

## LEICESTER MAN TRANSFORMS LIFE AND WINS NATIONAL AWARD

Chrispen Musimbe, aged 30, from Leicester has been officially recognised for his dedication and commitment to learning by the organisers of the UK's largest festival of adult learning, the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE). Chrispen was presented with an Individual Learner Award as part of Adult Learners Week 21st – 27th May 2005.



© NIACE 2005. Chrispen Musimbe, Adult Learners' Week Award Winner

and achieved a new CLAIT qualification within 7 weeks and

Chrispen is an asylum seeker from Zimbabwe living alone in Leicester. He joined the ASSET UK project in June 2004 having previously achieved O-Levels and a Level 3 qualification in Sales and Marketing whilst in Zimbabwe. With support from the ASSET UK project Chrispen studied for



### Contents

<b>Editorial</b>	page 3
<b>More Success Stories!</b>	page 4
<b>Special Feature:</b>	page 6
ASSET UK Implements and Promotes Effective Equality and Diversity Practice	
<b>Partnership News</b>	page 10
<b>Transnational news</b>	page 16
<b>Bulletin board</b>	page 18
<b>Contact us</b>	page 22

Supported by the Learning Skills Council



after deciding to specialise in accounts he passed a computerised accounts course in 4 weeks. He now studies on the AAT combined foundation and intermediate fast track course and has been granted permission to work by the Home Office so he plans to find employment in accounting whilst continuing his studies part-time.

“Chrispen has exhibited courage and determination in pursuing his aspirations which have led not only to academic success but also helped him make many friends through becoming a member of the college football team,” said nominator, Robert Gray, from ASSET UK.

“Learning enhances the value of life leading to greater freedom and security. It can give you more control of your life and opens up your horizons,” Chrispen concluded.

Rachel Thomson, Senior Campaigns Officer at NIACE, said, “Every year, our Adult Learners’ Week awards celebrate the achievements of learners young and old and in all their diversity. Often, these learners need to address challenges, overcome struggles and carve out time for learning from crowded lives – but as a result their lives are transformed. All of our Adult Learners’ Week award winners are inspiring to the thousands of new and existing learners who follow in their footsteps.”

Gordon Pursglove, Head of European Social Fund (ESF) Division, at the Department for Work and Pensions, said, “I am delighted that this is the fourteenth year European Social Fund money will be used to support Adult Learners’ Week. I hope that the success of all of this year’s winners will inspire many more people to develop their true potential.”

Entry to the 2006 Adult Learners’ Week Awards is now open and NIACE would welcome nominations of individual learners, groups of learners, families that learn together and also projects that are innovative in attracting adult learners. You can download nomination forms at [www.alw.org.uk](http://www.alw.org.uk) or request copies by calling the NIACE Campaigns Team on 0116 2044 200. The closing date for nominations is 13 January 2006.

*Robert Gray, ASSET UK Project Worker, NIACE*  
*Tel: 0116 257 5017 / Email: [robert.gray@niace.org.uk](mailto:robert.gray@niace.org.uk)*

## Editorial

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the last edition of the ASSET UK newsletter.

From the articles you will see that the EQUAL ASSET UK partnership has been busy over the last few months disseminating the learning from the project and enthusing teachers and policy makers alike with new ways to reach out to and support asylum seekers with opportunities to gain the confidence and skills that will help them integrate in the UK and get into work, if they gain permission.

There are also details of forthcoming workshops and conferences you can attend across the country. At these you can get copies of our publications and toolkits and several more will be produced over the next few months. These are all available on our website [www.asset-uk.org.uk](http://www.asset-uk.org.uk) and will still be available after the end of the project in November, as well as direct from the partners' websites.

ASSET UK has come a long way since the partnership was first formed to help asylum seekers access work, just months before the right to work was withdrawn in July 2002. We had to develop and test innovative ways to empower and support asylum seekers, and the partnership reports, websites and toolkits provide you with plenty of ideas to take this further.

But above all the stories of asylum seekers like Chrispen, Richard and Mohamed testify to the impact the project has had. Thanks to them and all the other people who took part in the project and made such a difference to our lives.

*Anna Reisenberger*  
*Chair of ASSET UK*

## More Success Stories!

ASSET UK was established to help the social and vocational integration of asylum seekers into the UK and part of our work included trying to engage asylum seekers in meaningful volunteering opportunities. Within the ASSET UK Partnership, the Training & Employment Section (TES) of the Refugee Council provided English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes for asylum seekers in Birmingham. These classes were held within Emergency Accommodation. A number of asylum seekers were recruited to become volunteer language assistants to work with learners in the classes. Richard, was one of these volunteers and this account enables you to see the positive effects of volunteering and how ASSET UK has had an impact on this volunteer.

