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The Newsflash is a monthly 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 by the East of England Local Government Association - Strategic Migration Partnership.

Asylum Seekers and Refugees - including Syrian resettlement

Home Office announcement - over 10,500 refugees resettled in the UK

The UK is more than half way towards meeting its commitment to resettle 20,000 people through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) by 2020. The VPRS is just one of the routes by which the UK is helping to resettle refugees. In 2017, 6,212 people were resettled in the UK, with 4,832 of these people coming through the VPRS. 539 people arrived under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme that will resettle up to 3,000 at-risk children and their families from the Middle East and North Africa region by 2020. Please follow this link to read the announcement in full: [over-10000-refugees-resettled-in-the-uk-under-flagship-scheme](#)

Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration - inspection report published: Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

In this inspection, the Chief Inspector looked specifically at the Home Office's handling of unaccompanied asylum seeking children, and in particular at how it ensured that the 'best interests' of the child were properly considered throughout the asylum process. This included how those interests were met for those children transferred from one Local Authority area to another under the National Transfer Scheme. This report contains two recommendations, although each breaks down into several parts. He concludes that overall, there is a considerable amount of work for the Home Office to do. Please follow this link to access the report in full, plus the Home Office's response: [inspection-report-published-unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children](#)

An updated National Transfer Scheme Protocol released by the Home Office and Department for Education

The protocol was created to enable the safe transfer of unaccompanied children from one local authority to another. The transfer protocol is intended to ensure that unaccompanied children can access the services and support they need. It forms the basis of a voluntary agreement made between local authorities in England to ensure a more even distribution of unaccompanied asylum seeking children across local authorities. Please follow this link to access the protocol: <http://adcs.org.uk/safeguarding/article/national-uasc-transfer-protocol>

The Home Office Immigration Statistics and the ONS Migration statistics released

This latest data released covers the period ending December 2017. A summary of the statistics are as follows:

- For the year ending December 2017 there were 14,767 grants of asylum or alternative forms of protection in the UK.

- The number of asylum applications in the UK from main applicants decreased by 14% to 26,350
- 4,832 Syrian nationals were provided protection under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS), making 10,538 Syrians resettled since the scheme began in 2014.
- There were 2,206 asylum applications from UASCs, a 32.9% decrease compared to 2016

Please follow this link to access the data – see section 8 for asylum data:

ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/migrationstatisticsquarterlyreport/february2018

News from Refugee Council - MPs vote to reunite refugee families torn apart by conflict

MPs voted in favour of changing the law to help families divided by conflict to be reunited in Britain. The vote followed campaigning by the Refugee Council and the 20+ other organisations from the #FamiliesTogether coalition. The Refugee Family Reunion Bill received cross-party backing from 129 MPs, taking it a step closer to becoming law. The proposed new law would enable refugees who have sought safety in the UK to be joined by their close relatives, including children who have turned 18 and elderly parents. It would reintroduce legal aid to help refugee families with their applications. It would give refugee children who arrive in the UK alone the right to sponsor their families to join them here. Please follow this link to read the story in full:

refugeecouncil.org.uk/latest/news/mps_vote_to_reunite_refugee_families_torn_apart_by_conflict

Get better at sharing expertise or face failure on refugees, new MPI report warns EU states

European countries must adopt a more strategic approach when offering support to one another to resettle refugees if they hope to meet goals laid out by the EU, the Migration Policy Institute Europe argues in a new report. MPI's researchers interviewed officials from across the EU, the United States and Canada and found weaknesses in their efforts to share expertise. Their projects often had no defined goals or way of measuring success and little attention was paid to whether individual participants were well matched. Yet the report, [Scaling up Refugee Resettlement in Europe: The role of institutional peer support](#), argues that when starting out or expanding resettlement programmes, governments are dependent on support from other countries—whether through email exchanges or conversations at the side of meetings, or formal conferences and study visits. Well-designed peer-support projects can motivate countries to increase resettlement and share vital information, help peers translate theory into practice, build positive relationships and inspire innovation within resettlement systems.

