

Here are this week's snippets of news if you are having difficulty with the format – please read the ATTACHED Word document. Can you also let me know if you can't read in this format please.

begin

Due to the new City Council's parking levy, there may be some of you that will be charging for parking. Please let **begin** know if there will be costs to students or visiting staff. Tel: 9780942 or email: enquiries@begin.org.uk

[Latest ESOL report: 31/5/12: ATTACHED. Please tell us about your appointments/places.](#)

News, Policy, Campaigns/Fund-raising

ESOL affected by major immigration changes: Changes to the Immigration Rules for non-European Economic Area (non-EEA) nationals applying to enter or remain in the UK on the family migration route will apply to new applicants from **9 July 2012**. Key changes include:

- Extending the probationary period for settlement for non-EEA spouses, partners, fiancés, or civil partners from 2 to 5 years; the Government have stated that this is to test the genuineness of the relationship;
- From October 2013, requiring all applicants for settlement to pass the Life in the UK Test and an approved Entry 3 (or "B1") English Language speaking and listening exam unless they are exempt;
- A new minimum income threshold of £18,600 for sponsors of non-EEA spouses/partners, with a higher threshold for those sponsoring children: £22,400 for one child, plus £2,400 for each further child;

The UKBA website states that 'If people **already** have leave as a spouse/partner of a settled person, they need to meet the **current rules** when they apply for settlement, not the new rules.' However, everyone applying for settlement from October 2013 will need an Entry 3 Listening and Speaking qualification and Life in the UK Test. For more information, visit the UKBA website, [here](#). It is recommended that people affected seek legal advice if they are unclear about the new rules.

Many organisations feel this immigration policy will not support the integration or progress of families in the UK. For example, evidence suggesting that employment rates for people entering as spouses who have naturalised in the UK - higher than the national average – are linked to their settlement status. Most other EU countries, the USA, Australia and Canada have not introduced similar policies. These organisations have led on lobbying Parliament to raise their concerns. There was a Parliamentary Meeting on 9 July 2012, and a “Family Immigration Rules” Early Day Motion 335 has been tabled.

You can read different organisations’ briefings online, including suggestions on how to have your say: The Migrants’ Rights Network (MRN) briefing: [here](#); the MRN ‘All Parliamentary Group’ paper [here](#) ; National Association for Teaching English and other Community Languages to Adults (NATECLA) [here](#) ; the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI) [here](#) . Other documents are listed on the Equality and Diversity Forum website [here](#) .

The policy raises many questions:

- Will all ESOL learners be able to reach Entry 3 in listening and speaking *and* the E3+ literacy needed to study the ‘Life in the UK’ handbook and pass the online test within 5 years? For many, this may not be easy, given long ESOL waiting lists, ESOL fees, work or childcare commitments, and the fact that some ESOL students have low levels of literacy.
- Did enough ESOL professionals have the chance to contribute to the consultation and comment specifically on the level of reading required for the Life in the UK test?
- Are the English levels set too high? This is particularly relevant to the literacy level, which will be higher than that for many UK nationals who live and work in the UK successfully.
- Will ESOL eligibility, new income and ‘no recourse to public funds’ rules exclude those who cannot pay full cost ESOL fees in their first year in the UK, and £3+ an hour after then?
- Why has the probationary period of residence been lengthened to 5 years if evidence suggests employment rates are higher for those who have gained Citizenship?
- Shouldn’t ESOL be a key to unlocking potential of migrants - rather than simply a part of immigration policy?

Benefit Caps on the combined income from the main out-of-work benefits, plus Housing Benefit, Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit come into force in April 2013. The cap will be: £500 p/wk for couples and lone parents, and £350 p/wk for single adults. People’s Housing Benefit will go down first to ensure caps are met. The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) will offer employment support to all those potentially affected. For the latest updates, a Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions, please visit: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/adviser/updates/>. Helplines include: **English language: 0845 6057064; Text-phone: 0845 6088551** open Mon to Fri 8am-6pm. If you know of any local advice services offering advice on benefit caps please let us know: elle@begin.org.uk .

Nottingham is receiving the least amount of money per head than other major UK cities such as Manchester, Cardiff and London. And **2011 Localism Act 2011** measures are announced giving some powers to communities: Follow NCVS’s link for more: [here](#) .

Early Day Motion on the Future of the Gangmasters' Licensing Authority

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2012-13/196>

Events

Sneinton Dale Acoustic Evening, Iona School, Friday 22nd July 6.30 – 8pm at the Gym or on the land (just off Sneinton Dale, next to BANCA) including QM Barbershop Quartet, Nottingham School of Samba, Agent La La and The Iona Singers.

Holding Hands Unity Day Parade: Olympic-themed CARNIVAL PARADE in St. Ann's which will meet at Elohim at 12pm on Saturday 14th July and move down the Wells Road to the Chase. Contact Panya on 07795310787 or e-mail panya@renewaltrust.org.uk

Nottingham Life Cycle 2 - Nottingham University are doing an end-to-end cycle ride and community stroll fund-raisers to provide opportunities for students who might not otherwise consider higher education as a viable option. Further details can be found [here](#)

Meadows events: contact Andrew.Jones@nottinghamcity.gov.uk for more information about lots of local events - from the Gospel Revival Open Air Service, Thursday 19th July, 7pm, Meadows precinct – to The Meadows Library Day for all the family, Tuesday 7th August.

