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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

IAS case transfer update from the Legal Services Commission

It has been two weeks since the IAS file transfer process began and over a quarter of the 8,140 IAS cases have now been allocated to alternative providers.

The administrator has placed LSC's list of alternative providers on the IAS website and is operating a standard email/fax system for file requests. They have been actively engaging with the LSC to secure the orderly transfer of files to alternative providers.

In addition, revised schedules for work at Immigration Removal Centres have been issued to providers. LSC continue to liaise with the UK Border Agency and with the Judiciary to ensure they are aware of progress being made.

LSC have also started reallocating the matter starts that IAS had not used. In some areas LSC have gone back to the outputs of the 2010 tender exercise and offered new matter starts to those providers who were eligible for a contract in that tender exercise but were either not awarded one due to the level of competition, or were awarded fewer new matter starts than they bid for. Letters have been sent to those providers affected by this.

In other areas LSC will be using the rules for supplementary new matter starts which are already in providers' contracts. Information on those areas where LSC need to do some additional tender activity will appear on LSC website next week.

Further information:

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

Legal Services Commission publishes notices re: expressions of interest - Norfolk Access Point, Suffolk Access Point and the City of Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset Access Point

In their update of 26 July LSC stated that in some areas they may need to consider additional tender activity as a result of IAS entering into administration. On 8 August they published notices and forms relating to expressions of interest to deliver Immigration and Asylum services in the above Access Points. The deadline for responses is 4pm on Monday 15 August 2011.

Further information:

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

Suffolk forms:

[Expression of Interest - Suffolk - Aug 11 \(95kb\)](#)

Norfolk forms:

[Expression of Interest - Norfolk - Aug 11 \(95kb\)](#)

Refugee children at "high risk" of mental health problems

An estimated 18 million children worldwide have been forcibly displaced from their homes because of conflict; a third of those are refugees whose families have fled across international borders, research shows.

To explain the consequences on their mental health, the authors of a study published in the UK journal, The Lancet, undertook a review of all the work on this subject, to see what lessons can be learned for the best way to support refugee and displaced children and their families.

Full text of the study (free registration required):

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2811%2960050-0/fulltext>

Migrant Children's Project update August 2011

The Migrant Children's Project aims to help non-immigration specialist professionals working with asylum seeking, refugee and migrant children find out about this group of children's rights and entitlements. Please contact Kamena Dorling at mcp@essex.ac.uk for more information.

MCP's August update:

<http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/MCPNewsletter>

Migration

Ongoing Migration Advisory Committee projects - August 2011**1. Shortage occupations**

The MAC has recently completed a full review of the shortage occupation lists used in Tiers 1 and 2 of the Points Based System (PBS) for immigration and has submitted its report to the Home Secretary and Minister for Immigration.

2. Settlement

The Government is consulting on work routes leading to settlement (and other issues). In parallel, it has commissioned the MAC to consider the following question in relation to Tiers 1 and 2 of the PBS:

'What would be the economic effects of restricting or removing settlement rights in Tiers 1 and 2 and/or restricting leave to a maximum of 5 years?'

If settlement were to be restricted:

- which economic criteria could be used to identify the most economically important Tier 2 migrants for settlement?

- would there be merit in making allowance for specific skills or occupations as part of the assessment criteria, based on factors including strategic economic importance, provision of key public services, and ensuring that the UK attracts the top global talent?'

The MAC has issued a [call for evidence in relation to this work which can be accessed here:](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/call-for-evidence)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/call-for-evidence>

The firm deadline for submitting evidence to the MAC is **31 August 2011**. The MAC will report to the Government by the end of September 2011.

3. Transitional labour market restrictions on workers from Bulgaria and Romania

Current restrictions on work rights of nationals of Bulgaria and Romania are due to be reviewed by the Government. Under the provisions of the Treaty on Accession, those restrictions may be continued until the end of 2013 in the event of serious labour market disturbance.