“Richard is an asylum seeker who has been a language assistant in our classes for nearly a year. Richard progressed, as a direct result of his experiences with ASSET UK, to attend external ASSET UK conferences and workshops with the Training and Employment Section, where he gave concise, professional, informative presentations on his volunteering experience. The feedback from delegates regarding his presentations was always positive and it was noted how effective and beneficial it was for delegates to be able to listen and converse directly with an asylum seeker at a conference, rather than hearing information only from those who work with them. This volunteer found his confidence and motivation increased and he proceeded to join an IT course, a teacher training course, a management course and gain a Level 2 ESOL qualification, all at a local FE college. He also gained invaluable experience of the culture of teaching and volunteering in the UK, and is now very aware of how much more employable he is, and is equipped with a portfolio of his experiences with ASSET UK. His social and vocational integration into the UK has been greatly enhanced by his involvement with ASSET UK”.

*Katie Evans*

*Regional ESOL Co-ordinator (Training and Employment Section, Refugee Council)*

## Meet Mohamed!

This young man arrived in the UK during December 2003 from Yemen, as an asylum seeker, and was placed with his sister, in the Wybourn area of

Sheffield.

Mohamed came to College early the following year with GCSE qualifications he had achieved in his home country and immediately started an ESOL Level One course within Castle Centre, attending College four times a week.

His hobbies and interests include swimming, bodybuilding, reading, music, cinema and going out with his friends!

He is a very outgoing, confident young man and he became a beneficiary of the EQUAL ASSET UK Project playing an active part as a member of the Asylum Steering Group early this year. As part of his role on the Steering Group he is a very motivated volunteer, working as an interpreter and generally helping with enrolment of other ESOL students, organising trips and summer school activities.

His immediate plans are to be accepted on an Access Course at College studying Computer Technology/Electronics but he hopes one day to join a flying school and become a pilot. Alternatively he would like to venture into a business career. Prior to coming to the UK, Mohamed used to run his own music shop business.



© Sheffield College 2005 Mohamed - an ASSET UK Success Story!

Mohamed is a prime example of a success story, he enjoys his life here, has lots of plans for the future and has made many new friends in Sheffield, having integrated well into the local community.

When asked to comment on how he feels about life, he said "I love my family, I adore myself, I have great friends who support me in everything"

All good wishes to Mohamed for the future.....

*Alison Gascoigne, ESOL and Refugee Co-ordinator, The Sheffield College*  
Tel: 0114 260 2454 / email [alison.gascoigne@sheffcol.ac.uk](mailto:alison.gascoigne@sheffcol.ac.uk)

## **Fairness and Learning for All, ASSET UK Implements and Promotes Effective Equality and Diversity Practice**

ASSET UK takes pride in and strives to maintain a tradition of promoting equality of opportunity in the UK and Europe. Principles of equality and empowerment are at the heart of the work of this Development Partnership (DP). It aims to ensure consistency in its approach and to constantly monitor policy in practice. This DP recognises the knowledge that diversity brings and the partnership has strongly benefited from it. The DP has been learning from and adding to its ideas on promoting equality of opportunity because it has exchanged its vision, and methodology with its transnational partners (see article on transnational page) the Danish Red Cross, City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee and Kista Open Academy from Sweden.

From the onset, a task group was formed that steered equality practice within the DP and a policy was formulated that 'applies to all of the activities of the EQUAL DP, its management structure, employment practices, service provision, publicity, marketing, all staff working for the DP, and all dealings with the asylum seekers'. This inclusive policy takes into account issues surrounding race, gender, sexual orientation, people with disabilities, age discrimination, religious and political beliefs.

### **Key Priorities**

The underlying theme of the DP is social equity and the key principles of the policy are as follows, the DP will:

- Raise awareness of the needs of asylum seekers.
- Provide sensitive and impartial services that are accessible.
- Create and maintain a co-operative environment between staff and asylum seekers that is free from harassment to ensure the full development of the asylum seekers.
- Endeavour to provide opportunities for asylum seekers to further develop a multicultural dimension that will reflect the diversity of all the users.
- Ensure that the principle of empowerment is at the heart of the services.
- Maintain an ethos of respect and dignity in all interactions.

