

**HELPING REFUGEES, MIGRANTS, AND OTHER ETHNIC
MINORITIES TO INTEGRATE SUCCESSFULLY IN OUR COMMUNITY**

Integration Matters



It is a great challenge for all of us to start a new life in a new country where there is a huge difference in language, culture and

life style. Some of us find it very easy to adapt to a new environment and can see themselves fitting in naturally with the rest of the community. Children and young people seem to be more successful in the process of integration while the rest of us quite often struggle and find ourselves lost and hopeless.

What is Integration?

There isn't one single definition for the word 'Integration', therefore every one of us can formulate his definition in his own words. I personally can describe 'integration' as a long process which needs a lot of effort and commitment to be successful. Seven years ago I began work as a volunteer and now looking back, I can say it changed my life and my attitude for future years. A friend of mine spent *one year* to trying to persuade her neighbor to go around for dinner, she offered many invitations and received several 'excuses'. It is our attempts and commitments to change things around us for better that stimulates the start of an integration process.

To know about places and events in your own community, to participate in meetings whether at school, work or a social club is always a good way

of moving things around us. Being in contact with people, sharing your own experiences and have a voice among others is almost a 'must' if you want to speed the process of integrating.

Looking back or looking forward?

While most of us would love to be connected with our own culture and language whether via the news or newspapers in our own language, or by visiting our family and friends regularly or simply trying to network with members of our own communities it is as much more important to be in touch with the news and developments of the place we are living in now.

No matter how many different views we have on integration and ways to go for it, there is one point where most of us agree: **Language:** it is the most important element of the integration process for which some are lucky to already know before coming here and others have little or no knowledge. The lack of language makes things much more difficult but as everything else in life we must start somewhere whether by starting work or a volunteering job, whether by inviting your neighbor for dinner or attending a social club all these will contribute positively towards our integration.

M. Matoshi

We would like to hear from your views, ideas and experiences on 'Integration Matters' Please write to us; your thoughts and experiences will be helpful for others. You can email us on info@integrationsupportservices.org.uk or you can send a letter to our address on the back page.

Migration from Eastern Europe falls to new low

The number of Eastern European migrants coming to work in the UK has fallen to its lowest level since accession, according to statistics published by the Home Office at the end of August. The figures show that between April and June 2008 there were 40,000 applications to the Worker Registration Scheme from nationals of the eight countries that joined the EU in 2004 - that's the lowest level since accession, a drop of 14,000 from the same period last year and a fall of 9,000 from the first three months of this year.

The number of Bulgarians and Romanians applying to work in the UK has also dropped to its lowest level since accession in January 2007 with only 7,005 applications for worker cards and registration certificates between April and June of this year, compared to 10,860 in the same period last year. In other statistics also published end of July show the Government is removing those that have no right to be here, especially those that cause the most harm. In the first six months of 2008 32,230 people were removed from the UK, up six per cent from the first half of 2007. Within this figure the number of non-asylum removals increased - going from 23,195 to 26,275, a rise of 13 per cent. Last year the Home Office removed a record 4,200 foreign prisoners and this year is on track to meet its target to remove at least 5,000. In the first six months of this year over 2,500 foreign prisoners have been removed - a 23 per cent increase on the same period last year.

To speed up the removal process further still the Government announced in May that the immigration detention estate would increase its capacity by 60 per cent, with an additional 1,300 to 1,500 spaces for immigration offenders, within two years. In 2007 the number of people applying for asylum fell to its lowest level since 1993 with 23,430 applications. Application levels remain historically low, between April and June this year 5,720 people applied for refuge, compared to 6,595 in the previous three months of 2008.

English Course – New Term

If you are struggling with English and are at the beginner's level, it's not too late to join our course on Saturdays at Sure Start Centre, Parnall Road. **The course is free** but an administration fee of £10 will apply. Please call our office for more information or if you would like to register for the course

Points-based system, apply for your sponsor license by 1 October!

