



Welcome to the May - June 2016 Research & Campaigns newsletter!



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At Citizens Advice Shropshire, we are passionate about helping to bring about change through Research & Campaigns (R&C).

We support national Citizens Advice campaigns as well as identifying local issues that affect local people.

If you would like to get involved and potentially volunteer with us please fill out the [volunteering form](#) on our website: www.cabshropshire.org.uk

EU referendum: Brexit - how it affects you

Information from Citizens Advice:

The UK public has voted to leave the EU. This means it's likely that some laws will change in the future - but not immediately.

Everything will stay the same until new laws are made.

If you're an EU citizen living in the UK, your rights to live, work or get benefits won't change unless the government passes new laws.

If you're a UK citizen living in the EU or travelling to the EU, your rights won't change yet either.

You don't need to take any action now. Changes to the law will be announced before they happen, so you'll have time to prepare if you're affected.

If you think you've been discriminated against since the referendum, for example if you've been unfairly refused work or housing, or told your rights have changed, you should [contact your nearest Citizens Advice](#).

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller history month

June is Gypsy, Roma and Traveller history month. Celebrate diversity and promote equality by watching some of the links in this newsletter.



Gypsies, Roma, Travellers: An Animated History



Open Society Foundations

100,183 views

Watch this great video giving a brief history of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people from the Open Society Foundation.



Teresa, an admin assistant at Leeds GATE, created a video highlighting the experiences of discrimination Gypsy and Travellers endure in the UK. She says 'as a Gypsy I have experienced discrimination and as part of the project I wanted to make a short film to raise awareness of the issues many Gypsies and Travellers face. This is 2016 and I believe something needs to be done about it. **Don't hate don't discriminate.** The film talks to Gypsies and Travellers and asks about their experiences and stories of where and when they have felt discriminated against.' Click on the 'Don't hate don't discriminate' image to watch the video.

Welfare reform and working people

Throughout May the Research and Campaigns team have continued to work on the welfare reform and working people project, carrying out two in depth interviews with local people who had completed the survey.

We mapped out participants and work histories, and discussed the options available for them to increase their earnings through upping their hours or through a career change. We also talked at length about what a £100 drop in income a month would mean for themselves or their families.

These interviews proved very interesting and it highlighted again how important it is for policy makers to understand how welfare reform is going to affect a new client base, and how uniquely and well placed Citizens Advice National as a national service is to help them recognise the needs of and options available to working people.

The qualitative information we have gathered will be sent to Citizens Advice so they can use the anonymous quotes to sit alongside the quantitative data from the survey. Watch this space for further updates!

Volunteers week 1-12 June

An extra big thank you...

...to all the incredible volunteers who ensure we can support millions of people every year.



#volunteersweek



At the beginning of June we celebrated volunteers week with the amazing people who give up their time to make our service possible across Shropshire. We created posters for social media and our receptions based on feedback from our volunteers, ate lots of cake and did our best to make our volunteers feel extra appreciated! Follow us on [Twitter](#) and like us on [Facebook](#) to see campaigns like these as they happen in the future.

Want to volunteer for Citizens Advice Shropshire? Come to our upcoming information & recruitment sessions:

Want to volunteer for Citizens Advice?

Places available on our information & recruitment sessions

These will be at the Shrewsbury Bureau (Fletcher House, 15 College Hill, Shrewsbury SY1 1LY) on Wednesday 29th June & Wednesday 6th July from 10.00 until 2.30 pm

This will be an opportunity for anyone interested in volunteering for the roles of assessor or advisor to find out more about the roles and the training involved. You'll also gain an understanding of the organisation and how we serve Shropshire.

Anyone wishing to attend please contact Cris Willis on **07910872592** or **01743 284189** or e-mail Cris at **training@shropshirecab.cabnet.org.uk**

Please do not just turn up, as numbers will be limited and we wouldn't want you to be disappointed on the day.



Shropshire



FRESh forum & Oswestry welcomes refugees



On Thursday 9th June Cris Willis and Elizabeth Miller attended the [FRESh](#) (Freedom, Respect, Equality Shropshire) forum which focused on welcoming refugees to Shropshire. A few days later Elizabeth attended the Oswestry Welcomes Refugees meeting and learned some more about Syrian culture.

Over the next 12 months Refugee Action will be providing integration support for 50 refugees across Shropshire (Oswestry and Shrewsbury). The first group will be coming to Oswestry imminently, and will have the same rights to claim benefits and use services in the UK as British Citizens do.

Most Local Authorities across UK are taking an allocation of 8-10 families of Syrian refugees who have been living in Refugee camps in Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon, and Iraq. The places they will be settled in are carefully selected based on housing provision, school places, and the impact on GP surgeries, community cohesion and Hate Crime issues. The refugees will live in private rented housing which was already available to the local community at market price; no one will be jumping any housing lists. The support provided is funded by the Department for International Development. Shropshire Housing Alliance have sourced and will manage the properties, and Spring Housing will be providing floating tenancy support in a housing officer type role.

Bad job ads

Last year we ran our own small scale local research into job adverts in Shropshire newspapers, and looked at what was included on online job sites such as Reed and Indeed for jobs openings across the county.

We discovered that often only larger employers included all of the recommended necessary information, because they were companies who could afford to pay by the word, whereas smaller employers couldn't.

Research both Citizens Advice and local Citizens Advice Bureaux undertook last year has led to the Government announcing that it would be taking up their suggestions, meaning that all government job adverts are going to meet the new standard.

Click on the tweet to read the Citizens Advice blog to find out more!



LGBT advice project update

At the end of last year/ beginning of 2016 some of you may have helped us with some initial scoping research by filling out our survey about LGBT specific advice needs in Shropshire. People also gave up their time for telephone or face to face interviews to explore some of the issues more in depth. Thank you to everyone for your help.



With the survey results and in-depth interviews from Shropshire and Durham collated, North Liverpool CAB made a first stage proposal to the Reaching Communities Fund of the BIG Lottery. The application was made about two months ago so we expect to hear imminently about their decision.

If successful, we will be invited to make a second stage application, which we would hope to turnaround and have a final decision on the project within in 4 months.

Human rights or Harry Potter?



Can you tell which of these 12 quotes is a human rights quote or extracts from the books or films about the famous boy wizard?

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 Website

Don't forget ... if you want to know more about campaigning for change or get more involved you can find out more from [our website](#).

Citizens Advice Shropshire, Fletcher House, 15 College Hill, Shrewsbury SY1 1LY
Adviceline Shropshire: 03444 99 11 00 or Text Relay: 03444 111 445.
Tuesday 10-6pm, & Monday, Thursday and Friday 10-4pm