- Be sensitive to the needs of those whose first language is not English. Appropriate interpreting and translation services will be in use to meet the needs as fully as possible.
- Meet the needs, aspirations and enhance the skills of individuals both within the learning experiences and through vocational qualifications.
- Work actively towards eliminating all forms of unfair discrimination both direct and indirect.
- Seek to influence the work and contribution of partner organisations by ensuring that the equality issues and considerations are fully taken into account when developing strategies.
- Ensure the best possible fit between the needs of the asylum seekers, the teaching programmes, other additional provision and the learning environment.
- Identify specific or additional needs; providing resources and appropriate support.
- Establish a clear overview of priorities in promoting equality taking into consideration access, participation, retention and achievement.

### **Equality in the Delivery of Services**

ASSET UK took many measures to ensure that there was equality in the delivery of its services these were:

- Programmes developed to take into account an overview of the local barriers encountered by asylum seekers.
- Services based on the principles of equality whereby taking action is to ensure that the services are equally accessible to all.
- Appropriate services to the differing needs of all sections of the asylum seeker communities.
- Ongoing monitoring and regular analysis.
- Fair and equitable allocation of the asylum seekers to teaching programmes, employing organisations and other services.
- Assess outcomes to include how the needs have been identified and the

appropriate allocation of the resources.

- All services encourage a positive attitude to ethnic differences, cultural diversity, racial, sexual and disability equality.
- Steps are taken to ensure that all forms of planning, preparation and delivery is inclusive and draws on areas of interest both to the individual's needs as well as to all users of the service.
- Equality is promoted in every context.
- Positive and active steps are taken to confirm that all resources are inclusive; and that research is undertaken. Asylum seekers views are sought and the views are included in the decision making process of using relevant resources.
- Evaluation of services will include taking the views of the asylum seekers and will adhere to the principles of equality.
- Setting up procedures and practices whereby asylum seekers can develop self-confidence and thereby provide with support to confidently make the transition to a work situation.
- Recruitment processes will be if necessary through the use of the interpreting services.

### **Self Assessment and Consistency**

To ensure consistency and active implementation of its Equal Opportunities Policy, the ASSET UK partnership formulated a self-assessment tool to help partners undertake an equal opportunities self-assessment. This made it possible for ASSET UK to identify strengths and weaknesses and generate evidence to judge to what extent the partnership is successful in implementing its equal opportunities strategy and implementation plan.

### **Committed to Ensuring Equality in the Provision of Information**

To comply with the Disability Discrimination Act that came into force in October 2004, ASSET UK formulated guidelines to ensure that information produced by the DP, is available in different formats and is accessible to all. This means that leaflets are available in large print and regular print,

adjustable electronic format, and on request on coloured paper for people who have dyslexia. This newsletter is produced in Clear Print (text in larger font than usual but not large font) and is available electronically, in word format so that it can be adapted to suit a computer package for people with visual impairments and hard copy for those who cannot always access a computer. A transnational bulletin called Refugee Employment in Europe is also available. It focuses on the reception and integration issues in Europe with a particular emphasis on employment as a strong facet of integration. It is produced in regular print, large font, word adjustable format, and electronic and hard copy. Should you want to subscribe to this bulletin, please contact [saba.khan@refugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:saba.khan@refugeecouncil.org.uk) or visit the ASSET UK website at <http://www.asset-uk.org.uk/trans.html>. All publications comply with high standards of accessibility and all correspondence is also available on request in some alternative formats. There are also measures in place to ensure that any information provided at conferences can be requested in some alternative formats.

### **ASSET UK Events and Seminars**

When holding events and seminars ASSET UK aims to ensure that venues are as accessible as possible. This can mean taking into account 'special needs' such as wheelchair access, induction loops, and so on. As well as this, the DP also intends to meet any specific dietary requirements that are requested.

To read more about ASSET UK's work on promoting diversity and equality of opportunity, look out for the new report titled 'Equality of Opportunity in Practice, A Guide on Promoting Equality of Opportunity in Partnerships' on the ASSET UK website this autumn!

*Saba Khan*

*Information Officer to the European Integration Project, Refugee Council*

*Tel: 020 7346 1099 / Email: [saba.khan@refugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:saba.khan@refugeecouncil.org.uk)*

## Partnership news

### The Higher Education for Refugees and Asylum Seekers Network (HERAN) Conference: Initiatives in Higher Education for Refugees and Asylum Seekers - 11 May 2005

This conference represented the culmination of the work RAGU has been doing as part of the development stage of ASSET UK. One of the 3 main areas of our work was to set up a network of universities working with or interested in working with asylum seekers and refugees. Since the first meeting early in 2003 the network has blossomed and born fruit. The purpose of this conference was to present some of the initiatives that different universities within the network are taking in working with refugees and asylum seekers, to encourage other universities to join and to show the new HERAN website that we are developing.



