

Bulletin 30 January 2009

SDV News and events

Free Funds

On the "free funds" area of the easyfundraising website, there are lots of ways to raise funds for free for SDV. These include free trials with lovefilm (£8) and blockbuster (£6.25).

Tesco will also give £5 the first time you do an online shop with them. If we all did this, we could raise quite a lot of money!

Go to easyfundraising using this link.

<http://www.sdv.org.uk/id15.html>

Immigration, asylum and detention news

Detained Lives

London Detainee Support Group have launched their Detained Lives Report, based on interviews with people experiencing long term detention. The report is available on the Detained Lives campaign website at:

<http://www.detainedlives.org/>

Read coverage of the report here:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/jan/28/asylum-seekers-detention/>

Asylum contract terminated as police investigation begins

The Home Office has ended its contract with a company employed to house failed asylum seekers following a police investigation.

Kimberley Housing Group was appointed by the Home Office in 2006 to provide accommodation for asylum seekers who have failed to secure a stay in the UK.

Officials have now confirmed the department has terminated its contract with the private housing contractor, and a police investigation is in progress.

Kimberley Housing Group is the latest company contracted by the Home Office to house asylum seekers to be investigated by police. Another contractor, Refugee Care Association, has been investigated by South Yorkshire Police over fraud claims, while Birmingham-based Astonbrook had its offices raided by police in 2007.

A Freedom of Information Act request submitted by Inside Housing last year suggested there have also been numerous complaints about the programme to house failed asylum seekers. The department said it would take three and a half days to find and photocopy all the grievances it had received.

<http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/story.aspx?storycode=6502758>

Brook House IRC, opening delayed!

The new immigration detention centre at Gatwick airport will not be opened until the spring, Corporate Watch has learned. The official opening had been scheduled for February this year but has been delayed for undisclosed reasons. The purpose-built high-security prison, named Brook House, is based on the 'successful' design of Colnbrook detention centre at Heathrow airport. The new detention centre will be run by Global Solution Ltd (GSL), which is now owned by G4S, and will hold up to 426 male and female detainees.

<http://www.corporatewatch.org.uk/?lid=3193>

Chief Inspector of Prisons Annual Report Published

Contains a review of the Immigration Removal Centre Inspections carried out in 2007/08

<http://inspectors.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmiprisons/docs/annual-report-2007-2008/annual-report?view=Binary>

Other news and events

A job you might be interested in

WDM Scotland is advertising for a Campaigns Assistant, based in Edinburgh. Closing date for applications is 15th February. See website for more details and an application pack.

<http://www.wdmScotland.org.uk/about/jobs/index.htm/>