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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.

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## **Asylum Seekers and Refugees - including Syrian resettlement**

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### **An inspection of the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme is underway by the Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration**

The inspection will evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the resettlement scheme. The scope of the inspection means that the team will examine the:

- process for selecting refugees for resettlement in the UK
- efforts to integrate those resettled (such as access to employment and education)
- progress made towards delivering the target of resettling 20,000 refugees by 2020

This inspection will not examine unaccompanied children, other schemes (Vulnerable Children, Gateway and Mandate) and Family Reunion under the Immigration Rules. The evidence gathering process is already underway and input will shortly be requested from the inspectorate's established stakeholder groups. Evidence in written format is welcomed and encouraged by other stakeholders who the inspectorate does not routinely engage with. Anyone interested with providing written evidence please contact the Chief Inspector on e:

[chiefinspector@icinspector.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chiefinspector@icinspector.gsi.gov.uk).

### **Ministry of Justice announces Legal Aid Agency tender process for 2018 immigration legal aid contracts open**

The Legal Aid Agency is inviting responses from Applicants to its Invitations to Tender for the delivery of publicly funded civil legal aid services from 1 September 2018 under a 2018 Standard Civil Contract in a range of categories of law, including immigration. Applicants wishing to deliver services under a face to face contract must submit a tender which consists of:

- a response to the Selection Questionnaire; and
- a response to one or more invitations to tender for a face to face contract

The deadline for submitting tenders is **5pm on 10 November 2017**. Please follow this link for more information about the tender process for applicants:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/645817/2018-f2f-itt-information-for-applicants.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/645817/2018-f2f-itt-information-for-applicants.pdf)

### **New research from Refugee Action: English language provision 'not fit for purpose' as refugees wait up to three years to start lessons**

The charity is publishing the research as part of the Jo Cox Loneliness Commission's spotlight month on refugees, running throughout October. Refugees say learning English is "everything", being able to speak the language of their new home country combats isolation and loneliness, and enables them to volunteer, work and make friends with their neighbours. But as Refugee Action's poll of 71 providers of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), shows the majority (63%) are concerned that there are not enough classes available to meet people's needs. Almost two thirds (65%) of the providers – which teach more than 35,000 ESOL learners – said they have a waiting list. Nearly half (45%) of those said people are waiting for an average of six months or more to start lessons. One said it could take three years to be assigned to a course and another said the wait could be "indefinite". Please follow this link to learn more about this research: [New research: English language provision 'not fit for purpose' as refugees wait up to three years to start lessons - Refugee Action](#)

**Refugees without refuge – a report from the Refugee Council**

The report highlights findings from a survey of 54 people who had been granted refugee status since 2016 and had used the Refugee Council's integration services. Those taking part in the survey answered questions about their experiences when they were new refugees. Key findings related to the time it takes to receive Biometric Residence Permit and National Insurance Number and the need to rely on charities, friends and family, and foodbanks, when asylum support payments ended and employment had not been secured - only one person surveyed had a job at the end of the 28 day move on period. 27 people reported difficulties in opening a bank account. None of the people who were living in asylum support accommodation had secured accommodation by the time they were evicted at the end of the move on period. More than half slept rough or in a hostel or night shelter in the period after they were granted refugee status. 30 people reported feeling uncomfortable about relying on others for food, money or accommodation and 12 said they felt unsafe. Many respondents reported negative feelings after being granted refugee status, and one reported multiple suicide attempts. Participants reported high levels of loneliness and isolation. Please follow this link to read the report's findings and recommendations in full:

[https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0004/1432/Refugees\\_without\\_refuge\\_Sept\\_2017.pdf?utm\\_source=Refugee%20Council&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=8657716\\_Guardian%20%2B%20Refugee%20Council%20Survey%20Results%20Email&utm\\_content=Refugees%20without%20refuge%20report%20link&dm\\_i=I6P,55KC4,31R5LZ,JSNI5,1](https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0004/1432/Refugees_without_refuge_Sept_2017.pdf?utm_source=Refugee%20Council&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=8657716_Guardian%20%2B%20Refugee%20Council%20Survey%20Results%20Email&utm_content=Refugees%20without%20refuge%20report%20link&dm_i=I6P,55KC4,31R5LZ,JSNI5,1)