Coram Children's Legal Centre – Migrant Children's Newsletter issued for March 2018

This edition examines the impact of the increase in fees for immigration and nationality applications. It looks at how the higher cost will make it more difficult for people to regularise their immigration status. There is a link to a fact sheet on the new immigration bail provisions and their impact on people without leave to remain in the UK. There is information about child trafficking and modern slavery defences for children thanks to project run jointly with Youth Justice Legal Centre. There are also links to forthcoming training, the latest reports and other migrant related news items in the mainstream media. Please follow this link to access the [march-newsletter](#)

PARCA, Peterborough, launches new website

Please follow this link to the new website that highlights the work of this refugee and asylum seeker support agency in Peterborough: <https://www.parcald.org/>

Refugees: updated guidance about DWP services

This is an online version of a leaflet the Home Office gives to refugees when they are granted leave to remain. It explains DWP services such as help looking for work and how to claim benefits and pensions. The guidance updates the list of documents refugees must take to Jobcentre Plus interviews. Please follow this link to access the new guidance: </government/publications/refugees-guidance-about-benefits-and-pensions>

Migration

Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) - EEA workers in the UK labour market: interim update

The Government's MAC has published an interim update on EEA workers in the UK labour market, summarising the responses from employers to a call for evidence. The update sets out a summary of the views expressed by employers about why they employ EEA migrants and what might happen if a more restrictive migration policy was introduced. It also sets out the regional issues raised. Please follow this link to access the report: [eea-workers-in-the-uk-labour-market-interim-update](#)

The ONS Migration statistics released

In the year ending September 2017:

- Net migration to the UK was 244,000 which is 29,000 less than the previous year
- Net migration of EU citizens has fallen by 75,000 compared to the previous year
- The total number of people coming to work in the UK was 248,000

Please follow this link for the full set of data: [nationalmigration/migrationstatisticsquarterlyreport/february2018](#)

The Integrated Communities Strategy green paper released by MHCLG

The Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government are inviting views on the government's proposals for building better integrated communities in the UK. MHCLG want to hear from individuals, communities and organisations about the most effective ways to address integration challenges. This strategy also signals a new localised approach to integration which will initially be trialled in five local authority areas including Peterborough in the East of England. Please follow this link for more information about the green paper: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/integrated-communities-strategy-green-paper>. The consultation closes at 11:45pm on **5 June 2018** and responses can be sent online, or through a form sent to e: IntegrationStrategy@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Government guidance to enable EU citizens to stay informed about impact on them of UK's withdrawal from the EU

EU citizens in the UK will start to see digital adverts helping EU citizens to 'Stay Informed'. The adverts will point towards official sources of information on [GOV.UK](#). In December, the UK Government reached an agreement with the European Union. This agreement will protect EU citizens' rights after the UK leaves the EU and will enable them to continue to live as now. It also covers family members. The Government has published further details of the agreement on the page, [Status of EU citizens in the UK: what you need to know](#). To secure their rights, EU citizens will need to go through a simple digital application process which will confirm their status in the UK for as long as they want to stay. The Government is going to begin that process later this year to get everyone through in good time. Applications will be open for at least two years after the UK leaves the EU. There will be more details on the scheme in the coming months. Meanwhile, EU citizens can also [sign up to receive email updates](#) directly from the Government.

GYROS integration advice services to newcomers in Norfolk and Suffolk

GYROS offer free rights based information, advice & guidance on a range of issues including but not limited to: Housing – Welfare – Health – Education - Immigration Advice (OISC Level 2 accredited) - Debt (FCA Accredited). Their advisers are multi-lingual, impartial and professionally qualified. They are available to give advice in: Lowestoft every Tuesday (morning appointments, afternoon drop-in) at 115 High Street NR32 1HN
Brandon every alternate Fridays from 10:00 to 16:00 at the Brandon Centre, Bury Road IP27 0BQ
Bury St Edmunds alternate Fridays 11:00 to 16:00 at the Methodist Church on Brentgovel Street IP33 1EB
Ipswich every Saturday (morning appointments, afternoon drop-in) at Volunteering Matters, The Old Crown Court, Civic Drive IP1 2DX.

The Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration - inspection report published on the 'Right to Rent' scheme

This inspection focused on the measures introduced in relation to 'Residential Tenancies'. These were aimed at preventing persons disqualified by immigration status from renting accommodation. The key difference between the "Right to Rent (RtR)" scheme and the measures inspected earlier is that, instead of government agencies or officials, it relies on compliance with the legislation by private citizens, that is landlords. Overall, he found that the RtR scheme had yet to demonstrate its worth as a tool to encourage immigration compliance, with the Home Office failing to coordinate, maximise or measure its use, while at the same time doing little to address the concerns of stakeholders. Please follow this link to access the report and recommendations in full: [inspection-report-published-right-to-rent](#). Please follow this link to access the response from the Home Office: [response-to-the-report-on-an-inspection-of-the-right-to-rent-scheme](#)

Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum (CECF) launches new ESOL classes

From April, CECF will be engaging new ESOL learners and volunteer tutors to deliver the Talk English project, funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The project is designed to help people to improve their English and get involved in the wider community. Learners have to have been in the UK for over a year, be at Pre-Entry or Entry Level 1 and not eligible for other free ESOL provision. Isolated women are a priority, but the courses are open to all who meet the criteria. They will use resources provided by MAES to help learners through various modules, e.g. introducing oneself to make friends, daily life, food shopping, health, and learning about the local area, and extending literacy and numeracy. Course learning is enhanced by activities, e.g. visiting a library, going to a shop to practice the food shopping, etc. These activities are provided so that learners can meet others and practise their spoken English. <https://www.talk-english.co.uk/manchester/>

NRPF Network reports on impact of new Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

The new legislation provides local authorities with an opportunity to contribute to alleviating migrant destitution. Although people with no recourse to public funds will not be eligible for homelessness assistance under the Housing Act 1996, local authorities must ensure that information and advice about homelessness prevention and alternative support options is made available to everyone in the area. This will include how to access [social services' support](#), which is provided to prevent destitution when families, vulnerable adults and young people leaving care are excluded from mainstream welfare support by their immigration status. Please follow this link to read the article in full: nrpfnetwork.org.uk/homelessness-reduction-act.aspx

Restrictions on Croatian workers to expire in June

Legally, the UK could extend the controls for a final 2 years if there was clear evidence that removing the controls would lead to a serious labour market disturbance. The Government has considered the evidence and, with low unemployment, high levels of employment of UK nationals and the Eurozone and Croatia forecast to grow strongly over the next 2 years, concluded the economic case for an extension could not be made. The current restrictions have meant that, unless an exemption applied, Croatians needed permission from the Home Office to work in the UK. Please follow this link for more information: government/news/restrictions-on-croatian-workers-to-expire-in-june

NRPF Network reports on how will the Children and Social Work Act 2017 affect migrant children

Provisions of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, which enhance local authority duties that apply to looked after children and care leavers, [come into force](#) in England on 1 April 2018. Following a [consultation](#), the government has published [statutory guidance](#), which sets out how these new duties should be implemented. The NRPF Network considers how these changes are likely to affect the support given to looked after migrant children and care leavers, including unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Please follow this link to read the guidance in full: nrpfnetwork.org.uk/children-social-work-act-2017.aspx

Home Office issues example case studies: EU citizens' rights in the UK after the UK leaves the EU

After the UK leaves the EU, EU citizens' residence status in the UK will depend on how long they have lived here and whether they arrived by the end of the implementation period on 31 December 2020, following our exit from the EU. Please follow this link to access the case studies provided and a link to further information about the UK government's offer to EU citizens: [example-case-studies-eu-citizens-rights-in-the-uk](#)

Events

Qualitative Research Methods Symposium - Understanding Migration: how can qualitative research methods help? – 12 April, Norwich

