and British Red Cross conference - 15 June, London

The NRPf Network and the British Red Cross will be co-hosting a conference entitled *Local authority support to people with no recourse to public funds – Reflections on the past, Looking to the future*. The conference will take place on 15 June 2011 at Islington Town Hall, North London. The purpose of the conference is to bring together representatives of local authorities, central government and the voluntary sector to reflect on developments in the area of local authority support to people with no recourse to public funds, to identify emerging issues and explore solutions to new problems. In particular, the event will look at:

- Impact of the Case Resolution Directorate
- Community care/community mental health post M v Slough
- Impact of Birmingham City Council v Clue and the increase of support to children and families with NRPf
- European Economic Area nationals – homelessness, domestic violence and restrictions to support
- Destitution of asylum seekers and refused asylum seekers
- Voluntary return
- Managing NRPf cases – ensuring safeguarding, accountability and secure sharing of data and information
- Impact of cuts in local authority funding on voluntary and community services to the NRPf client group

More conference details will be released nearer the time; for now, those who are interested should save the date.

Funding

Hilton in the Community Foundation

The Grants Committee comprises independent and Hilton nominated members, and meets quarterly to discuss applications. There is approximately £100,000 available to distribute each quarter. Completed applications are first assessed by the Foundation office, with a shortlist of approximately 20 of the strongest and regionally representative applications put forward for consideration by the Grants Committee. Applications from each of their four chosen areas are selected for consideration:

- Disabled children
- Children in hospital
- Homelessness
- Life-limited children

If favoured, grant applications for up to £10,000 can be approved by the Committee, and applications for more than £10,000 are recommended to the Trustees for final approval. There is no limit on the amount of money that a charity can request; however, the Foundation generally will not make awards of over £30,000 (per year). Funding can be requested for up to 2 years for any particular project. Reapplications are welcome but unsuccessful applicants are asked not to reapply for at least 12 months from the date of their rejection letter.

Completed applications must be received both electronically and hard copy in order to be considered. Electronic applications should be sent to grant@hilton-foundation.org.uk. Eligible applications received after the deadline will be retained for the next funding round, but incomplete applications will not be accepted. All received applications are acknowledged by email, once the hard copy has been received and logged. For more information, please follow this link: http://www.hilton-foundation.org.uk/application.htm?dm_i=IMP,D1US,3039NF,114XB,1

The next deadline for applications is 5.30pm **3 May 2011**, with the committee meeting on 9 June.

European Social Fund (ESF) – Bedfordshire, excluding Luton

Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough Council invite applications to tender for the delivery of a range of activities under the ESF programme. There are two priority strands for the ESF which have funds attached:

- Extending employment opportunities - £1,727,000
- Developing a skilled and adaptable workforce - £1,900,000

Funding is then split between 15 activity specifications which define where the funders want the activity to take place, who should benefit and the minimum outputs required. Of interest to newsflash readers is the £90,000 for Migrant Employment, to be delivered in the Bedford Borough area. Anyone interested in applying for this funding should follow this link to download the prospectus:

http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/images/Tender%20Specification%20March%202011%20-%20Final_tcm5-38184.pdf Note, the deadline for receipt of applications is **13 May** (noon).

Roma People and the media – invitation to collaborate with an Italian project

Regione Puglia, together with other EU partners co-ordinated by CITTALIA Research Foundation, is currently running a project financed by the DG Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme. The project, “+RESPECT: Increasing Roma People’s Participation and Citizenship Rights: Campaigns and Tools”, aims at raising awareness about Roma issues among EU citizens, through different actions involving schools, public administrations, media www.morespect.eu. The project is organising seminars on the role of media on how to debunk stereotypes about Roma people and build a media approach towards ethical journalism. They would welcome good practices from the media/NGO/Local Authorities implementing interesting and inclusive forms of campaigns and communication in order to fight the dissemination of prejudices against Roma, promoting a fact based approach towards ethical journalism and involving the Roma communities in shaping information. Anyone interested should contact: Salvatore Petronella, Regione Puglia, Tel 0032 2 5010873.

Lifelong language learning – Granada County Council, Spain – partner search

Granada County Council in Spain is looking to develop 3 lifelong learning project proposals:

- Language in Training for Employment Network develops a European structure between public entities, not for profit organisations, workplaces, businesses and training for employment centres that promote innovative methods of language learning in the process of training for integration into work.
- Break Employment Barriers is a transnational project, which aims to promote access to resources for language learning, training programmes for employment and adult education.
- Docentic is a project that aims to develop strategies that promote lifelong learning and mobility of people linked to learning and teaching in Europe, through innovative language learning systems based on NNNTT.

Anyone interested in exploring this partnership opportunity should contact the following: Diputación Provincial de Granada – Granada County Council, Youth, Culture and Local Cooperation Area
Virtudes Perez Ropero e: formacionparaelemplo@dipggra.es t: 34 958 24 72 03 /958 80 49 57

Jobs

Chief Executive UK Border Agency. Up to £175,000. London / Croydon

As Chief Executive the post holder will be accountable for all operational matters relating to border control and the collection of customs duties at the border. S/he will also act as trusted adviser to the Home Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and other senior Ministers and officials. Leading and inspiring a highly dispersed workforce, the successful candidate will ensure the agency delivers on its objectives, underpinned by robust processes and performance management systems.

This is a unique challenge for an outstanding leader with a track record of successful delivery in roles of similar scale and complexity. Candidates need to show experience in large scale operational management and transformational change, will have well developed 'political' antennae, a keen eye for risk management and the ability to thrive under media and parliamentary scrutiny. This is a role of substantial reach and influence. Anyone who feels they have what it takes to lead the UK Border Agency at a time of great change for both the Agency and government is welcome to apply.

Please follow this link for further information and details of how to apply:

http://www.ukbaseniorrecruitment.com/detail/&job_id=1901&offset. The closing date for applications is **19 April**.

Head of International Recruitment and Admissions, University of East Anglia, Norwich £45,336 to £52,556 per annum

The number of international students at the University has doubled in recent years and they now aim to recruit a strong leader to this post. The role holder will be responsible for the international recruitment and admissions strategies to ensure that they continue to attract high quality international students to both their Norwich campus and London study centre.

As the Head of International Recruitment and Admissions the role holder will manage all aspects of recruitment and the admission process for overseas students. The international office comprises the international recruitment team, an international admissions team and the study abroad office. The ideal candidate will have experience of each of these areas, and more specifically will have significant experience of recruiting international students to higher education in the UK, working with international agents and the capability of effectively leading, managing and motivating a professional team.

The postholder must be educated to degree level, or equivalent, or possess equivalent experience. The post also requires outstanding interpersonal skills and intercultural sensitivity, as well as demonstrable capability to build effective networks and working relationships with both colleagues and external contacts. This appointment will be subject to a criminal record check from the CRB. Closing Date: 12 noon on **18 April 2011**. Please follow this link for more information: <http://www.uea.ac.uk/hr/jobs/alc/alc204.htm>

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