**Home Office materials update – how to apply for full community sponsorship of refugee families**

Full community sponsorship is a way that community groups can be involved in supporting the resettlement of vulnerable people fleeing conflict. Please follow this link to access the updated materials: [Apply for full community sponsorship - GOV.UK](#)

**MPI report - Engaging Communities in Refugee Protection: The Potential of Private Sponsorship in Europe**

In most European countries, refugee resettlement is a centralized government function. Yet as national systems saw their capacity stretched during the 2015-16 crisis, new grassroots efforts began to emerge across Europe to offer newcomers shelter, food, clothing and a sense of welcome. In addition to playing a role in a time of crisis, these initiatives sparked debate among policymakers and civil society about what there is to be gained by involving community groups and private citizens directly in the refugee resettlement and integration process. This policy brief explores the broad spectrum of approaches to refugee settlement that include community-based or private sponsorship—from the large, well-established Canadian programme to smaller-scale initiatives in Europe. Please follow this link to read the report in full: [Engaging Communities in Refugee Protection: The Potential of Private Sponsorship in Europe | migrationpolicy.org](#)

**Refugee Action – Colchester now a Community Interest Company**

Refugee Action - Colchester is pleased to announce that it has now become a Community Interest Company. The management group chose to formalise its administrative arrangements by applying to become a registered not for profit company with the aim of securing funding for a number of projects to extend their support for refugees and asylum seekers in the Colchester area. This organisational change will not change the services they currently provide, but should enable the group to help in delivering better services in collaboration with other organisations such as Community360, Firstsite, Refuaid and the Colchester English Study Centre.

**Pre-entry health assessments guidance for UK refugees – protocol released by UK Visas and Immigration**

The protocol provides guidance on the aim, objectives and scope of pre-entry health assessment for refugees who are resettled in the UK. It includes details on technical instructions that guide healthcare professionals when clinical assessments for refugees are carried out. Please follow this link to access the guidance in full: [Pre-entry health assessments guidance for UK refugees - GOV.UK](#)

**UNHCR Rohingya refugee emergency latest**

The Rohingya are a [stateless](#) Muslim minority in Myanmar. The latest exodus began on 25 August 2017, when violence broke out in Myanmar's Rakhine State. The majority of Rohingya refugees reaching Bangladesh are women and children, including newborn babies. The two existing refugee camps of Kutupalong and Nayapara, established in the 1990s, were already home to over 33,000 Rohingya refugees before this influx. Now the camps' population has soared to an estimated 77,000, well beyond existing capacity, with many new arrivals taken in by refugee families or hosted in the camps' schools, community centres and other covered structures. Please follow this link for more information: [UNHCR - Rohingya emergency](#)

**BBC undercover report, Immigration Removal Centre Brook House**

Please follow this link to access the materials produced by the BBC: [G4S: What I saw when I went undercover - BBC News](#). Please follow this link to read how this investigation was reported by European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE): [Editorial: State of the Union EU solidarity?, Black Sea: Increasing arrivals in Romania, Interview: Migrants sleeping rough in Brussels streets](#) and follow this link to read the Free Movement blog covering the investigation: [Systematic abuse found at Brook House Immigration Removal Centre - Free Movement](#). Please follow this link to read the response from the Refugee Council: [New allegations of abuse at an immigration detention centre show reform cannot wait](#)

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**Migration**

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**Health and Safety Executive visiting farms during potato harvesting season**

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is visiting farms across England to ensure employers and their employees follow health and safety regulations and stay safe during the potato harvest. To help workers from overseas, HSE has created a pocket card outlining health and safety rights at work. It explains what to expect from employers and what individuals can do themselves. The pocket card has been translated into Bulgarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Russian and Ukrainian and can be accessed here:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg410.htm>

**Home Affairs Select Committee investigation – the Home Office's capacity to deliver immigration service**

The impact of Brexit on the Home Office's immigration services is likely to be significant. The Committee will explore:

- The current capacity of the Home Office to deliver immigration services effectively
- Its ability to deliver accurate and timely decisions within its available resources
- The potential impact of Brexit on the Department's ability to provide effective services in the future