This symposium is taking place from 10:00 to 16:00 at the Julian Study Centre at the University of East Anglia. Migration both shapes and challenges the world we live in and as a field of research is of global importance. Qualitative research methods can be used to explore and debate issues related to the migration experience and the representation of migrants but this presents both opportunities as well as methodological and ethical challenges. The symposium will provide a supportive environment in which to consider the role of qualitative methodologies in migration research. Please follow this link for more information and to register: uea.ac.uk/health-sciences/events/qualitative-research-methods-symposium-2018

Inclusion of Migrants with Irregular Status: a Role for Cities – 12 April, webinar

This webinar will take place from 3pm BST. A growing number of cities in Europe are taking steps to connect irregular ('undocumented') migrants and their families to essential services. Sarah Spencer from, COMPAS, University of Oxford, draws on the work of the C-MISE Project (City Initiative for Migrants with Irregular Status in Europe) to explain why and share some of the creative ways that local authorities have found to provide services, protect the vulnerable and build inclusive cities. Join Sarah, and Jan Braat from the City of Utrecht to learn about C-MISE findings, recommendations and to explore Utrecht's commitment to be a 'Human Rights City', the policies and practices it has developed to ensure undocumented residents have access to 'Bed, Bath and Bread' as well as health care, employment, education and legal advice. Please follow this link for more information and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/webinar-inclusion-of-migrants-with-irregular-status-a-role-for-cities-registration-43974957281>

Roma Support Group training course on working with Roma in Safeguarding Context - 19 April, London

This training is beneficial for those working in children's services including adoption / fostering teams, adult social services, family intervention and support services, children's centres, schools, health services including safeguarding leads, police, youth services, voluntary organisations, etc. Please follow this link to book a place: <http://romasupportgroup.org.uk/?p=5029>

Innovative policies to support young refugee children in early learning in Europe and North America – 21 April, webinar

This webinar will start at 5pm BST. As asylum seekers and refugees have arrived in Europe and North America, many countries have struggled to address the newcomers' basic needs and provide effective integration services. Young children comprise a large share of these arrivals, and many have experienced trauma and stress that pose risks to their cognitive, psychosocial, and physical development. Early childhood education and care (ECEC) programmes present an opportunity to mitigate many risks these children may face, improving their education trajectories and supporting longer-term success. They also play a role in the integration of refugee parents and families. During the webinar, authors will discuss the findings of their Migration Policy Institute report examining the challenges and successes host countries in Europe and North America are experiencing in providing high-quality ECEC services, highlighting promising policies and practices identified in field research, as well as key areas in which ECEC services need strengthening. They will be joined by Anna Österlund, from the Swedish National Agency for Education, who will highlight innovative policies in Sweden that support refugee

children in their early learning experiences. Please follow this link for more information and details of how to join the webinar: http://my.migrationpolicy.org/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=87507

ACCM (UK) 10th Birthday celebrations – 5 May, Bedford

ACCM (UK) will be hosting an open day for service users and the wider community from 12-5pm at their premises, 3A Woburn Road MK40 1EQ. There will be food, traditional music and dance.

Ensuring equal access to the NHS (free workshops from Joint Council for Welfare of Immigrants) – 9 May onwards, London

This is the first in a series of workshops that aims to unpack the consequences of imposing upfront charges in hospitals for perceived “overseas visitors”. The NHS Charging Regulations require most secondary care provided by the NHS to identify individuals who are not eligible for treatment free at the point of use and to charge them up-front for their treatment. This course is designed to support frontline advisors and advocacy groups to understand the risk of discrimination because of the NHS Charging Regulations. The course is available to community groups, NGO’s, legal professionals, academics, MP case workers, local authorities, unions, human rights organisations and service deliverers over the Spring and Summer of 2018. Please follow this link for more information and to register to attend: <http://www.icwi.org.uk/ensuring-equal-access-to-nhs-free-workshop>

National Conversation on Immigration conference hosts Canadian Senator Ratna Omidvar – 17 May, London

