



REFUGEE/ASYLUM SEEKER SUMMARY (2008)

Compiled by Stephen McMurray

Introduction

This summary updates information presented in ‘The Position of Joined up for Jobs Target Groups’ report in 2005. This report considered each target group and in addition to the categories below included; overlaps between the different target groups, perceived gaps in service provision, information gaps, and conclusions and recommendations. This report is available from CCP.

Scope

The Scottish Refugee Council (2003) estimate that there are around **10,000** refugees and asylum seekers living in Scotland. There are around **234** asylum seekers living in Edinburgh, it is very difficult to measure the number of refugees in the city, but the Refugee Council consider that there are no more than around **750**.

<u>TARGET GROUP</u>	<u>NUMBER IN EDINBURGH</u>	<u>NOT WORKING</u>	<u>SOURCES</u>
Refugee/Asylum Seeker	Likely to be around 1,000	Very hard to say, around 800 could be possible figure	Labour Force Survey 2001, Scottish Refugee Council 2003

Definition

A refugee is a person who: ‘owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country’ (1951 Convention). An asylum seeker is someone who has applied to the Government to be recognised as a refugee.

Employment

Only **5.7%** of the refugees and asylum seekers who responded to the ‘Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Scotland: A Skills and Aspirations Audit’ (Scottish Executive 2004a) were in paid employment. The Labour Force Survey also found that only **29%** of refugees were in employment.

Barriers to Employment

In terms of barriers to employment, the following are additional to the barriers faced by ethnic minorities:

- Refugees have reported difficulties in opening bank accounts due to difficulties in proving identity.
- The Asylum Seekers Response Unit in Edinburgh report that in 2002, **12%** of respondents in the city were unable to communicate needs in English without an interpreter.

Employability Services

- **The Edinburgh Refugee Centre** - Employs an education and employment team to give guidance on career opportunities, access to English classes and advice on re-qualifications. The team also provide briefing material on issues concerning education/employment and refugees.

Further Reading

Scottish Executive (2004a) Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Scotland: A Skills and Aspirations Audit,
Edinburgh

The Scottish Refugee Council (2003) Briefing: Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Scotland, Glasgow

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