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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

Refugees and asylum seekers: A review from an equality and human rights perspective

This report from the Equalities and Human Rights Commission examines the situation of asylum seekers and refugees from an equality and human rights perspective. The vulnerability and ill health of asylum-seeking and refugee children is an area of particular concern, as are the health needs of older refugees. There are also concerns around the provision of healthcare to asylum seekers in detention with communicable diseases and with HIV/AIDS.

Press release:

<http://www.ght.org.uk/news/article/38754/09/03/2010/Asylum - Human Rights Ignored>

Report:

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/refugees_and_asylum_seekers_research_report.pdf

Refugees' route to citizenship

The UK Border Agency has announced that refugees and migrants with humanitarian protection in the UK will be allowed to apply for settlement and British citizenship under the current rules if their initial five-year permission to stay here will end between August 2010 and the date when the 'earned citizenship' system comes into force (scheduled for July 2011).

Press release:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/22-refugees-citizenship>

New briefing by Refugee Action on asylum support cuts

This briefing highlights the everyday hardship faced by people trying to survive on asylum support.

Refugee Action briefing:

http://www.refugee-action.org/documents/AsylumSupport_Refugee%20ActionFeb2010.pdf

Refugee Action leaflets for asylum seekers in various languages

Refugee Action produces a number of leaflets providing advice to asylum seekers and those working with asylum seekers in a wide range of languages. Currently the following leaflets are available: 'Section 4 support (general)', 'Support options after a final asylum refusal', 'Offence of being undocumented', 'Sodexo helpline' and 'Refugee women: know your rights'.

Leaflets can be downloaded from the following website:

<http://www.refugee-action.org/information/downloads.aspx#section4general#section4general>

Migrant Children's Project update March 2010

The Migrant Children's Project (previously Refugee and Asylum Seeking Children's Project) aims to help non-immigration specialist professionals working with asylum seeking and refugee children find out about this group of children's rights and entitlements.

March update:

<http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/newsletter/Migrant+Childrens+Project+Update+March+2010>

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children: Privacy, Consent and Data Protection

This report from the Action for Rights of Children focuses on the way in which the data of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children is handled, and whether information-sharing practices conform to data protection and human rights requirements. The first section considers current practice and the law; the second examines the systems and processes used to support information storage and sharing.

Press release:

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/ByDiscipline/Social-Care/988850/Councils-flout-asylum-data-laws>

Report:

<http://www.archrights.org.uk/docs/ARCH%20UASCreport%20100215FINAL.pdf>

Migration

New immigration fees from 6 April 2010

Following Parliamentary approval, the new immigration fees announced on 20 January and 10 February 2010 will be introduced from Tuesday 6 April 2010 for all those applying to study, visit, work in or stay in the UK.

Press release:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/255022/20-immigration-fees-april-2010>

New immigration fees table:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/news/new-immigration-fees>

A new short study - "Inclusion Health" - outlines how improvements in health care for the most excluded groups in society can be accelerated to ensure high quality services are available to all.

The joint study by the Department for Health and the Social Exclusion Task Force in the Cabinet Office, published on 11 March, examined how well the primary health care needs of vulnerable groups are being met. It concluded that considerable progress has been made, but also highlighted that socially excluded groups often have complex needs and require a sophisticated and flexible response from service providers. "Inclusion Health" sets out to address this.

Press release:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social_exclusion_task_force/short_studies/health-care.aspx

Inclusion Health – full text:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/346571/inclusion-health.pdf>

Evidence pack:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/346574/inclusion-health-evidencepack.pdf>

Events

Gaza One Year on – the Gaza Freedom March

Film show, slide show and discussion on the Gaza Freedom March and therapeutic outreach within the Gaza Strip

Venue: Crown Room, Wensum Lodge, 169 King Street, Norwich NR1 1QW

Wednesday **24 March**, 7.30 pm,

Over the Christmas and New Year period, Peter Offord, an art therapist and local councillor participated in the Gaza Freedom March, conceived in the spirit of Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. Its aims were to break the siege by joining the people of Gaza and take in educational supplies and aid. Only 88 of the 1300 participants were allowed into Gaza whilst the rest were prevented by the intervention of the Egyptian government. Peter, who was carrying art supplies for the Palestine Trauma Centre in Gaza, was one of those allowed to enter. He joined the Freedom March with other internationals, orthodox Jews and the Palestinian people in the march towards the Israeli controlled Erez crossing. Once there, the aim was to join with a contingent from the Israeli side to call for an end to the 2 year siege.

Peter will show the video he made of the experience and place this within context by a slide show.

All welcome. Admission free.

