

### **King's Lynn Asylum and Refugee Support (KLARS)**

As Children's Services representative on the West Norfolk Diverse Communities Partnership, I have contact with a number of organisations which support local minority communities. One of these is King's Lynn Asylum and Refugee Support (KLARS), whose project manager, Louise Heinemann, is keen that I advise headteachers of ways in which her organisation can help.

KLARS has charitable status and is funded by the Big Lottery. Their constitution empowers them to assist asylum seekers, refugees and migrants from other countries, including from within the EU. They provide a focus and contact point not only for newcomers to the UK but also for people interested in welcoming them and providing support and assistance.

KLARS run three weekly drop-ins to help migrant workers, and schools can inform parents of this either by directing them to the KLARS multilingual website [\[www.klarskl.org.uk\]](http://www.klarskl.org.uk) or by providing them with leaflets, an electronic version of which they or I can provide for printing off. They also provide advice on and access to ESOL classes.

KLARS also run a weekly after-school homework club for primary school children whose first language is not English, which has a part-time paid co-ordinator. By invitation only, it provides an opportunity for children to increase their English and social skills as well as some support with schoolwork.

KLARS can also provide advice regarding interpreting and translation services, and in an emergency may be able to assist with brief telephone messages in Portuguese, Polish, and Russian (almost all Lithuanians and Latvians speak and understand Russian).

Project manager Louise Heinemann and project worker Inna Melnyk would be willing to give a short presentation on KLARS, and Inna could answer questions on the education system in ex-Soviet block countries. As they would have difficulty finding time to do this on an individual school basis, it would probably most effectively occur through an invitation to a headteachers' cluster meeting, and I would be pleased to liaise with Louise to set this up.

If a headteacher cluster group would like to invite Louise and Inna to speak to them, please contact me and I'll set it up. Otherwise, I would urge you to have a look at the website, and hope that you feel the information I have provided is useful.

#### **Contact details:**

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