This year Home Office begins the roll-out of the points-based system - the biggest shake-up of the immigration system for 45 years. At the end of November they will be launching the skilled worker tier (tier 2) and the temporary worker tier (tier 5).

Under the points-based system, employers will need a sponsor license to bring in skilled or temporary workers from outside the European Economic Area or Switzerland, they recommend that you make your application for a sponsor license by 1 October if you want it to be considered in time for the opening of tiers 2 and 5.

If you need more details about the Sponsorship under the points-based system or to help you with the application, please call our office for an appointment.

01279 639442

info@integrationsupportservices.org.uk

'The Art' Awards



Has your child got a talent for drawing, painting or any art and craft work?

Is he/she age between 4 and 12?

Do you want your child to participate in our competition?

Please bring his piece of work at our

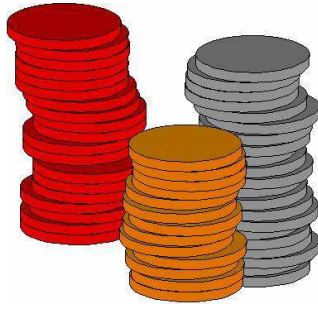
office/Sure Start centre before 30th of November with your name and address and the age of your child.

Three awards will be given to three different categories for age group 4-6; 6-9 and 9-12; The winners will be selected by an independent board and will be announce on the second week of December.



MoneyGram

You can transfer money to your family or relatives from just £4.99 for up to £100. You can make your transfer from any Thomas Cook or Post Office.



For more information call freephone: 0800 8971 8971 or www.moneygram.com

Summer Holiday Events and Activities



The Science Museum in London

It has been an amazing time in the last 5 weeks filled with lots of activities and events for children and parents at Sure Start Centre, Staple Tye.

Thanks to the support of Harlow Education Consortium we arranged a wide range of special activities such as an educational trip to London Science Museum, Culture Aware day and many other activities for children to keep them busy during the school holidays. This year was the first time we have organized extra special activities for summer term and as a first experience we have learned a lot to do things better next time.

And a big thank you to all the parents, staff and volunteers who worked hard to make this summer a special time for all of us.



Our Multi-cultural Event was well attended and a lot of fun whilst teaching us many new things from other cultures and each other.



Trustees/Volunteers Needed

Do you have a passion to work with the community?

Do you want to represent your own community at our board meetings, by bringing their voice to us and making a difference?

We need your experience, time and dedication to run our organization to the best possible standards.

Give us a call for more information and we would be very happy to explain in more details the benefits and challenges of becoming a trustee or a volunteer.

September Programme

| Activity | Time | Venue |
|--|--|--|
| Saturday activities for families with children | 10.30 am – 1.30 pm (every Saturday) | Sure Start Centre, Parnall Road, Harlow |
| English Course for beginners | 11 am – 1.00 pm (every Saturday) | Sure Start Centre, Parnall Road, Harlow |
| Drop-in | 1.30 pm – 5 pm Thursdays | 2 Wych Elm, Harlow (Rainbow building) |
| Consultation and advice | By appointment only | 2 Wych Elm, Harlow (Rainbow building) |



Office Address:
 2 Wych Elm, (Rainbow building)
 Harlow Essex
 CM20 1QP
 Telephone/Fax: 01279 639442
 E-mail: info@integrationsupportservices.org.uk

*We are a registered charity No. 6308078
 Company limited by Guarantee No. 1120609*



Saturday activities being shared at Sure Start for families and children. You are welcome to come along.

We are grateful to our sponsors:



And all those who helped and contributed towards the publication of this issue

This newsletter can be forwarded to you by post monthly at the cost of £1 monthly or £12 annually per copy which includes postage charges. Simply contact us. Details shown above. Multiple copies sent to the same address would of course be cheaper, just let us know your requirements and we will offer you a quote. E-mail copies can be provided on request.

Marlene Brooks (Editor)