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

Asylum Seekers and Refugees

'Fast and fair?' - A report by the Parliamentary Ombudsman on the UK Border Agency

The Parliamentary Ombudsman, Ann Abraham published a report on the UK Border Agency on 9 February 2010. The Agency have consistently generated a large number of complaints to the Ombudsman. In the first nine months of 2009-10 the Ombudsman received 478 complaints about the Agency and reported on 33 investigations of which 97% were upheld in full or in part. *'Fast and Fair?'* includes eleven case studies that reflect the large number and wide range of complaints referred to the Ombudsman by Members of Parliament. The cases involve applications for asylum, as well as the Agency's core immigration and nationality work and applications for residence cards, which confirm rights of residence under European law.

Press release:

http://www.ombudsman.org.uk/news/press_releases/pr2010_03.html

Report:

<http://www.ombudsman.org.uk/pdfs/UKBA-2010-02-09.pdf>

UKBA's response to the report:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/February/response-to-ombudsman-report>

Disappearing, departing, running away: A surfeit of children in Europe?

A study carried out in Belgium, France, Spain and Switzerland on the disappearances of unaccompanied foreign minors placed in institutions.

Report:

http://www.crin.org/docs/Disappearing_children.pdf

National reports on the situation of Unaccompanied Minors in EU Member States

<http://emn.sarenet.es/Downloads/prepareShowFiles.do?directoryID=115>.

Migration

Tougher rules for foreign students

Foreign students from outside Europe wanting to come to the UK to study will be required to meet stricter entry criteria, the Home Secretary announced today.

The new regulations will ensure that students studying below degree level have a limited ability to work in the UK, and that their dependants cannot work here at all.

Press release:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/February/tougher-rules-for-foreign-stud>

Written ministerial statement – tier 4 student visas

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/news/wms-tier-4-student>

Charging for immigration and nationality services 2010-11

On 10 February 2010 the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration, Phil Woolas, laid regulations in Parliament for the fees for immigration and nationality services that are set at levels at or below the normal administrative costs of the service.

Press release:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/February/07-charging-immigration-services>

UK Border Agency publishes responses to consultation on points test for citizenship

The UK Border Agency has published a formal analysis of the responses to its 2009 public consultation 'Earning the right to stay: a new points test for citizenship'.

Press release:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/February/06-points-for-cit-responses>

Analysis of the responses:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/earning-the-right-to-stay/earning-the-right-to-stay/analysis-responses.pdf?view=Binary>

Workers on the Move 2: European migrant workers and health in the UK

Keystone and META (Mobile Europeans Taking Action) have undertaken a considerable amount of work, supported by research, to better understand the needs of migrant workers arriving in the area. However, their health needs, concerns and issues are not yet well understood, nor is the potential impact of new arrivals on local services. Consequently, the health sector is failing to meet the needs of this group.

Research currently conducted by Keystone will aim to further our understanding of those needs, as well as migrant workers' experiences and perceptions of local health services. The project will also consider migrant workers' uptake of and attitudes towards health promotion activities, and will examine the relevance to this group of projects such as Change4Life and the Healthy Town programme – as well as exploring alternative ways of reaching these new communities.

This discussion paper, which represents the first stage of the research, is intended as a contribution to the literature and a means to gather feedback from academics, policy makers and practitioners across the UK.

Workers on the Move 2 report:

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/GetAsset.aspx?id=fAAzADYANwA4AHwAfABGAGEAbABzAGUAfAB8ADAAfAA1>

Health Inequalities and Migrants

In January the East of England Brussels Office hosted a seminar jointly with the ERLAI network (European Regional and Local Authorities for Asylum and Immigration) on Health Inequalities and migrants. The Event saw contributions from European Commission officials, Health networks, and regional examples of practice from the UK and Sweden. For more details and copies of the presentations please contact Jackie Eveleigh at

Jackie.eveleigh@east-of-england.eu

Events

Addressing high levels of unemployment of migrants who are third-country nationals - 25 February 2010

The IMPACT Project Approach - Free National Seminar; Birmingham

The IMPACT project (Integrating Migrants through the Provision of Adaptability and Competence Training) aimed to address the problem of high rates of unemployment among particular groups of third-country nationals legally residing in the EU. This event will present the results of the transnational IMPACT project, the UK element of which was carried out in partnership between NIACE and Leicester City Council.

