

# The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 225, 16 January 2017

## Events

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

## Funding & Opportunities

### Edge2017 Awards

<http://edgeconference.co.uk/awards/>

(Source: email from Paul McCloskey, Edinburgh Library and Information Services, 5 Jan 2017)

“EDGE2017 highlights and rewards good practice in innovative library and information projects which:

- Show or sell benefits of library and information services to other sectors, organisations and communities
- Demonstrate innovation and creativity
- Increase participation

The purpose of the awards is to recognise positive achievements and promote outstanding library-based initiatives which celebrate the value of libraries.

There will be three awards for innovation. The winners in each category will receive the EDGE2017 trophy (no financial reward) which will follow the format of the conference.

We don't want the process to be cumbersome so we are asking for some brief details.

We are looking for cutting-edge innovative projects around developments in the following categories:

#### Physical Category

1. Physical – buildings, layout, targeted spaces

#### Social Category

2. Social – Work involving communities or target groups, engagement or making a difference

#### Digital Category

3. Digital – Websites, apps, virtual library, digitisation”

Further info at above weblink – closing date for applications is **3 Feb 2017**.

## **Travelling Librarian Award**

<http://www.esu.org/our-work/cpd-for-librarians/> nocache

(Source: email from John Lake, 14 Jan 2017)

“The Travelling Librarian Award builds relationships between library and information professionals in the UK and their counterparts in the US and across the Commonwealth. Participants undertake a professional development study tour to explore areas of their professional interest through visiting relevant libraries, information centres and associated agencies.”

Further info and application details at above weblink.

Closing date: **26 April 2017**.

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

### **“5 Ways Public Libraries Bring Positive Change to Communities”**

<http://scottishbooktrust.com/blog/teachers-librarians/2016/12/5-ways-public-libraries-bring-positive-change-to-communities>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 14 Dec 2016)

Terrific blogpost:

“During times of austerity, libraries are often the first service to be cut, but it is during such times that we need them most. To aid local governments in their decision making, we are asked to measure libraries’ worth in terms of book-borrowing statistics, computer usage, reference enquires, but we are never asked about their other value: as social hubs and lifelines for members of local communities.

There are many ways in which the local library can help bring positive change to its community.”

The examples given are:

- They strengthen family ties
- They bring people together
- They help people with English as an Additional Language
- They can offer support for mental health
- They help create a digitally confident community.

### **“Some libraries are better than others”**

<http://www.publicsectorexecutive.com/Public-Sector-News/some-libraries-are-better-than-others?dorewrite=false>

(Source: email to lis-pub-libs from Elizabeth Ash, 7 Jan 2017)

Following up on her previous comments about libraries (noted in Ebulletins 221 and 220), Helen Milner has expanded her points in this brief “Last Word” column.

The piece ends in a very positive way:

“What I’d like to see next is a national strategic development plan for libraries. I would like to see libraries given a mandate to put social inclusion at the heart of their services. And then I would like to see us celebrate and demonstrate the impact libraries have, so we can prove they’re so valuable that no one in their right mind would dare to shut another one.”

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

#### **“A healthy, happy, connected community: it starts in the library”**

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2017/01/04/a-healthy-happy-connected-community-it-starts-in-the-library/>

(Source: email to lis-pub-libs from Elizabeth Ash, 6 Jan 2017)

Guest post on the Libraries Taskforce blog by Janet Doran, Managing Director of First for Wellbeing, which runs library services in Northamptonshire. The post outlines how library service contributes to delivery of the Health Outcome.

### **Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies**

#### ***Loneliness in Scotland: a National Summit***

<http://www.befriending.co.uk/assets/downloads/publications/Loneliness%20in%20Scotland%20Summit%20Report.pdf>

(Source: email from Paul McCloskey, Edinburgh Libraries, 23 Dec 2016)

Following some research and the feedback from a workshop:

“Funding was therefore sought by Befriending Networks from the Scottish Government Equality Unit to deliver a National Summit on loneliness and social isolation, in order to:

- Increase knowledge and understanding of the research and data about isolation and loneliness, its prevalence and its impact on health, and its relevance across sectors
- Share a combination of intelligence gathered from Befriending Networks’ workshop series, the EOC enquiry and report, data from the Link Worker initiative, and the Scottish Government response
- Share information about initiatives that have a demonstrable impact-an exploration of ‘what works’, including local initiatives and European approaches
- Explore possible strategic approaches in e.g. health and social care, transport, specific approaches to address loneliness and social isolation among young people, the role of technology, successful initiatives in housing
- Create a range of proposals about how to take the issue forward, and identification of possible strategic leads.