For details contact Frank 01493 664499 or Peter 07757 752 485

Parking at Wensum Lodge or Rouen Road car park

Are you developing or working on a project that benefits minority groups or focuses on faith? Norwich City Council is organising an Event for Community Groups

4.30-7.30pm on Wednesday **31 March** at City Hall, Norwich

Workshops

- From Idea to Action – how to develop your idea
- Evidencing the need for your project or activity
- Monitoring & evaluating your project

Meet the funders

- Local, regional and national funders attending

Networking opportunities

- Meet City Council staff to discuss issues in the community and in your work
- Meet and share with individuals and groups from Norwich

Useful information on developing your project and bid available

- Leaflets, contacts and ideas to take away with you

This event is free but booking is essential by 24 March 2010

Early Bird Offer: The first 10 to register will be offered a free ½ hour consultation for your group to develop and strengthen your work.

For more information contact: Emma Penfold, Norwich City Council, Tel: 01603 212381

emmapenfold@norwich.gov.uk

World Class Commissioning & Migrant Health Conference

Monday **14 June 2010**, 9.00 am – 2.00 pm

Centre for Life, Newcastle upon Tyne

The people of migrant communities in the North East face a range of issues when they try to access health services in the North East, including language, culture and knowledge of entitlement. This conference, organised by the North East Strategic Migration Partnership's Migrant Health Group and sponsored by the North East Public Health Observatory aims to examine the experience of migrant communities and consider the commissioning skills needed to support diverse and mobile migrant communities.

Expert speakers and facilitators will explore with participants some of the key issues for ensuring effective service delivery:

- Needs assessment and information
- Choice: specialist – v - generalist provision
- Access to Services – including DH consultation on new rules
- Monitoring for quality and equality
- Migrant workforce in health and social care
- Cultural competence training

The conference is free, and a full conference programme will be published shortly. Demand is expected to be high, so please register your interest if you would like to attend.

To pre-register please email: paula.cummings@newcastlepartnership.org.uk using Migrant Health Conference as the subject line.

Refugee Council upcoming training dates

27 April - Working with refugee and asylum seeking children in schools

28 April - End of Process: support for asylum seekers who have been refused asylum

29 April - Working with interpreters

30 April - Emotional wellbeing of refugee children and young people

13 May - Cultural Aspects of working with refugees and asylum seekers

17 May - Asylum seekers, refugees and migrants: Entitlement to housing and other services 18 May - An introduction to working with unaccompanied children

19 May - Age assessment awareness and working with age-disputed young people

20 May - The Refugee Council Therapeutic Casework Model: Supporting clients with mental wellbeing needs

21 June - Key issues in asylum

22 June - An introduction to asylum support

Please note for all courses scheduled from 1st April 2010 onwards the course costs will be as follows: £109 (NGO/voluntary org.) £175 (statutory/educational body/business)

Further information:

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/eventsandtraining/training/service/fulldetails>

Booking form:

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/Resources/Refugee%20Council/downloads/Training%20Booking%20Form%202010.pdf>

Funding

DAPHNE III - Programme to prevent and combat violence against children, young people and women, and to protect victims and groups at risk - Action Grants Call for 2009 and 2010

Please note that this call for proposals is based on the Daphne III annual work programmes for 2009 and 2010 and combines the priorities as well as the resources available for both years. Therefore approximately twice the usual funding will be available amounting to an indicative €28,990,560. It is therefore expected that a higher number of projects will be funded than in previous calls.

The Call's Priorities:

- Street and peer violence
- Media violence
- Corporal punishment of children
- Capacity building of law enforcement agents and legal practitioners related to intimate partner violence
- Field work at grass-roots level

Projects submitted outside these priorities will be evaluated according to the same criteria as other projects, but their assessment will take into account that they are not in conformity with the priorities of this work programme

Projects require a minimum partnership of 2 organisations from different EU member states.

These organisations must be non-profit-making - bodies and organisations which are profit-oriented can have access to grants under the Programme only as partners if justified by the nature of the action. Projects must be of either 12 or 24 months duration

Grants awarded under the call will range from € 75,000 to € 300,000 for 12-month projects, and from € 150,000 to € 600,000 for 24-month projects. Grants may constitute a maximum of 80% of overall eligible project cost. The projects should start in the first half of 2011.

Budget: € 28,990,560

Deadlines: The deadline for submitting proposals via the PRIAMOS on-line application is **30 April 2010**

Further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/daphne3/funding_daphne3_en.htm

Jobs

Community Development Worker

22.5 hours per week; £18,210 pro rata

West Norfolk Mind are looking for an outstanding individual to take the lead in improving the mental healthcare experience and outcomes of the Black and Minority Ethnic population of West Norfolk.

The post, which will embrace community, statutory and voluntary partnership working, will champion education and training within the BME community aimed at building the skills and confidence that it needs to identify and manage mental distress.

The successful candidate will have an in-depth knowledge of mental health issues relating to Black & Minority Ethnic communities in Norfolk, as well as experience of working collaboratively with a variety of agencies and professionals in health and social care.

For an informal chat: please make contact with David Penniston or Eddie West-Burnham on 01553 776966.

Closing date for applications: midday on **19 March 2010**

For an application pack, please phone Jo or Louise on 01553 776966.

If you have had this passed on to you and you want to receive e-mail updates yourself, you can subscribe by emailing malgorzata.strona@eera.gov.uk

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