© RAGU 2005. HERAN conference - one of the Workshops

The conference was very well attended with just over 100 delegates from 31 universities as well as representatives from colleges, refugee agencies, policy makers and funding bodies. Arun Kundnani, from the Institute of Race Relations was the keynote speaker for the event. Workshops were held on mentoring programmes, awareness raising for staff, orientation and introduction to higher education, project sustainability and specialist programmes for refugees, including APEL (Assessment of Prior Experiential Learning).

The day finished with a panel discussion with panel members including UCAS, Universities UK, Learning and Skills Council (LSC), Council for Assisting Refugee Academics (CARA) and Refugee Assessment and Guidance Unit (RAGU) and a short film about the final panel member, Hamdi Barre, a refugee from Somalia who completed a degree at Middlesex University and is now working on an AimHigher project. We had an hour for lunch and networking. The HERAN and Information for Asylum Seekers websites were on display and there was a stall with information about

projects in different universities as well as the work of other ASSET UK partners.

Delegates were asked to give feedback both on the conference and on whether it would result in any action. Responses were very positive.

Many delegates commented that they were surprised and encouraged to see that so much work was going on. They were keen to go back to their institutions to share ideas from the workshops. Several delegates said that they would amend their Equality and Diversity statement to include refugees. Some other comments were:



© RAGU 2005. Hamdi Barre, at HERAN conference.

‘Very glad HERAN is there and that I can draw on its resources’

‘Really good event for reminding us of why this work is so important’

‘A really useful day. Didn’t know about HERAN or that so many other organisations were involved in projects similar to mine. In just one day I have gained a massive support network.’

The conference report is available to download on the ASSET UK website at <http://www.asset-uk.org.uk/public/heran.pdf>.

To find out more about the work we are doing or to join HERAN, please look at the new website we have developed as part of ASSET UK at “<http://www.heran.org.uk>”

*Susan Davenport, Project Coordinator RAGU, Tel: 020 7133 4051 / Email: [s.davenport@londonmet.ac.uk](mailto:s.davenport@londonmet.ac.uk)*

## More Partnership News.....

### The Impact of ASSET UK between May 2002 - June 2005

ASSET UK is a partnership funded under the EQUAL Round 1 programme which consists of 8 agencies that work together to promote asylum seekers' skills, empowerment and training in the UK. Led both nationally and transnationally by the British Refugee Council, ASSET UK has developed and disseminated good practice on information, advice and guidance, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL); skills audits; volunteering and working with employers. ASSET UK has equipped asylum seekers with the skills that have prepared them for the labour market, either in the UK or in their country of origin.

#### Providing quality advice and support

- 200 mainstream education, advice and guidance workers who work with asylum seekers in the regions have been trained on issues relating to refugees and asylum seekers.
- A new website giving advice and guidance on education and employment in the UK to asylum seekers has been developed [www.info-for-asylumseekers.org.uk](http://www.info-for-asylumseekers.org.uk). It consists of 7 units: Improve Your English, Understand the UK Education System, Get into Further Education, Get into Higher Education, Volunteer and Prepare for Employment, Recognition for Qualifications and Experience, Requalification. Summaries of these units have been translated into 8 different asylum seeker languages – Arabic, Farsi, French, Pashto, Somali, Tigrinian, Turkish, Sorani.
- From May 2002 – June 2005, 730 asylum seekers received orientation, advice and guidance including advocacy, financial support with course tuition fees, travelling expenses and childcare, assistance with applications and signposting to other services.

#### Access to training and employment

- From May 2002 – June 2005, 668 skills audits were conducted with asylum seekers. Each skills audit consisted of an Individual Learning Plan, cv writing and development of a portfolio of each asylum seekers' skills and qualifications relevant to the UK labour market.

- 157 volunteering placements, including work orientation placements, have been created directly empowering asylum seekers.
- 656 learning placements for asylum seekers have been facilitated.
- 246 asylum seekers have acquired basic skills including training in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), English for Special Purposes courses and ESOL to support the curriculum in specific contexts ie Childcare and Construction.
- 351 teachers of asylum seekers have been empowered through developing their teacher training skills and as a result have directly empowered asylum seekers.