Training, Volunteering and Job Vacancies

Nottingham CVS are offering various training including: [Building profitable relationships](#). For more information and costs, plus the latest newsletter, please visit their [website](#).

Roshni: 7-week Personal Empowerment Course for BME young women 16-25 years affected by an abusive relationship and looking to develop their personal awareness. Phone 0115 988 1414 or visit www.roshni.org.uk.

Cleaner Job Vacancy at the Renewal Trust - 30 hours per week. Please visit the recruitment page: www.renewaltrust.org.uk or call 0115 9112226.

Bright Ideas: free 10-week courses on becoming 'Digital Detectives and Community Action Researchers & Reporters'. 'Community Action Research', started on Monday 2nd July, 12noon to 3pm. 'Community Reporting', starts Monday 1st October, 12noon to 3pm. Contact Bright Ideas Events: karen@brightideasnottingham.co.uk / 07970031998

Roma Support Group 'Eastern European Roma Cultural Awareness Training', 17th October, Nottingham Conference Centre, Burton St, NG1 4BU. Cost £125 + VAT with discounts for large group bookings. An opportunity for professionals to access information and tools to engage with the Roma community. Visit: www.ccclimited.org.uk or call on **0115 916 3104**

Remedy Partnership - Training courses for healthcare workers accessing rehabilitation for survivors of torture and trafficking: 19th July: "Introduction", 18th October: "Advanced: Practical Skills". These courses are designed for: GPs; Nurses; Psychologists;

Psychotherapists; Counsellors. There are 16 places on each course. Cost £130. To book or find out more, email training@remedypartnership.org.uk

Useful Newsletters/Research/Websites

Gedling CVS June e-bulletin: <http://www.gedlingcvs.org.uk/our-services/information/ebulletin/>.

Are you ready to deliver Functional Skills? Do NIACE's 15 minute online survey and tell them what support you need: [here](#). Deadline 5pm Tuesday 10th July. Queries to: emily.jones@niace.org.uk

East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership Briefing note: Jam-packed news on policy, research, events. To receive bulletin, contact: bridget.redwood@emcouncils.gov.uk.
This month's items include:

- **Joseph Rowntree Foundation Report: What are migrant workers' experiences of forced labour and exploitation in the UK food industry?:** [here](#).
- **Interim Research report from Roma Source, University of Salford** highlights issues relating to Roma inclusion and exclusion in 6 EU countries including the UK: [here](#).
- **Also: New Roma Communities in England: report on the difficulties faced by the UK Roma communities**, concluding with recommendations for local authorities: [here](#).
- **No way out, no way in – irregular migrant children and families in the UK – a report from University of Oxford, Compas** - looks at these children's legal status, lives, access to services and reconciling child protection with immigration enforcement: [here](#).
- **International students and net migration in the UK, IPPR** – as moves to limit incoming student numbers put higher education at risk, this report recommends excluding international students from net migration figures: [here](#).
- **'Refused: the experiences of women denied asylum in the UK'**, Women for Refugee Women, May 2012, shows nearly half of women who claim asylum in the UK have experienced rape, and nearly half have been arrested or imprisoned, but most are denied asylum in the UK: <http://www.refugeewomen.com/>.
- **The Second Torture: The Immigration Detention of Torture Survivors**, Medical Justice, Victims of torture are routinely held in immigration detention centres in breach of government's rules: [here](#).

Equality and Human Rights News at their: [website](#).

Resources

Skills to go free resources to support ESOL students with consumer issues: [website](#).

Free online English lessons/resources from www.esolcourses.com: [website](#).

Skills-based 'functional' CV templates, tips and examples – useful for people who had 'time out' of work due to family commitment, those who have never worked, including young

people, or who have done voluntary work that is not similar to the job they are applying for. Visit the [Skills Advisory Service](#) of the Open University website.

More ideas to develop learners' employability and jobsearch skills contributed by Laila El-Metoui to the 'ESOL Research Discussion Forum and Message Board':

- fundraising for a charity (eg, for the Ruth Hayman Trust which gives small grants to ESOL learners; their website has ready-made lesson plans www.ruthhaymantrust.com)
- British Council ESOL Nexus has a unit on self-employment <http://esol.britishcouncil.org/>
- HRMC also has some useful Business Start-up links and some of their courses are free. <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/bst/advice-teams-area/northtraining.htm>

The Environment Task Group - Broxtowe Warm Zone helps the borough's residents insulate their homes, save money, reduce carbon emissions and reduce fuel poverty. Take advantage if you live in Broxtowe and/or promote widely. A number of similar schemes are running in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire: visit <http://www.everybodys-talking.org/insulation-offers>. For Broxtowe Warm Zone posters/leaflets contact Andrew Pooley: 0115 9173742 or email andrew.pooley@broxtowe.gov.uk.

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Highly recommended by



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Please contact **begin** if there is anything you would like to be included in our newsletter, if there are organisations who would like to be added to the circulation list, or if you would like to be removed from our circulation list/s.

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Kind regards

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