

Issue 8

We do not focus this e-bulletin on Coronavirus. We have a page on our website that we are using to provide you with the latest information and updates on immigration due to Coronavirus and it can be accessed [here](#). Our website page aims to offer useful information and resources to help migrants, and those supporting them, to stay safe, connected and informed, and to reduce the harmful impacts of coronavirus (Covid-19) on our region and on people's lives. It also includes new multi-lingual resources, national guidance, local services and support, and news and updates on specific migrant issues.

If you have any updates, notifications or items for inclusion for our next bulletin please email wmsmp@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Subject	Announcement	Date /Source
Asylum	The report 'Into the Arms of Traffickers' has been released. This report examines how delays in asylum and trafficking decision-making increase the risks of trafficking for young asylum-seekers. This report looks at whether the Home Office in the administration of asylum and trafficking decisions for unaccompanied and separated children increases the risk of human trafficking, specifically by allowing lengthy delays in the decision-making processes to occur.	Shpresa Programme October 2021
	The evidence session on channel boat crossings for asylum was held by the Home Affairs Select Committee. In addition to this, there is a further evidence session with Victoria Atkins MP on safe routes and resettlement from Afghanistan. There will also be a transcript of this once produced.	Parliamentlive.tv Home Affairs Committee 17 November 2021
Citizenship & Immigration	Breaking the Chains is a project launched in 2018 from the Migrant and Refugee Childrens Unit (MCLU). This project is designed to meet the specific needs of asylum-seeking children and young people by providing a holistic legal representation and advice service which is child-centered and child-friendly. The project seeks to advise, educate, empower and engage children and young people in the asylum process alongside professionals from both legal and non-legal sectors. It aims to improve the outcomes (both legally and socially) for asylum seeking children and young people, especially those who are most vulnerable or from marginalized communities.	MCLU 2018
	Translated healthcare leaflets for the Afghan Community have been produced by Doctors of the World. To support people from Afghanistan, Doctors of the World has compiled a list of resources for individuals and for professionals who are working with	Doctors of the World 16 November 2021

	<p>them. The official languages of Afghanistan are Pashto and Dari (which is a variation of Farsi), and they have also included Urdu as it has been reported that a number of caseworkers have been working with families to whom Urdu is their primary language.</p>	
	<p>The Home Affairs Committee have published a report on the Windrush Compensation Scheme. They call for immediate action to increase the number of people applying to the scheme and to ensure that every individual is granted some compensation quickly.</p>	Home Affairs Committee 24 November 2021
ESOL	<p>The WMSMP now has a fulltime ESOL Coordinator and our first ESOL Network was held on 9 November 2021. These meetings are cross sector. If you are interested in joining our regional network, please contact wmsmp@wolverhampton.gov.uk</p> <p>The ESOL coordinator is currently working on a West Midlands ESOL Regional Mapping Project. The aim of this is to update the ESOL provision map on our website to include all ESOL provision in our region. If you are an ESOL provider and provide formal or informal ESOL or Family Learning classes, please let us know so that we can send you a survey and include your provider on the regional map.</p>	09 November 2021 WMSMP
	<p>A webinar 'Trauma Informed ESOL for Refugees' is being provided by NATECLA on 20th January 2022. This webinar will be provided by Aleks Palanac EAP Practitioner, University of Sanctuary – University of Leicester. Further related resources can be found here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research by Aleks Palanac 'Towards a trauma-informed ELT pedagogy for refugees' April 2020 • Youtube presentation by Aleks Palanac 26th November 2018 <p>Aleks has conducted research into the way in which post-traumatic growth can be fostered in the refugee language classroom. This arose from a need of language tutors working with refugees (in the UK context and in Greece) to find strategies for mitigating the effects of trauma; in exploring the cross-section between trauma-informed pedagogies, positive psychology and ELT pedagogies. Price: £5 member, £25 non-member</p>	NATECLA 20 January 2022
	<p>An 'Essential Digital Skills effective practice share and support meet up' is being held by the Education and Training Foundation. These practitioner-led open discussions are to explore effective practice in the delivery of Essential Digital Skills (EDS) FE and Training sector. Practitioners will share their experience and support each other to develop their skills, knowledge and confidence to deliver Essential Digital Skills qualifications.</p> <p>First session: 13th December 2021 16:00 - 17:00</p>	Education and Training Foundation 13 December 2021

