

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 210, 21 May 2016

Events

Events have been added to the Courses & Events pages on The Network website – see: <http://www.seapn.org.uk/courses>.

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“The Lowry was cornerstone of regeneration”

http://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/comment/01052016-the-lowry-was-cornerstone-of-regeneration?dm_i=2VBX,81BO,27LU0M,PWA4,1

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 4 May 2016)

Museums Association “Comment” piece which looks at the role of The Lowry:

“Regeneration experts have hailed The Lowry a cornerstone of that transformation – valued at £1.4bn, no less – and proof, if it were needed, that museums and galleries can, and do, change lives.

And it’s not just bricks and mortar. Having set up shop in an area with extremely low arts engagement, The Lowry set out to use our creative assets to have a positive effect on the lives of hard-to-reach young people in Salford.

Through various projects and initiatives over the years, we have formed long-term relationships with local youth groups, including looked-after children, young parents, young carers and those on the autism spectrum. We have provided invaluable work experience through our Youth Employment Scheme and, in the past 12 months alone, have provided employability skills training to more than 500 young people.”

“Libraries and Civic Engagement”

<http://www.webjunction.org/news/webjunction/february-poll-results-libraries-and-civic-engagement.html>

(Source: WebJunction *Crossroads*, Mar 2016)

Brief results of their Feb poll which looked at “the ways in which public libraries support civic engagement. This concept has been applied in a number of different ways, ranging from services and programs for newcomers, resources for voters in a representative democracy, or supporting the civil and civic rights of an engaged and informed citizenry.”

Perhaps surprisingly, it then goes on to say: “We’re just beginning to learn more about these terms and approaches, and recognize that some of them may be new to libraries too.”

Includes charts summarising the responses, plus resources, for:

- Citizenship and Immigration
- Engaging citizens in the governing process
- Inclusion & Dialogue.

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

Reboot UK: digital skills for the hardest to reach – literature review

http://www.tinderfoundation.org/sites/default/files/research-publications/reboot_uk_literature_review.pdf

(Source: NFER *On the Web*, Mar 2016)

“Reboot UK is a innovative digital inclusion project funded by Big Lottery Fund which aims to rebuild the lives of people in poverty through personalised basic digital skills training and community-based support. The Reboot UK consortium is run by digital inclusion experts Tinder Foundation, alongside Family Fund, Homeless Link and Mind [...]

The aim of the Reboot UK project is to develop and evaluate innovative methods of engaging and supporting people who do not engage with the current community-based internet skills support on offer in the UK.

The project targets three groups: people with poor mental health, homeless people, and families in poverty. These three target groups were chosen due to their likelihood of being left behind by current digital inclusion initiatives, as well as the significant amount they have to gain from increasing their basic digital skills and the subsequent use (or better use) of the internet derived from gaining these skills.” [p1]

Ready to read: closing the gap in early language skills so that every child in Northern Ireland can read well

http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/images/Ready_to_Read_Northern_Ireland.pdf

(Source: NFER *On the Web*, Mar 2016)

Northern Ireland version of the Read On. Get On campaign document.

Fair Education Alliance: Report card 2015

<http://static1.squarespace.com/static/543e665de4b0fbb2b140b291/t/570d78dc0442621573983b2f/1460500776329/Fair+Education+Alliance+Report+Card+2015.pdf>

(Source: National Literacy Trust *Newsletter*, May 2016)

This is the Alliance’s second annual State of the Nation Report Card.

“The report shows that educational inequality remains deeply entrenched in the UK and outlines a number of policy recommendations for closing the gap between the poorest students and their more advantaged peers.”

[Taken from:

http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/news/7131_the_fair_education_alliance_publicises_second_report_card]

“Unlocking books for prisoners”

http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/about/successes/7161_unlocking_books_for_prisoners

(Source: National Literacy Trust *Newsletter*, May 2016)

Brief outline of the prisons reading initiative:

“*Books Unlocked* is a reading initiative targeting prison, young offender institution, school and community reading groups. The project is

delivered thanks to funding from the Booker Prize Foundation and since 2012 it has been supporting those taking part to increase their enjoyment and frequency of reading by offering them the opportunity to read, discuss, listen to and own Man Booker Prize-shortlisted titles.”