### **Support for other service providers**

- ASSET UK has showcased its work to NGOs working with asylum seekers and refugees in Poland, Estonia, Slovenia and Czech Republic to help them establish their own EQUAL Development Partnerships for Asylum Seekers
- ASSET UK showcased its work with asylum seekers at a conference attended by 90 policy makers and stakeholders in March 2005 including representatives from Learning & Skills Councils, NASS, Home Office, DfES and Job Centre Plus.
- 55 volunteer tutors trained at teacher training workshops
- 39 teachers of asylum seekers have met and attended meetings of the new Voluntary Sector ESOL Network
- Higher Education for Refugees and Asylum Seekers Network (HERAN) has been set up and a new website has been launched at [www.heran.org.uk](http://www.heran.org.uk). HERAN is a network of Universities which is the first of its kind in the UK and addresses issues affecting asylum seekers
- An embedded ESOL Course for Construction was piloted in Peterborough Regional College and an embedded ESOL Course for Childcare was piloted at Cardiff ESOL Parade and trained 29 asylum seekers.
- The ESOL for Working with Children course has been mainstreamed and

accredited by Cardiff City Council.

- A new qualification on Teaching Basic Literacy to ESOL Learners has been developed and is accredited by London South Bank University.
- 6 editions of the ASSET UK Newsletter were produced and circulated to an audience of over 1000 contacts including Learning and Skills Councils, Job Centre Plus, NASS and Government Offices
- ASSET UK partners disseminated and mainstreamed their work at 103 events which were attended by over 2500 practitioners and professionals working with asylum seekers
- ASSET UK has supported the development of activities for 4 new Theme 1 DPs for asylum seekers in the UK running under EQUAL Round 2.
- ASSET UK continued to support the National Learning and Skills Council Strategies affecting asylum seekers and refugees such as Widening Participation, Skills for Life and Equality and Diversity
- The ASSET UK website [www.asset-uk.org.uk](http://www.asset-uk.org.uk) has been developed as a key resource for practitioners and policy makers working with asylum seekers. All ASSET UK publications are available to download freely.

### **ASSET UK Beneficiaries Forum**

The EQUAL ASSET UK beneficiaries meeting took place in Birmingham on 16 March 2005. It was attended by 9 beneficiaries in total, from each of the EQUAL ASSET UK DP partners, who work directly with beneficiaries. Lynda Lawrence, the ASSET UK Project Manager, provided an overview of the work of ASSET UK over the past 3 years. The beneficiaries were then able to discuss their own experiences and exchange information about the various activities they have been involved in through ASSET UK, including volunteering, attending ESOL courses and partaking in skills audits, as well as reflecting upon the support they have received from the partnership. They also took part in two workshops, in which two beneficiaries presented their experiences of ASSET UK to the rest of the group.

If you want to find out more about this event and read beneficiaries thoughts about the project please click to the following link:

<http://www.asset-uk.org.uk/public/ben.%20forum.pdf>

## Refugee Week Celebrations!

To celebrate Refugee Week, (20-26 June 2005) Sheffield College, decided to organise a coach trip to Rufford Country Park, near Edwinstowe, Nottinghamshire, inviting all ESOL students across the College.

Rufford is a unique combination of history, countryside and crafts, set in the heart of Robin Hood Country. It includes large areas of woodland and parkland with footpaths throughout. Amongst all the woodland are the picturesque remains of Rufford Abbey, founded in the 12th Century by Cistercian monks. There is also a Craft Centre which includes a gallery with a changing programme of exhibitions, as well as a Ceramic Centre.

Two coaches left Castle Centre at Sheffield College and included 65 students and 15 staff. The weather was fine and warm so students strolled around the grounds discovering all the different attractions. One highlight of the day was the large number of swans on the lake - many of the students had never seen these before. Picnics were set up all over the Park, some students played cricket, football and generally relaxed and enjoyed themselves.

The general conclusion was that the day had been enjoyed by both students and staff, with plenty to see and plenty of activities to do which led to a worthwhile and entertaining time, obviously having great educational value as well!

*To find out more about Sheffield College's dissemination and mainstreaming activities, please contact Andrew Oatridge, Project Manager, Sheffield College tel: 0114 260 2448 / email [andrew.oatridge@sheffcol.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.oatridge@sheffcol.ac.uk)*

## Transnational news

### ASSET UK Exchanges Ideas on Equality of Opportunity with Want2Work

During the month of March, ASSET UK visited the Danish Red Cross, Want2Work team, to share ideas about good practice on diversity and equal opportunities. Deng Yai gave a presentation on the work done in this area so far by ASSET UK (see feature for more information), this includes the:

- Formation of an equal opportunity task group
- Drafting of an equal opportunities policy that aimed to meet the objectives of the DP in an inclusive manner
- Process and tools by the DP to monitor and analyse its strengths and weaknesses.