This report includes a transcript of each presentation, copies of presentations and video content. A summary of the main points discussed in workshops is also included, together with a synthesis of key points from the event.” [p5]

## **“Combating loneliness”**

<https://khub.net/web/p-lynch/blog/-/blogs/combating-loneliness>

New posting on the Knowledge Hub site, which introduces a new report from Age UK, and is a reminder of a key LGA document:

- LGA, *Combating loneliness: a guide for local authorities*, <http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/7632544/L15-431+Combating+loneliness+-+a+guide+for+local+authorities/b4b88757-2623-4696-ae04-565892a58909>
- Age UK, *No one should have no one: working to end loneliness among older people*, [http://www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GB/No-one Should Have No-one Working to end loneliness.pdf?dtrk=true&utm\\_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=7853228\\_NEWSL\\_HWBB%202017-01-09&dm\\_i=21A8,4OBL8,GDXE87,HKRHE,1](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GB/No-one%20Should%20Have%20No-one%20Working%20to%20end%20loneliness.pdf?dtrk=true&utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=7853228_NEWSL_HWBB%202017-01-09&dm_i=21A8,4OBL8,GDXE87,HKRHE,1).

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

***State of museum access 2016: a survey of UK museum website access information for blind and partially sighted visitors***

<http://vocaleyeyes.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/State-of-Museum-Access-2016-VocalEyes.pdf>

(Source: *STV Bulletin* 224, 5 Jan 2017)

Important new report from VocalEyes. According to their survey:

- “27% of UK museums have no access information on their website.
- A further 43% have access information, but do not mention provision of any type for blind and partially sighted people.
- This leaves only 3 in 10 museums that provide access information online for blind and partially sighted visitors” [p7]

Alongside the survey results, VocalEyes have published:

### ***Museum access information guidelines 2016***

<http://vocaleyeyes.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Museum-access-information-guidelines-2016-VocalEyes.pdf>

“These guidelines are intended for staff that are responsible for, or can influence visitor information on museum websites, marketing and/or social media.” [p4]

## **Disability issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government**

### **“Equal opportunities for people who use British Sign Language”**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/equal-opportunities-for-people-who-use-british-sign-language>

(Source: *NCB Policy & Parliamentary Information Digest*, 9 Jan 2017)

“For the first time, [British Sign Language](#) (BSL) will be accepted as an alternative qualification to functional skills in English for apprentices where BSL is their first language.

Functional skills are qualifications that help people gain the essential, practical skills in maths and English they need and enable them to be confident in life and work.

This change will mean that apprentices will be able to take BSL as an alternative to functional skills in English – removing the unnecessary barrier that has been preventing them from getting on.

### **Disability issues – Other Agencies**

#### ***Doing digital inclusion: disability handbook***

[https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/sites/default/files/research-publications/disability\\_handbook-with\\_links-final.pdf](https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/sites/default/files/research-publications/disability_handbook-with_links-final.pdf)

(Source: *STV Bulletin* 224, 5 Jan 2017)

Very useful introductory guide from the Good Things Foundation (formerly Tinder):

“There are around 11.9 million disabled people in the UK [...], many of whom face barriers to getting online, meaning specialist knowledge and tools can be required to help them access all the benefits the internet has to offer.

This handbook outlines some of those barriers, and offers advice and resources for those already delivering digital skills who would like to better support disabled people, and disability support organisations wishing to offer digital inclusion activities for the first time.”

#### ***MegaFOCUS Report 2015- 2016***

<http://sightcymru.org.uk/megafocus-report-2015-2016/>

(Source: *STV Bulletin* 224, 5 Jan 2017)

New report from MegaFOCUS (Minority Ethnic Groups Association for Ophthalmic Care Uptake and Service Improvement) in Wales, which highlights particular eye health issues affecting minority ethnic communities.

### **Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government**

#### ***Current migration situation in the EU: separated children***

[http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/fra-december-2016-monthly-migration-report-separated-childr.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-december-2016-monthly-migration-report-separated-childr.pdf)

(Source: *MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview]*, 508, 9 Jan 2017)

New report from the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights:

“Although official figures on the phenomenon are lacking, it is clear that children arriving in the European Union (EU) are often accompanied by persons other than their parents or guardians. Such children are usually referred to as ‘separated’ children. Their identification and registration bring additional challenges, and their protection needs are often

neglected. On arrival, these children are often ‘accompanied’, but the accompanying adult(s) may not necessarily be able, or suitable, to assume responsibility for their care. These children are also at risk of exploitation and abuse, or may already be victims.” [p1]

### **LGBTQ issues – Other Agencies**

#### **“To pee or not to pee....? Toilets and Gender Identity”**

<http://www.edf.org.uk/blog/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Toilets-Gender-Identity-Jan-2017.pdf>

(Source: Equality and Diversity Forum *eNewsletter*, 9 Jan 2017)

Short article on trans rights, outlining current issues about use of toilets.

### **Post-Brexit**

#### **“Back to the Future? Brexit, Trump and the Post-racial”**

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/back-to-the-future-brexit-trump-and-the-post-racial>

(Source: email from the Runnymede Trust, 20 Dec 2016)

“Sociologist Dr Katy Sian gives the lie to the notion that recent political developments have led to a re-emergence of racism; instead, it never went away.”