The seminar aims to:

Present the information about the employment situation of third-country nationals.

Examine ways in which employment services can respond to the skills assessment and recognition of third country nationals, and provide appropriate and effective information, advice and guidance.

Present and review the training resource.

Who should attend?

The seminar is aimed at policy makers, service provision managers and frontline practitioners from a range of organisations involved in education, training and employment support for adults.

Event Information

Arrival and registration is at 10am for a 10:30am start. The event will end at 3:30pm and includes lunch, tea/coffee.

Attendance is free to the target audience.

Enquiries to Gurjit Kaur in the Events Team - tel: 0116 204 2833; e-mail: gurjit.kaur@niace.org.uk

Further information and booking details:

<http://www.niace.org.uk/campaigns-events/events/addressing-unemployment-migrants>

Delivering equality in the English Regions – 3 March 2010

11.00am – 3.30pm (Registration from 10.00am), Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre, 108 Stamford Street, London, SE1 9NH

The English Regions Equality and Human Rights Network (EREN) invites you to attend an exciting one-day conference: 'Delivering Equality in the English Regions: Opportunities and Challenges'.

Aimed at equality and human rights practitioners from the English regions, the conference will feature leading speakers from the equality and human rights field explaining what you should be doing to prepare for the Equality Bill. There will also be workshops to showcase 'good practice' equality and human rights work from the English regions, providing a space for sharing ideas, learning and future collaboration. This event is free.

Conference flyer:

<http://www.eren.org.uk/content/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/Delivering-Equality-in-the-English-Regions-FLYER.pdf>

Booking form:

<http://www.eren.org.uk/content/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/EREN-event-booking-form.doc>

Yes, we can! – creating a modern and diverse workforce conference – 4 March 2010

9.30 am to 4.30 pm; Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury

We aim to bring together key decision makers, opinion formers and practitioners in local government and the wider public sector. They will share information on strategies in use to enhance the career prospects of workers from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds.

The conference will begin with a presentation from Marie Claude-Gervaise from ETHNOS, specialists in ethnic minorities research, on recent research done in this area. We will then have an interactive panel discussion to examine the opinions from key thinkers.

A series of workshops will then allow delegates to get practical tips in taking this area forward. Simon Woolley, Commissioner for Race at the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), will talk about what he has learnt from the day and what a representative workforce means for the public sector.

The conference is free for local government and partner organisation officers and members.

To book your place or for further information, contact:

Liz Gardiner; Project Coordinator – Equalities and Cohesion; telephone: 020 7296 6872

email: elizabeth.gardiner@idea.gov.uk

Further information:

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=16633112>

EU Roma Projects Conference in Brussels 10-11 March

The Directorate-General for Education and Culture is organising this conference to discuss the involvement and impact of EU programmes with the Roma minority. It is based on a selection of best examples of projects related to the Roma people all funded through various European Commission programmes. This initiative is part of efforts to better disseminate and build upon the results of programmes and as such it marks a substantial contribution to the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

In parallel to the conference a seminar of experts on Roma culture is taking place and also an exhibition of 21 interesting and successful projects.

Further information:

<http://roma-conference.eu/web/roma/home>

Communities and Local Government Workshops in Birmingham on 3 March in Durham on 12 March and in Cambridgeshire on 22 March 2010

What can the housing sector do to help local communities get along? How can the housing sector work together to strengthen community cohesion? What is your housing association, local authority or agency doing to promote interaction between residents from different backgrounds?

Communities and Local Government is hosting a series of workshops that will explore these and many other questions. The Department for Communities and Local Government recognises the pivotal role the housing

sector plays in fostering relations between the diverse residents who make up their local communities. The workshops are aimed at housing associations, local authorities and tenant groups and will:

- investigate the benefits to be gained from delivering activities that encourage residents to interact e.g. greater intergenerational interaction, tackling anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime
- provide an opportunity to discover and share new approaches to foster interaction; and
- look to establish sustainable links and peer-group working across the housing sector.