This free conference will build on the evidence, lived experience and information amassed by [British Future](#) and [Hope not Hate’s National Conversation on Immigration](#) public consultation. So far, the Conversation has hosted 130 meetings with citizens and stakeholders across every nation and region of the UK about the issues affecting integration and responses to immigration pressures. This event will be taking place from 9:45am to 5pm at the British Library’s Knowledge Centre at 96 Euston Road NW1 2DB. Please follow this link for more information and to book a place: [integration-taking-the-national-conversation-forward-book-your-place-now](#)

Summit on Improving Mental Health Support for Asylum Seekers and Refugees – 21 May, London

This national [Improving Mental Health Support for Asylum Seekers and Refugees](#) summit will include presentations from the Helen Bamber Foundation, Refugee Council, MIND, Doctors of the World UK and the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust. It will offer updates and practical guidance for improving mental health support and providing emotional first aid for refugees. Those attending the conference can:

- Network with colleagues who are working to improve mental health support for refugees and asylum seekers
- Understand the national context
- Examine how to set up holistic services that meet the mental health needs of refugees and asylum seekers
- Learn from the experiences of the Red Cross and Doctors of the World in delivering multi-tiered and comprehensive MHPSS Systems & Psychological First Aid
- Improve your skills in working with asylum seekers and refugees who have experienced trauma
- Develop strategies for providing peer and community support
- Understand the role of specialist interventions such as trauma focused CBT
- Improve practice in building resilience and improving care of unaccompanied young people seeking asylum

For more information please visit: <http://www.healthcareconferencesuk.co.uk/mental-health-support-for-asylum-seekers-and-refugees>. To book either use this link to book [online](#), or email jayne@hc-uk.org.uk.

30th anniversary of Hertfordshire Community Foundation Celebration – 22 May, Hatfield

To celebrate three decades of local giving, the Hertfordshire Community Foundation is hosting a philanthropy lecture with entrepreneur and philanthropist, Dame Stephanie Shirley from 6.30 pm at the University of Hertfordshire. From life as a child refugee to a pioneering business leader and champion of women's rights, Dame Stephanie Shirley's journey is an inspiration. To book a free place visit: <http://www.hertscf.org.uk/30-years-of-local-giving>

Refugee Action Colchester fund raising evening – 30 May, Colchester

Orlando Jopling, the acclaimed cellist and Artistic Director of Roman River Music will be performing a Cello Recital of the Bach Cello Suites at St Botolph's Church, St Botolph's Street CO2 7EE. Orlando will introduce the music and talk about their context and background. The Syrian Pop-up Café is also preparing some food, which is included in the price of each ticket. Please help make this a successful evening by buying a ticket and encouraging friends and family to do the same - you can buy tickets via the [website](#) or [Facebook page](#) - or by sending a cheque to Refugee Action Colchester, 15 Queen Street CO1 2PH.

Funding

Asylum Migration Integration Fund (AMIF) - Call for Proposals for bids addressing refugee integration

The UK Responsible Authority is inviting proposals for projects for a period of up to 2 years. If funding is made available to the UK from the EU beyond 31 December 2020 there may be an option to extend the project for a further year. Proposals are invited from Devolved Administrations, Local Authorities, Educational establishments, Voluntary and Community Organisations and Public bodies. They are looking for projects that deliver against the following Integration indicators as set out in the UK AMIF National Programme:

- Activities to assist in the integration of refugees at a national, local and regional level
- Development of local, regional and national policy frameworks/measures/tools for the integration of refugees
- Develop, monitor and evaluate refugee integration policies in the UK.

This call for proposals is for projects that exclusively address activities that deal with those third country nationals with refugee status, or with another form of humanitarian protection, and their family members, in the UK. Activities to be funded may include, but are not limited to:

- ESOL/civic orientation
- Additional support for teachers of refugee children
- Mentoring
- Creation of online support facilities
- Employability skills

A maximum £40m is available to support projects under this Call for Proposals. The amount applied for must be matched with 25% from non-EU sources. Any organisation considering submitting an application must register their interest by e-mailing AMIFcallforRefugeeIntegration@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk. You will then be sent further information on how to apply when the Call opens on Wednesday 11 April 2018. The closing date for applications under this fund is 17:00 on **9 May 2018**.