Deng and Saba Khan also spoke about UK equality legislation and emphasised that compliance with the law ensures equality of opportunity, this included an explanation of the:

- Race Relations Act 1976
- Sex Discrimination Act 1975
- Race Relations Amendment Act 2001
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- Human Rights Act 1998

Saba Khan gave a presentation on the Disability Discrimination Act and the process of producing information products in alternative formats, that are accessible to all (see feature for further information).

Sune Skadegard Throsen, of the Lawhouse gave a presentation about the Danish experience of equality and diversity practice. He stated that Denmark has the highest participation of women in the workforce, but the lowest in top management. A study by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in 1999, revealed that 38.3 per cent of Danish employers discriminate against minorities based on name alone (1000 trails). Sune also gave a talk on knowledge management where it was stated that 70% of knowledge is tacit (knowledge specific to the employee), 70 percent of tacit knowledge is within the employee's network, this means that if organisations employ from their

own networks they lose 49% of knowledge! In Denmark, larger companies that are competing in the global market are becoming more aware of the necessities of having a diverse workforce. Sune continued to talk about how Novo Nordisk has made diversity an integral part of their management training and incorporated targets on diversity into the corporate management tool called the Balanced Scorecard that evaluates the performance on equal opportunity and diversity in the organisation each year.

After much discussion Want2Work said that, all in all the day had been ‘a day of inspiration’.

*Saba Khan*

*Information Officer to the European Integration Project, Refugee Council*

*Tel: 020 7346 1099 / Email: saba.khan@refugeecouncil.org.uk*

## **ETG5 Working Group on Skills Audits for Asylum Seekers**

The ETG5 working group on skills audits included representatives from EQUAL DPs in the UK, Germany, Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands. A preliminary document, “**Skills Audits- The Basics: Working With Asylum Seekers**”, was prepared by the group for the ETG5 Dublin conference in April 2004. You can access this document at:

[http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/empl/equal\\_etg/library?l=/etg5/03\\_media/skills\\_folderpdf/\\_EN\\_1.0\\_&a=d](http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/empl/equal_etg/library?l=/etg5/03_media/skills_folderpdf/_EN_1.0_&a=d)

A further policy brief called “**The Right Opportunity for the Right Skills: EQUAL Promotes Skills Audits with Asylum-Seekers**” available at: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/equal/policy-briefs/etg5-skill-audits-as\\_en.cfm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/equal/policy-briefs/etg5-skill-audits-as_en.cfm) was prepared for the EQUAL mainstreaming conference, “The Free Movement of Good Ideas” held in Warsaw on February 2005 (see above). Workshop A3 at the conference was about Taking Account of All Learning. It included input from the working group on assessing and validating the skills of people excluded from the labour market, such as migrants and asylum seekers.

You can read more about the conference and access the conference report at: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/equal/activities/20050225-warsaw-conf2\\_en.cfm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/equal/activities/20050225-warsaw-conf2_en.cfm)

## Bulletin Board

### Publications

#### **The Forbidden Workforce: asylum seekers, the employment concession and access to the UK labour market**

The employment concession was introduced in 1986. Asylum seekers were allowed to apply for permission to work, if after six months, they had not received an initial decision on their claim. On 23 July 2002, the Home Office announced its decision to withdraw the employment concession with immediate effect. ASSET UK Development Partnership conducted research to assess the impact of this decision on asylum seekers. This report details the key findings and points the right way ahead with key recommendations. This report is available to download on the ASSET UK website at: <http://www.asset-uk.org.uk/public/forwork.pdf>

**ASSET UK's Response to the Home Office Paper Integration Matters: A National Strategy for Refugee Integration (Oct 2004)** is also available to download on the ASSET UK website at: <http://www.asset-uk.org.uk/news.htm>

**HERAN conference report** – The full report of this conference held at London Metropolitan University on 11th May 2005 (see article in this newsletter) is available to download from the ASSET UK website at: <http://www.asset-uk.org.uk/public/heran.pdf>

#### **Citizenskills – A multimedia resource for citizenship and ESOL**

Citizenskills is a multimedia package for teachers and adult learners interested in the theme of citizenship as a context for developing English language skills. As a product of the ASSET UK DP, its main audience is asylum seekers who have been dispersed throughout the UK.