To inform the Government's review, the MAC has been asked the following question:

'Is there a serious disturbance, or threat of such a disturbance, to the UK labour market and would maintaining the existing restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian nationals' access to the labour market assist in addressing any such disturbance or threat?'

The MAC has not issued a formal call for evidence on this question, but is happy to receive written views by **mid-September** at the latest. The MAC is aiming to report to the Government in the middle of October 2011.

4. Family migration

The Government is consulting on the family migration route. In parallel, the MAC has been asked the following question:

'What should the minimum income threshold be for sponsoring spouses/partners and dependants in order to ensure that the sponsor can support his/her spouse or civil or other partner and any dependants independently without them becoming a burden on the State?'

The MAC has not issued a formal call for evidence on this question but is happy to receive written views. In order to inform this review any correspondence on this matter needs to be received by **mid-September** at the latest.

The MAC will report to the Government by the end of October 2011.

5. Labour market impacts of migration

The Government has asked the MAC to address the following question:

'To research the labour market, social and public service impacts of non-EEA migration; and to advise on the use of such evidence in cost-benefit analyses of migration policy decisions.'

This work will feed in to the development of future assessments of the impacts of changes to migration policy. The MAC has not issued a formal call for evidence on this question, but is happy to receive written views which will be needed by **mid-October**. The MAC will report to the Government by the end of November 2011.

Evidence and information submitted to the MAC

The MAC operates in a transparent manner, meaning the basis for its recommendations is set out in its reports. Although we appreciate the need for some exchanges to be in confidence, if evidence received cannot be cited, its scope to influence the MAC's recommendations will be limited. Should you submit views on any of the above projects the MAC will assume that you are content for your written evidence to be cited and quoted unless you specifically state otherwise.

Evidence/information relating to any of the above matters can be emailed to the MAC at mac@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Suffolk Strategic Plan for Informal Adult and Community Learning Consultation

The new strategic plan for Informal Adult and Community Learning in Suffolk is currently being developed. If you would like to share your views on the learning needs of those in your community and/or those people your organisation represents, this is your opportunity. The proposed priority curriculum areas are:

- Community engagement and development
- Volunteering
- Health and wellbeing
- Personal development
- ICT and multi-media
- Family learning
- Finance and budgeting
- **English for speakers of other languages**
- Confidence and motivation building
- Sustainability and green agenda
- Independent living skills
- Health Literacy
- Cultural awareness

You can respond by completing the on-line survey that should take no longer than 10 minutes (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SuffolkIACL>). Alternatively you can email your responses to k.brundish@ucs.ac.uk. Please put IACL in the subject line. This consultation is open until 30 September 2011.

Implementing the Overseas Visitors Hospital Charging Regulations 2011

This guidance is for NHS bodies in carrying out their duties under the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2011 to make and recover charges for NHS hospital treatment from overseas visitors not exempt from charge. It also includes guidance to safeguard the health of those not entitled to free hospital treatment. The Regulations came into force on 1 August 2011.

Guidance:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_127393

Tier 1 (Exceptional talent) is now open

The Tier 1 (Exceptional talent) category of the UK's points-based system is now open for applications. The new category is for people who are internationally recognised as world-leading or potential world-leading talent in the fields of science and the arts.

Applications under Tier 1 (Exceptional talent) **must** be made from abroad. You **cannot** apply if you are already in the UK.

UKBA news item:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/august/23-t1et-open>

Further information:

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

Events

'Understanding the Homelessness Transition Fund' webinar; 6 September 2011, 10.30 – 11.30

Interested in applying to the fund? Join this webinar to find out more about who can apply, what you can apply for and to get the chance to ask us questions.

Places are free but space is limited, so make sure you sign-up soon. After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.

To reserve your webinar seat now, click [here](#)

Public law in the context of immigration and asylum cases: a seminar; 15 September 2011, 10:00-13:00; Fin Future, 225-229 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4 2DA

The Migrants' Law Project is hosting a seminar for community groups and NGOs that work with migrants but do not directly provide legal advice and representation.