	<p>The Excellence Gateway (ED) ESOL Resources have been updated. For individuals looking The EG is undergoing some developmental work and is still being updated. For key documents such as those for Learners New To ESOL or embedded learning materials, these have now also been collated on separate Padlets.</p>	Padlet.com and Excellence Gateway.org.uk December 2021
	<p>A NATECLA webinar 'Dyslexia and ESOL' is being provided by NATECLA on 10th December 2021. This session will investigate how dyslexic individuals process information and what difficulties they face when learning, specifically in an academic environment. Looking at possible coping strategies and can be done to accommodate learning needs and alleviate any associated conditions. This session will also cover learning a second language, including ESOL. Price: £5 member, £25 non-member.</p>	NATECLA 10 December 2021
	<p>'ESOL for Refugees: A toolkit for commissioners and practitioners' has been produced by Migration Yorkshire in coordination with other regional SMPs and local authority providers. This new toolkit offers useful guidance and highlights current effective practice in ESOL for refugees. It's illustrated by nearly 50 case studies from across England.</p>	Migration Yorkshire 2021
EUSS	<p>The EUSS grant funded network has been extended and the latest monthly statistics released by the Home Office. The Home Office has announced an extension to funding to help vulnerable and at-risk EU citizens apply to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS). A further £3 million worth of funding has been made available to the Grant Funded Network of 72 organisations, charities and local authorities across the UK, which will continue until at least March 2022. Since the start of the scheme the Home Office has made up to £25 million of funding available to ensure support is available to the most vulnerable EU, EEA and Swiss citizens to make EUSS applications and secure their rights in the UK.</p>	Home Office October 2021
Health and Wellbeing	<p>Migrant Help has launched its Christmas Shoe Box appeal. A leaflet has been produced, outlining the Shoe Box appeal to provide items and gifts to asylum seekers. It includes a list of suitable items and instructions.</p> <p>For further information on collection and delivery please contact sameera.hussain@migratnhelp.org</p>	Migrant Help December 2021
	<p>A Mental Health Resource Pack has been produced by City of Sanctuary. This mental health resource pack is one of a series of resource packs developed by the City of Sanctuary movement to encourage cities and towns, organisations and individuals to understand the challenges facing refugees and asylum seekers living in their communities. For more information about the City of Sanctuary movement, please see https://cityofsanctuary.org.</p>	City of Sanctuary December 2021

UCAS	<p>WMSMP are pleased to announce a programme of training designed to support multi-disciplinary staff working with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people . The training is open to staff who directly support unaccompanied children and young people. Please see the flyers attached for January and February dates 2022 and for direct links to book the training on Eventbrite.</p> <p>Training Course 1 - An introduction to key issues and best practice in supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Half day overview and introduction see attached flyer to book)</p> <p>UASC Legal Rights (full day)</p> <p>UASC and migrant children in care/care leavers (Legal rights and best practice)</p> <p>Age Assessments - please note the target audience for this course is social work staff and managers involved in conducting age assessments and staff supporting young people through the process</p> <p>Further dates will be announced in due course as the programme will run from January to September 2022</p>	WMSMP December 2021
	<p>National Transfer Scheme to become Mandatory for all Local Authorities. The Minister for Safe and Legal Migration, Kevin Foster, has written to all local authorities with children’s services across the UK to inform them of the government’s intention to temporarily mandate the National Transfer Scheme. Under this change all local authorities have been given legal notice to accept transfers of children into their care, providing crucial placements to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC).</p>	Home Office 24 November

The West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership works with national, regional and local partners to ensure that the region can deal with, and benefit from, migration. We are hosted by Wolverhampton City Council.

We would like to thank you for all contributions to this bulletin. Information in this bulletin and any references or links to external sources or agencies do not necessarily reflect the views of West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership nor receive its endorsement. WMSMP is not responsible for the accuracy of this information which is intended as a general guide only.