The workshops will comprise of 5 regional one-day events. The first two were held on 27 November and 4 December 2009 in East London, supported by the Old Ford Housing Association. The next one will be held on Wednesday **3 March** in Birmingham, supported by the Ashram Housing Association, on Friday **12 March** in Durham, supported by the Fabrik Housing Association and on Monday **22 March** in Cambridgeshire, supported by the Papworth Trust. The Department would like to invite applications from across the housing sector; we would particularly welcome representatives from housing associations.

We would also encourage 'pairing' applications [those with responsibility within your organisation for shaping cohesion policy attending with a colleague responsible for its delivery e.g. Development Officers or a resident from the housing association who has experience of supporting the delivery of your policies]. Communities and Local Government believe that this will help to establish the links between future strategic and delivery strategy.

The workshops will be free to attend and lunch will be provided. If you would like to attend either of these workshops please contact Anne Wilkins, Cohesion and Migration Directorate, email: Anne.wilkins@communities.gsi.gov.uk or tel no: 0303 444 2047. Please also nominate a colleague who is able to attend in your place should you be unavailable. Applications will close on Monday **22 February** for Birmingham, Wednesday **3 March** for Durham and Friday **12 March** for Cambridgeshire.

Tackling the Trafficking of Women and Children Conference – 22 April 2010

Central London

This conference brings together key stakeholders to disseminate best practice in dealing with all forms of human trafficking and offers a frontline perspective on progress being made in the three key areas of trafficking - prevention, prosecution and protection.

This event will give delegates the opportunity to examine how organisations can work together to raise awareness and prevent trafficking in the UK. Attend to stay up to date with new strategies for eliminating this relentless crime which continues to plague communities.

Places can be booked on this event either by filling out and returning the booking form on the final page of the conference brochure, or by e-mailing the delegate details directly to david.moffat@capita.co.uk.

Conference brochure:

http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/fileadmin/user_upload/brochures/TSDM_Trafficking.pdf

"The Future of Services for Children Seeking Asylum - Best Practice and Support" Conference - 22 April 2010

Care Matters Partnership, in association with The Refugee Council is pleased to announce the launch of a conference entitled "The Future of Services for Children Seeking Asylum- Best Practice and Support" on 22nd April 2010 in Central London. This will be the first public conference focusing on children in the care system seeking asylum since the Supreme Court decision on age and the new duty on the UKBA through the BCI Act. Despite a strong commitment and some excellent work in this area statistics show that unaccompanied asylum seeking children are still far more likely to be victims of organised crime, struggle within the education system and experience emotional ill health. These are issues of high importance which are only further exacerbated by the fact that care provided is often inconsistent according to geographical area. Although it is recognised that immigration and funding issues remain a barrier for integration, it still often remains the case that asylum decisions override the care planning process.

This unique one day conference offers delegates the opportunity to explore the future role sector professionals will play in ensuring that children seeking asylum within the UK are provided with the best possible start in life. It will facilitate professionals to develop the expertise they need, ranging from good placement planning through to effective implementation. We will hear from trailblazing local authorities, policy makers, frontline practitioners and academic experts who will inform on best practice development and future strategy. The programme is designed to be interactive, encouraging good debate and exchange of ideas.

Fees:

Public sector £359; charity rate £249; private sector £399; student rate £99
Place your booking before 19 February and receive a £50 early bird discount
To book:

Email: bookings@carematterspartnership.co.uk

Online: [Online booking form](#)

Telephone: 020 3393 7307; fax: 020 3393 7378

Send a form by post to:

Care Matters Partnership, Unit 2 Skylines, Limeharbour, Canary Wharf, London, E14 9TS

Further information:

<http://www.carematterspartnership.co.uk/index.php/solutions/conferences-training/event/the-future-of-services-for-asylum-seeking-children-best-practice-and-suppor>

Funding

The Volant Charitable Trust has announced the next deadline for applications

The Trust supports registered charities whose purpose is to alleviate poverty and social deprivation with particular emphasis on children and women's issues.

There is no stated minimum or maximum grant size, however most grants are given for more than £100,000 to large national charities but some smaller grants are given to local and regional charities.

Revenue and capital costs can be funded, including equipment, premises, core costs and salaries.

The next deadline is Friday **30 July 2010**.

Volant Charitable Trust website:

<http://www.volanttrust.com>

Jobs

There are no job updates in this edition

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