The purpose of the seminar is to provide general information to groups regarding public law principles as they apply to immigration and asylum cases. It also aims to generate discussion about the way in which these principles may inform how community groups and NGOs can enhance their work with those that use their services.

There is no charge for the seminar

The seminar will be presented by:

Alison Pickup (barrister at Doughty Street Chambers):

http://www.doughtystreet.co.uk/barristers/alison_pickup.cfm and

Sonal Ghelani (solicitor at The Migrants' Law Project, Islington Law Centre)

Topics to be covered include:

- The court and tribunal structure;
- Appealable decisions;
- Non-appealable decisions;
- Alternative remedies to court action;
- General public law principles and grounds of challenge (with reference to asylum and immigration cases);
- Judicial review – when can it be used and what remedies are available?

There will be time for questions and discussion based on case studies. Lawyers that attend may be able to claim CPD points for this seminar. The group of participants will be no more than 15 people. For more information, or to register to attend, please contact Katie Commons at katiec@islingtonlaw.org.uk

Access to Universal Health Care in the Age of Migration - 23 September 2011, London – online booking now open

The event will highlight experiences from NHS services in working to provide migrant communities with health services. The conference will provide an opportunity to discuss country-wide initiatives that are working and whether this good practice can be transferred from one PCT region to others. The conference will draw on the experiences of Newham PCT; an East London borough with a history of receiving a large number of migrants from diverse communities. There will be a specific focus on the wide range of issues that PCTs are currently dealing with and the challenges of the immediate future when good practice will have to be taken on by other commissioning bodies.

Online booking:

<http://health4migrants.eventbrite.com/?ref=ebtn>

Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants - EU immigration law beginner/intermediate course; 27 September 2011, London, 1-5pm

The course will look in detail at European Union Law, UK domestic regulations and the Immigration Rules that apply to EU Citizens and their families. Directive 2004/38/EC and the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 will be considered.

The course is intended to assist lawyers and other adviser who encounter issues of EU law and policy in relation to their immigration caseloads. Primarily intended as a general introduction to the area, it will also touch upon recent developments in law and policy which will be of benefit to more experienced case workers at an intermediate level.

The course will include case studies and a quick quiz, as well as a workshop session. There will also be opportunities for discussion and sharing of best practice.

Further information:

<http://www.jcwi.org.uk/training/Training+Courses/European+Rights+of+Free+Movement/EU+Immigration+Law+Beginner+Intermediate>

Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants - EU immigration law: EU rights of residence advanced/intermediate course; 19 October 2011, London, 1-5pm

This course is for those with a basic working knowledge of EU free movement law who want to develop and extend their practice to assist their clients. The emphasis is firmly on the case law of European Court of Justice, the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal and the Upper Tribunal.

The course is intended to assist lawyers and advisors who already have a working knowledge of EU law and a basic grasp of EU law will be necessary for those attending. The course will include case studies and a quick quiz, as well as workshop session. There will also be opportunities for discussion and sharing of best practice.

Further information:

<http://www.jcwi.org.uk/training/Training+Courses/European+Rights+of+Free+Movement/EU+Immigration+Law+EU+Rights+of+Residence+Advanced+Intermediate>

Funding

Refugees into teaching - new information sheet with general funding organisations

There are a range of small and larger charitable trusts which can offer help for those who wish to study or are currently on a course. The amounts of money they have available vary, and applying does not mean you will be selected, but some do fund refugees and asylum seekers as a priority.

List of funders (correct as of July 2011):

<http://www.rit.refugeecouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/Grant%20giving%20organisations%20-%20General%20July%202011.pdf>

Jobs

Part time Finance Administrator at the Migrants' Rights Network

MRN is recruiting for a finance administrator, to join their team in October. The position is part-time, 14 hours a week, which can be worked flexibly to suit the post-holder. The deadline for applications is **26 August**.

To find out more about the position and how to apply, please go to:

<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/news/2011/vacancy-part-time-finance-administrator-mrn>

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