Please follow this link for more information: [Home Office capacity to deliver immigration services inquiry - UK Parliament](#)

**Brexit and immigration: prioritising the rights of all workers – report from Another Europe is Possible**

Another Europe is Possible has released a report into post-Brexit migration policy. It recommends a system of "Free Movement +". The report concludes that migrants with fewer rights will be more vulnerable to "super-exploitation". Many propose that time-limited visas for unskilled workers could meet the needs of specific sectors - temporary worker visas would fill gaps in the economy. A currently suspended category of the points based system for non-EEA nationals, 'Tier 3', is based on this idea. However, as well as being time-limited the visa is tied to specific employers acting as the guest workers' sponsor. Workers would not have a right to move between employers without risking deportation from the UK, increasing their vulnerability to exploitation. These workers would not have the protections that EU citizens currently do in the system of free movement, which includes a conditional right of residency. Please follow this link to read the report in full: [Brexit and immigration: prioritising the rights of all workers | Another Europe is Possible](#)

**New drop-in advice service launched in Suffolk – for newcomers and local residents**

The drop-in integration advice services on housing, welfare, health, education, debt and immigration are provided by multi-lingual staff from GYROS. The sessions at the Brandon Centre are running on Fridays (1pm to 7pm) and on Saturday (10am to 4pm) at Volunteering Matters in Ipswich. These services will be running until summer 2019 using Controlling Migration Fund grant. Depending on demand, session times may change and additional times and locations may be added.

**Coram Children’s Legal Centre, Migrant Children's Project Newsletter - September 2017 edition**

This edition features a briefing on the new healthcare charging regulations and a training course to help inform those working with migrant children who will be impacted by the changes plus links to their fact sheets on [primary](#) and [secondary health care](#). They also promote a new factsheet on education for migrant children and feature a piece on the next school census. The newsletter examines a report from the Bach Commission which calls for the reinstatement of legal aid for all matters concerning children. They report on the new banking regulations which will restrict people with certain immigration status and their ability to hold a bank account, with this impacting on those who already hold a bank account in addition to those wishing to open a new bank account. Readers will also find links to training courses, reports and news. Please follow this link to read the newsletter in full: [MCP September newsletter - healthcare charging rules, new further education fact sheet, bank account checks & more...](#)

**Home Office resources - Stopping modern slavery in business: graphics and other materials**

A range of social media graphics to raise awareness of modern slavery. Please follow this link to access them: [Stopping modern slavery in business: graphics - GOV.UK](#). The pages below provide details about the government’s work to end modern slavery, including details about how to refer victims into the national referral mechanism (NRM): [Modern slavery - GOV.UK](#). Please follow this link for information about immigration options for anyone trafficked into exploitation in the UK: [Help for adult victims of modern slavery - GOV.UK](#)

**Unseen, the modern slavery charity, working across the UK from Bedfordshire**

Unseen is working with a wide range of organisations and agencies across the UK to strengthen our collective response to tackling modern slavery. Modern slavery affects every community across the globe, but it is also happening in our communities. Women, men and children are affected by sexual exploitation, forced labour, criminal exploitation and domestic servitude in the UK. To support individuals and prevent others from being exploited, Unseen runs the UK-wide 24/7 Modern Slavery Helpline taking calls from potential victims, businesses, statutory agencies and the public. The helpline is based in Bedfordshire and is confidential. They work with organisations and agencies such as the police, councils and charities in the East of England to raise awareness of modern slavery, the signs to spot and what to do if they think someone is a victim of modern slavery, including work with young people in school settings. Anyone can call the Helpline anytime night or day on 08000 121 700 for information, advice and guidance about any issue relating to modern slavery.

**Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration (OxMo) – call for submissions**

The Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration (OxMo) - an independent, peer-reviewed and open-access journal dedicated to protecting and advancing the human rights of refugees and forced migrants has launched a [Call for Submissions](#) for Volume 7, Issue 2. They will accept article submissions covering academic insights, first-hand experiences and critical engagements with legal, social, and political implications of key themes in forced migration such as displacement, asylum, return, and resettlement. The deadline for submissions is **30 October 2017**. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#). For submitting articles and any further information please contact OxMo on e: [oxmofm@gmail.com](mailto:oxmofm@gmail.com).