“Race Matters”

<http://runnymedetrust.org/blog/>

The Runnymede Trust blog has moved and is now part of the main website – well worth following, eg it currently has posts on:

- “The changing trends of Chinese migrants in Britain”,
<http://runnymedetrust.org/blog/the-changing-trends-of-chinese-migrants-in-britain>
- “Only 18 Black teachers in Liverpool”,
<http://runnymedetrust.org/blog/only-18-black-teachers-in-liverpool>
- “How Black young men are overcoming the label of educational ‘failure’ to achieve success”, <http://runnymedetrust.org/blog/how-black-young-men-are-overcoming-the-label-of-educations-failure-to-achieve-success>.

Health & Wellbeing issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“The libraries that offer sexual health services and cancer support”

<http://www.theguardian.com/healthcare-network/2016/mar/23/libraries-offer-sexual-health-services-cancer-support>

(Source: email from Sorrelle Clements, Coventry Libraries, 23 Mar 2016)

Terrific article about Coventry’s health provision:

“Coventry’s Central Library runs health-related events and a mental health drop-in service, reaching people that the NHS can’t”

National Alliance for Museums, Health & Wellbeing – database

<http://museumsandwellbeing.org/>

(Source: email from the National Alliance via museumsandwellbeingalliance@jiscmail.ac.uk, 12 May 2016)

The Alliance has just launched this searchable database of over 600 activities from some 260 museums – it can be searched by keyword, activity type, audience, location and museum.

Health and Wellbeing – can museums make a difference?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nkt26-53mb4>

(Source: email from the National Alliance via museumsandwellbeingalliance@jiscmail.ac.uk, 12 May 2016)

Video by National Museums NI:

“A video developed to celebrate our 6 year Big Lottery funded Live and Learn project for older people at National Museums NI. Interviews with a range of museum and healthcare professionals in Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK tell of the health and wellbeing benefits for older people of engaging in museum programmes.”

“Suffolk Libraries relaunches Mental Health and Wellbeing Service”

<http://suffolklibraries.co.uk/news/suffolk-libraries-relaunches-mental-health-and-wellbeing-service>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 17 May 2016)

“Suffolk Libraries are getting behind Mental Health Awareness Week next week with full force, hosting several different events across the county and celebrating a relaunch of their Mental Health and Wellbeing Information Service.

The newly named ‘New Chapters’ service can help residents of Suffolk find out about mental health and wellbeing organisations, services, local projects, events and specialist books to help support a whole range of mental health and wellbeing issues.”

Disability issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

Disability Cooperative Network

<http://www.musedcn.org.uk/>

(Source: email from Helen Carpenter, 12 May 2016)

“Over the last 8 months, a group of committed museum professionals have set up the Disability Cooperative Network.

This involves museums in London and the West Midlands and we want more people including you. [Contact us to get involved](#)

We are working with academics, groups, specialists, curators and managers to share knowledge to break down barriers for disability in the cultural sector.

This website is a forum for the museum sector and to connect with charities, groups and individuals outside the sector. This website will include case studies, specialist knowledge and information for both the public facing aspects of museum work and supporting disabled voluntary and paid staff.”

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

New Scots: integrating refugees in Scotland’s communities – Year 2: Implementation Progress Report

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00497690.pdf>

(Source: *MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview]*, 475, 28 Mar 2016)

Latest update:

“The strategy is being implemented over a three-year period between 2014 and 2017. Implementation is being led by COSLA, the Scottish Government and the Scottish Refugee Council and includes a wide range of agencies including service providers, third sector organisations, local authorities, government departments and refugees and asylum seekers.” [p8]

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“Undocumented children’s stories published”

<http://picum.org/en/our-work/undocumented-children/children-testimonies/>

(Source: Migrants Rights Network *Weekly Update*, 3 May 2016)

PICUM, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, has launched a series of testimonies and stories of undocumented children and young people.