To obtain a copy of this CD Rom please check the main Basic Skills Agency site <http://www.basic-skills.co.uk/site/page.php?cms=0> or phone them on 0870 600 2400. Please quote the code number for the Citizenskills resource pack: Code No A1755.

#### **Diversity and equality in planning: a good practice guide**

Produced by The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and available at: [www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm\\_planning/documents/page/odpm\\_plan\\_035786.pdf](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_035786.pdf)

### **Report on English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Classes held in Emergency Accommodation**

Read the evaluation report on ESOL Classes run by the Refugee Council in Emergency Accommodation in the West Midlands by visiting the ASSET UK website at: <http://www.asset-uk.org.uk/letter.htm>

**LLU+ (formerly London Language & Literacy Unit)** is also continuing to provide support to ESOL tutors to use **on-line ESOL training elements** independently. The training materials can be accessed by visiting [www.sflqi.org.uk](http://www.sflqi.org.uk) and going to the bottom right hand corner of the page, and looking under Online Materials. This is a staff development website for ESOL teachers and managers to deliver Skills for Life (Levels 2-4). Refugee Awareness Training is one of the modules and all modules are available as downloadable pdf files. There is also a Skills for Life Network which you can visit at <http://www.skillsforlifeframework.com>.

### **Coming soon this Autumn .....**

- Report on the Empowerment of Asylum Seekers
- Report on Equal Opportunities
- Report on Working with Employers
- Practitioners' Guide to Undertaking Skills Audits with Asylum Seekers
- Report on the Re-integration and Return of asylum seekers
- Anthology of asylum seekers writings

### **Forthcoming Events**

**EQUAL Theme I Mainstreaming Conference:  
An Equal Future for Asylum Seekers: Investing in Inclusive  
Communities - 30 September 2005 – Church House, London**

Invitation only. For further information, please contact Louise Morgan, Equal Support Unit on 0121 616 3710, email [Louise.Morgan@ecotec.com](mailto:Louise.Morgan@ecotec.com) or visit the Equal website at [www.equal.ecotec.co.uk](http://www.equal.ecotec.co.uk)

## Conference on The Education of Asylum Seekers in an FE Context

**3 November 2005 – The Sheffield College.**

This conference will showcase the work of the ASSET UK project within the College and will be open to up to 80 participants.

For further information, contact Andrew Oatridge, Project Manager, Sheffield College tel: 0114 260 2448 or email [andrew.oatridge@sheffcol.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.oatridge@sheffcol.ac.uk)

## ASSET UK Using On-line Resources Workshops

**Workshops** are being held around the UK looking at the on-line media developed by ASSET UK. ASSET UK has developed a website providing information for asylum seekers about education and preparation for employment in the UK. Visit the website at: <http://www.info-for-asylumseekers.org.uk/>. ASSET UK also produced a CD Rom and Resource Pack on Citizenskills which is aimed at asylum seekers and tutors of asylum seekers. The aim of these workshops is to look at how people might use the resources. The intended audience for these workshops are ESOL teachers based in FE Colleges.

Confirmed dates are:

8 September 2005 – Bournemouth - Contact [Niki.Leach@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:Niki.Leach@lsc.gov.uk)

29 September 2005 – Gillingham – Contact [delia.halsey@medway.gov.uk](mailto:delia.halsey@medway.gov.uk)

7 October 2005 – Leicester – Contact [elaine.scott@edu-co.co.uk](mailto:elaine.scott@edu-co.co.uk)

19 October 2005 – Birmingham – Contact [nora.darby@i-s-e.co.uk](mailto:nora.darby@i-s-e.co.uk)

27 October 2005 – Scunthorpe – Contact [n.hooper@hull.ac.uk](mailto:n.hooper@hull.ac.uk)

## Voluntary Sector ESOL Network

The next meeting of the Voluntary Sector ESOL Network will be October 17 2005 at London South Bank University. The Voluntary Sector ESOL Network is open to ESOL teachers and managers working with the voluntary sector both nationally and within London. For further information please contact Pauline Moon on [moonp@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:moonp@lsbu.ac.uk) or tel 020 7815 6253.

## Refugee Children: Safeguarding the future of those hardest to protect

### Refugee Council conferences

London: Thursday, 20 October 2005

York: Wednesday, 9 November 2005.

The issues concerning refugee children and those that work with them are diverse and challenging. For all agencies working in this field it is a priority to ensure the safety of refugee children and to maximise their opportunities. Towards this end these conferences aim to highlight a range of issues particular to refugee children, providing delegates with knowledge on which to build practical skills, to apply in day-to-day work.