**New online tool to monitor EU actions for integrating migrants**

The European Commission has published an [online tool](#) to monitor the implementation of its’ [Action Plan for the](#)

[Integration of Third Country Nationals](#). Designed as a dashboard, it provides an overview of all the Actions which are categorized by theme, type and progress status.

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**Events**

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**Suffolk Refugee Support's 18th Annual General Meeting – 12 October, Ipswich**

The AGM will be held at 7pm at Museum St Methodist Church and all are welcome. As well as the usual business, there will be a display of success stories from refugees in Suffolk, live cello music and tasty buffet food provided by Syrian Falafel. Anyone able to attend, please RSVP to e: [mwalker@suffolkrefugee.org.uk](mailto:mwalker@suffolkrefugee.org.uk)

**Legal channels for refugee protection in Europe: A pivotal moment for strategic thinking – 12 October, webinar**

Following the recently released mid-term review of the European Agenda on Migration, this webinar will offer insights from EU Member States on how existing, new, and untapped legal pathways—such as resettlement, community-based sponsorship, and family reunification—can interact with other humanitarian policies and fit into a larger protection strategy. The discussion will also highlight the findings of two new MPI Europe publications, [Tracing the channels refugees use to seek protection in Europe](#) and [Engaging communities in refugee protection: The potential of private sponsorship in Europe](#). Submit questions to the presenters in advance by emailing e: [events@migrationpolicy.org](mailto:events@migrationpolicy.org). The webinar will start at 14:00 UK time – for more information about the event and to register, please follow this link: [Legal Channels for Refugee Protection in Europe: A Pivotal Moment for Strategic Thinking | migrationpolicy.org](#)

**Black History Month – 14 October onwards, across the East of England**

Please follow these links for details of your local events and activities:

Peterborough - [www.bhmpeterborough.org](http://www.bhmpeterborough.org)

Cambridge -

[https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/sites/default/files/black\\_history\\_month\\_flyer\\_2017\\_for\\_email\\_0.pdf](https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/sites/default/files/black_history_month_flyer_2017_for_email_0.pdf)

Ipswich – Health and Well-being day, 23 October, 10.30-3.30 at the University of Suffolk. Food, speakers, martial arts display, music and comedian Patty Dumplin. For more information please call 01473 233844

Norfolk – [www.norfolkblackhistorymonth.org.uk](http://www.norfolkblackhistorymonth.org.uk)

**Celebration of International Culture – 14 October, Norwich**

This free event is taking place from 1pm to 5pm at the Grapes Hill Community Garden. There will be food, music and readings from around the world. Visitors can try new languages, hear stories from around the world, buy some goods and try some yoga. They will also be invited to contribute to the garden by scattering wildflower seeds.

**Celebrating a year as a Borough of Sanctuary - 15 October Colchester**

The Firstsite Gallery is hosting this celebration of Colchester's first year as a Borough of Sanctuary from 1:30pm to 5:30pm. Hear from sanctuary seekers, Councillors, groups and activists. Join us for music from Blue Town Jazz, circle dancing, stalls, children's activities and world food. All welcome.

**The rights and entitlements of young refugees and migrants – 19 October, Birmingham**



This is a one day training course covering law, policy and processes affecting migrant and asylum-seeking children and young people, focusing on unaccompanied children who are looked after and care leavers. This training is for local and relevant authority practitioners such as social workers, health or education and others working with separated and migrant children, including PAs, support staff and foster carers. Training will be delivered by Frances Trevena – barrister and senior legal adviser to the Coram Children’s Legal Centre. For more information and to register, please follow this link: [The rights and entitlements of young refugees and migrants - Coram/WMSMP Tickets, Thu, 19 Oct 2017 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

**Punjabi Cultural Society Celebrates Diwali with Dinner and Dance – 22 October, Cambridge**

This event will be held at the Arbury Community Centre from 6pm, with guests able to enjoy food and live music. To reserve a ticket, please contact Mr J L Kale on t: 01223 462230 (Evenings only), or Anup Hanspall on m: 07480 764588 or e: [ahanspall@gmail.com](mailto:ahanspall@gmail.com) or Mr V Sharma on t: 01480 462188.

**Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) events on EEA and international migrant workers – 23 October, Ipswich**

The MAC will attend regional events around the UK to meet and take evidence from stakeholders on EEA and international migrant workers. The full itineraries for these visits are still being worked out. Anyone who would like to engage with the MAC on these dates, please get in touch with them on either t: 020 7035 1764 or e: [MAC@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:MAC@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).

**Refugee Women’s conference – 4 November, Manchester**

This conference will be led by refugee women who face multiple challenges seeking safety in the UK. The event will be supported by a range of speakers, including Kate Green MP and Shami Chakrabarti, as well as refugee campaigners Mariam Yusef, Aderonke Apata and Zrinka Bralo. For more information and to book tickets, please follow this link: [refugeewomensconference-manchester.eventbrite.co.uk](http://refugeewomensconference-manchester.eventbrite.co.uk)

**East European Roma: Cultural Awareness Training – 6 December, Birmingham**

This training event is being delivered by the Roma Support Group and will include an introduction to Roma culture and traditions, language and history. Reference will be made to the differences between Romanian, Polish and Czech Roma. This will provide the backdrop to practically oriented sessions which will look at barriers to accessing services, and more effective ways to engage with Roma families. Please follow this link for more information about the event and details of how to book a place: [East European Roma – Cultural Awareness Training | CCC Limited](#)

**Mental Health support for asylum seekers and refugees: providing emotional first aid for refugees conference – 7 December, Manchester**

The conference will offer practical guidance for providing emotional first aid for refugees. With presentations from MIND, the British Red Cross, Doctors of the World UK, and The Tavistock & Portman NHS Foundation Trust, this conference will enable delegates to network with colleagues who are working to improve mental health support for refugees and asylum seekers and understand the national context. It will provide an opportunity to examine how to set up holistic services that meet the mental health needs of refugees and asylum seekers. For more information including programme content and confirmed speakers please follow this link:

<http://www.healthcareconferencesuk.co.uk/mental-health-support-for-asylum-seekers-and-refugees>. To book, please follow this link [online](#) or Email [jayne@hc-uk.org.uk](mailto:jayne@hc-uk.org.uk).

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## Funding

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### Restart Refugee Support – interest free loans

Restart Refugee Support provides refugees in the UK wishing to start a small business or re-qualify with [interest-free loans with compassionate repayment terms](#).

### RefuAid – interest free loans

Refuaid also provides [interest-free loans of up to £10,000](#) to pay for the UK licensing or training refugees need to get back to their field of work in the UK.

### Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner's Themed Fund

Grants between £250 and £20,000 are available to support the work of voluntary and community groups, Charities, Social Enterprises and Community Interest Companies that are delivering services that help make Suffolk a safer place to live, work, travel and invest in. For this round of funding, the themes are: Human trafficking, female genital mutilation, modern day slavery, so-called “honour” based violence, hate crime and other offences committed out of sight, online, etc. Funding applications must support at least one of these key terms of reference:

- To raise awareness within the general public and/or with victims.
- To identify the issues within Suffolk and provide solutions to reduce the problems.
- To run programmes that help victims escape difficult situations.

The deadline for applications for this fund is **19 October 2017**. Please follow this link for [Criteria](#) | [Application Form](#)

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## Jobs

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### Suffolk Refugee Support - Part time Advice Worker (Ipswich) 14 hrs/week (initially until March 2018 with strong likelihood of extension) £24,116 per annum (pro rata from 37 hrs/week)

As part of the Advice Service Team, 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 [www.suffolkrefugee.org.uk](http://www.suffolkrefugee.org.uk) or contact Rebecca on e: [rcrerar@suffolkrefugee.org.uk](mailto:rcrerar@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. Closing date for applications is **24 October at 12 noon**.

### Chatterbox new language tutors

Chatterbox is currently recruiting for new language tutors. If you are interested in flexible, paid work that is interesting and enriching, [apply to teach your native language](#) . They urgently need tutors who can speak: Farsi, Urdu, Mandarin, French, Swahili, Bengali, Burmese, Turkish, Spanish, Hindi and more!

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