“The series aims to give a voice to children and young people as well as to their parents, caregivers and supporting organisations to show the realities undocumented children and youth face across Europe. Some of these stories will be published in a booklet later this year.

[Hafidh’s story](#) as well as the [story of Kamel](#) are available online. PICUM will add more stories to [this page](#) throughout the year. Testimonies are available in English, French and Spanish and can also be shared through social media, using the hash tag #ShareYourStory. You can also send PICUM any stories or quotes of undocumented children and youth you may have that they wish to share. For more information, contact: elisabeth@picum.org.”

“Scotland and Poland – a 500 year relationship”

<http://www.scotsman.com/heritage/people-places/scotland-and-poland-a-500-year-relationship-1-4081795>

(Source: MEMO [*Minority Ethnic Matters Overview*], 475, 28 Mar 2016)

Positive press coverage, beginning with:

“More Polish nationals now live in Scotland than any other group from outside the UK and the two countries share a rich history.”

Two useful pieces of research

(Source: email from Jo Ward, 11 May 2016)

A reminder of two useful pieces of research:

Poverty among refugees and asylum seekers in the UK: an evidence and policy review

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/college-social-sciences/social-policy/iris/2014/working-paper-series/IRiS-WP-1-2014.pdf>

“This review shows that experiences of poverty among asylum seekers and refugees have multiple causes, one of which is the asylum regime itself, and that poverty impacts negatively on health, personal and family relations and access to vital support networks.” [p6]

Refugees, social capital, and labour market integration in the UK

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Sin_Yi_Cheung/publication/259842733_Refugees_Social_Capital_and_Labour_Market_Integration_in_the_UK/links/55d1bf6308ae2496ee658087.pdf

“The type of social capital appears to have no significant impact upon the permanency or quality of employment. Rather language competency, pre-migration qualifications and occupations, and time in the UK are

most important in accessing work. Our findings also have clear implications for both asylum and integration policy. The unequivocal importance of language ability for accessing employment points to a clear policy priority in improving competency.” [Taken from the Abstract]

“Why are migrants vulnerable to exploitation?”

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/blog/2016/05/why-are-migrants-vulnerable-exploitation?utm_source=Migrants+Rights+News&utm_campaign=8e738a9e48-MRN_News_05-05-2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1084a7080c-8e738a9e48-197822741

(Source: Migrants Rights Network *Weekly Update*, 16 May 2016)

This “long read” looks at some of the risks of exploitation faced by migrants. As Don Flynn says:

“The mere fact that a person comes from abroad is not a particularly good indicator of their vulnerable status when it comes to experiencing hardship and abuse in the world of work.

But a closer look at the groups of foreign-born people who are concentrated in industries described as ‘processing’ and ‘elementary’ does yield up real grounds for concern that some groups of migrants are being exposed to work situations in which there is a higher risk of abuse.”

“In Ukraine, a 'Living Library' helps ease tensions between displaced persons and hosts”

<http://www.bignewsnetwork.com/news/244154937/feature-in-ukraine-a-living-library-helps-ease-tensions-between-displaced-persons-and-hosts>

Brief description of an UN Development Programme Project “to promote dialogue and reconciliation between communities.”

Broader issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

Code of Ethics: additional guidance

<http://www.museumsassociation.org/download?id=1173810>

(Source: email from the Museums Association, 18 May 2016)

The MA has just issued this new guidance which “includes best practice examples and case studies, links to relevant legal frameworks, and other relevant codes of practice.”

“More light, less heat: our EU Referendum analysis”

<https://commonslibraryblog.com/2016/05/18/more-light-less-heat-our-eu-referendum-analysis/>

(Source: posting on *Second reading: the House of Commons Library blog*, 18 May 2016)

Really useful summaries and links – a good example of the role of a library!