Speakers include:

- Alison Stanley, Partner and Head of Immigration Team, Bindman and Partners
- Al Aynsley-Green, the new Children's Commissioner for England
- Eileen Bye, Inspector at Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons for England and Wales
- Katherine Henderson, Solicitor, Head of Immigration and Asylum Department, Browell, Smith and Company
- Arthur Ivatts, OBE, Education Consultant, formally Inspector at Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education responsible for asylum seekers and refugees
- Debbie Ariyo AFRUCA - Africans Unite Against Child Abuse
- An Invited Government Minister

Workshop areas include:

- Age Assessment - good practice
- Talking to refugee children about health, sexual health and pregnancy
- Working with parents, carers and communities to support refugee children in schools
- Returns of unaccompanied children
- Identifying mental health needs of children for non-specialists
- Assessing the needs of refugee children in families

Find out more about the conference including booking details by visiting <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/conferences>

For general enquiries please email us at: [asset.uk@refugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:asset.uk@refugeecouncil.org.uk)

<u>Postal address</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Telephone/Fax</u>
<b>ASSET UK</b>		
British Refugee Council 4th Floor, Smithfield House Digbeth, Birmingham B5 6BS	Lynda Lawrence, Project Manager, ASSET UK <a href="mailto:lynda.lawrence@refugeecouncil.org.uk">lynda.lawrence@refugeecouncil.org.uk</a>	Tel: 0121 622 0964 Fax: 0121 622 0967
	Diana Bowers, Admin and Info Co-ordinator <a href="mailto:diana.bowers@refugeecouncil.org.uk">diana.bowers@refugeecouncil.org.uk</a>	Tel: 0121 622 0965 Fax: 0121 622 0967
<b>BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL</b>		
240-250 Ferndale Road, London SW9 8BB	David Hudson, Transnational Manager <a href="mailto:david.hudson@refugeecouncil.org.uk">david.hudson@refugeecouncil.org.uk</a>	Tel: 020 7346 1098 Fax: 020 7737 3306
	Saba Khan, Transnational Information Officer <a href="mailto:saba.khan@refugeecouncil.org.uk">saba.khan@refugeecouncil.org.uk</a>	Tel: 020 7346 1099 Fax: 020 7737 3306
<b>PARTNERS</b>		
<b>Basic Skills Agency</b>		
7th Floor, Commonwealth House London WC1A 1NU 1-19 New Oxford Street	Celine Castelino <a href="mailto:celinec@basic-skills.co.uk">celinec@basic-skills.co.uk</a>	Tel: 020 7440 6531 Fax: 020 7440 6624
<b>LLU+</b>		
London South Bank University London SE1 0AA 103 Borough Road	Pauline Moon, Project Worker <a href="mailto:moonp@lsbu.ac.uk">moonp@lsbu.ac.uk</a>	Tel: 020 7815 6253 Fax: 020 7815 6296
<b>National Institute of Adult Continuing Education</b>		
21 De Montfort Street Leicester LE1 7GE	Sue Waddington, Project Manager <a href="mailto:sue.waddington@niace.org.uk">sue.waddington@niace.org.uk</a>	Tel: 0116 255 1451 Fax: 0116 285 4514
<b>Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities</b>		
3rd Floor, Ascot House 24-31 Shaftesbury Square Belfast BT2 7DB	Patrick Yu, Project Manager <a href="mailto:pyu@nicem.org.uk">pyu@nicem.org.uk</a>	Tel: 02890 238 645 Fax: 02890 319 485
<b>London Metropolitan University</b>		
The Learning Centre 236-250 Holloway Road London N7 6PP	Susan Davenport, European Programmes Co-ordinator <a href="mailto:s.davenport@londonmet.ac.uk">s.davenport@londonmet.ac.uk</a>	Tel: 020 7133 4051 Fax: 020 7753 5012
<b>Sheffield College</b>		
Castle Centre Granville Road Sheffield S2 2RL	Andrew Oatridge, Project Manager <a href="mailto:andrew.oatridge@sheffcol.ac.uk">andrew.oatridge@sheffcol.ac.uk</a>	Tel: 0114 260 2448 Fax: 0114 260 2169

Visit our website at:  
[www.asset-uk.org.uk](http://www.asset-uk.org.uk)

This newsletter is available on request in alternative formats. Please contact Saba Khan on 020 7820 3080 or email her at: [saba.khan@refugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:saba.khan@refugeecouncil.org.uk)

For general enquiries please email us at:  
[asset.uk@refugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:asset.uk@refugeecouncil.org.uk)