Jobs

Suffolk Refugee Support Part-time Advice Worker – Drop-in Service / Resettlement Programme, Ipswich

The post is 28 hrs/week (initially until March 2019 with strong likelihood of extension) and is offered at a salary of £24,598 per annum (pro rata from 37 hrs p/w). The post-holder will work 2 days a week with the drop-in Advice Service and 2 days a week with the Resettlement programme (Tuesdays-Fridays). The post holder will be responsible for dealing with all areas of advice and support for refugees and asylum seekers needing help with integrating into the UK. Excellent knowledge and experience of supporting and advising vulnerable people is essential. For application pack, tel.01473 400785; download from; <https://suffolkrefugee.org.uk/current-vacancies>; or contact Susannah on e: skennedy@suffolkrefugee.org.uk. Please note: a CV alone is not sufficient – please complete an application form. An enhanced DBS will be required for this post – to be carried out upon commencement of contract. Previous applicants need not apply. The closing date for applications is **20 April at 12 noon**, with interviews on 26 April.

Refugee Council - Integration Adviser – £22,123.20 Actual for 28 hours per week - Stratford, East London

This Integration Adviser role is based within the Services Directorate. In part, this directorate focuses its support on refugees who have been recognised as having protection needs and have been granted permission to stay in the UK but are now struggling to rebuild their lives in a new and unfamiliar country. Many need advice and guidance in areas such as housing, health, welfare support, education/training and employment. The postholder will focus on ensuring that refugees engaging within our Refugee Advice Project will receive specialist information, advice and advocacy support. With the support of a Senior Integration Adviser, this role will provide casework support to clients dealing with the key issues of asylum, housing, welfare and health. It will be important that the postholder develops a keen awareness of how these areas impact on refugees' ability to settle and integrate. The Integration Adviser will work closely with the Project Co-ordinator, Volunteer Co-ordinator and Senior Integration Adviser to ensure they effectively manage and support our caseload of clients and run an effective advice service. This role will take responsibility for the progression of its own caseload of clients with the support of volunteers. For more information, please see this link: refugeecouncil.org.uk/jobs/5215_integration_adviser. The closing date for applications is **11 April 2018**.

Refugee Council Project Worker, £14,504.40 for 21 hours per week. Hertfordshire

The resettlement team provides advice and support for resettled refugees to help them access services and mainstream provision, and establish community links. Working closely with local stakeholders and in partnership with other voluntary sector agencies running similar services across the UK, the Refugee Council resettlement team promotes both the integration and independence of this group. The Refugee Council has agreed to work in partnership with Hertfordshire local authorities to deliver the regional programme. The Project manager will work closely with the Local Authorities. This post will report to the project manager in Hertfordshire. This post is subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service check. Repeat checks are initiated every two years. For more information and to access the job description and person specification, please follow this link: https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/jobs/5228_project_worker. The closing date for applications is **24 April**.

Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum - Project Coordinator - Community Connections South. Fixed term to Sept 2019: Part time: 18.5 hours per week, £26470 (pro rata), based in Cambridge

This is a new role that is looking to provide support to people in the Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) communities, who are looking to develop new skills that will assist them in becoming more employable. The Community Connections South Project is focused on bringing economically inactive people closer to the job market, education or training. It will support individuals with their own development needs, as well as actively enhancing self-esteem and building confidence. The role is to deliver on a partnership project to build better opportunities for disadvantaged people across the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership area. The Big Lottery Fund and European Social Fund fund the role. Candidates should preferably have experience of project management, working with Black & Minority Ethnic Communities, especially disadvantaged woman in an advisory or similar role, adults at risk of social exclusion, with knowledge and experience of the third sector. Essential will be good administrative and I.T skills. We actively encourage woman to apply. For more information, job description or an application pack, please contact CECF at 16-18 Arbury Court, Cambridge, CB4 2JQ; t: (01223) 655241 e: eddie@cecf.co.uk. The closing date for applications is **27 April**.

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