

# The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 241, 28 September 2017

## Events

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

## Congratulations!

**CILIP Libraries Change Lives Award – shortlist announced**

<https://www.cilip.org.uk/news/libraries-lead-way-diversity-community-integration>

Taken from the CILIP press release:

**“Ipswich Library’s Chat and Chill** is a dedicated service for women from diverse and international backgrounds living in Suffolk. The service helps the women integrate and provides a regular space where participants can practice their English, make friends and feel welcomed to Suffolk life. The group’s main purpose, however, is to teach life skills and build people’s confidence, with topics like banking, reading a utility bill and visiting the doctor. Since it was launched eight years ago, the project has developed to include additional opportunities for participants to learn new skills, gain confidence and take part in community activities. The initiative has been recognised in a local business award for social inclusion. For Suffolk Libraries, this approach is leading the way in terms of empowering individuals and promoting self-directed learning and resilience in the local community.

**Story Café at the Women’s Library in Glasgow** is a women-only shared reading group which brings women from different backgrounds together to connect over literature, with a particular emphasis on diversity and equality and awareness of the voices of BME authors. The sessions welcome women from all walks of life and specialise in working with women who are socially excluded, marginalised, vulnerable or ‘hard to reach’ - including refugees and asylum seekers, women living with addictions or mental health problems or exiting the criminal justice system, and those who have experienced abuse, homelessness or poverty. The equalities agenda is central to the aims of Story Café which explores themes around diversity and culture in a safe and supportive space.

**Kirklees Libraries’ Storywalks** service brings local families together outdoors during the school holidays to take part in learning and nature-based activities. Based around literacy, exercise and community socialisation, the programme engages a diverse range of families and targets harder-to-reach families and families who need encouragement to get active and use outdoor spaces and spend time together engaging in shared activities. Themed walks creatively promote fiction and non-fiction and encourage parents to see the value of sharing books with their children and offer children and young people opportunities for

exploration, creation, and socialisation. The focus on outdoor pursuits enables the library service to redress gender inequality among their library users by engaging seldom-seen males aged 25 to 45, and gives children male role models for literacy.

**The library at HMP Norwich** delivers weekly **cognitive stimulation therapy** to a previously ‘lost’ group of elderly prisoners serving life sentences, who are suffering from memory loss, dementia and depression. It recognises the high health needs of this group in a custodial setting designed for younger, fitter prisoners. The NICE-recommended treatment is as effective as medication, and Norwich are unique in delivering the treatment inside prison walls. The service is also open to younger prisoners on the wing struggling with depression or mental health issues. Prison staff working on the unit report a positive culture change on the wing since the introduction of the service, with more social mixing and a calmer atmosphere, both inside and outside the group.”

Click on the link on the website to watch the four short – and terrific – films.

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

#### **“Libraries Take Key Roles in IMLS Community Catalyst Grant Projects”**

<http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2017/09/library-services/libraries-take-key-roles-impls-community-catalyst-grant-projects/#>

(Source: *LJXpress – Library Journal*, 12 Sep 2017)

“The [US] Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, has awarded 12 organizations Community Catalyst Grants totaling \$1,637,271. Libraries are project partners of eight of the 12.

The grant initiative is a new effort to strengthen collaboration between museums, libraries, institutions of higher education, archives, and community organizations in developing broad-based efforts to serve local communities.”

The article outlines interesting initiatives, including working with “marginalized populations”; with military families; and to develop educational approaches.

#### **“Reducing loneliness in the City of London: how libraries contribute”**

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2017/09/22/reducing-loneliness-in-the-city-of-london-how-libraries-contribute/>

Libraries Taskforce blogpost outlining the growing formal role of libraries in reducing loneliness, drawing on the ‘libraries first’ principle.

#### **“Deputy Mayor launches the Mi Wifi digital inclusion project in Lewisham”**

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2017/09/25/deputy-mayor-launches-the-mi-wifi-digital-inclusion-project-in-lewisham/>

This Libraries Taskforce blogpost introduces the Mi Wifi project which:

“[...] will test whether lending wifi enabled tablets through local libraries or community centres, along with some basic digital skills training, will help reduce the nearly one-in-ten digital exclusion rate in the borough of Lewisham.”

### **Tackling social and digital exclusion – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government**

#### **“Education select committee 'to prioritise social justice and productivity'”**

[https://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/2004218/education-select-committee-to-prioritise-social-justice-and-productivity?utm\\_content=&utm\\_campaign=190917\\_EarlyYears&utm\\_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now&utm\\_medium=adestra\\_email&utm\\_term=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2Fcyp%2Fnews%2F2004218%2Feducation-select-committee-to-prioritise-social-justice-and-productivity](https://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/2004218/education-select-committee-to-prioritise-social-justice-and-productivity?utm_content=&utm_campaign=190917_EarlyYears&utm_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now&utm_medium=adestra_email&utm_term=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2Fcyp%2Fnews%2F2004218%2Feducation-select-committee-to-prioritise-social-justice-and-productivity)

(Source: *Children & Young People Now Early Years and Education Bulletin*, 19 Sep 2017)

According to this article:

“The committee agreed to conclude the previous education committee's inquiry into fostering, which was put on hold due to June's snap general election. It said it will also look to follow up the previous committee's work by carefully considering the government's responses to previous inquiries. Details of new inquiries will be announced in the coming weeks.”

### **Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies**

#### ***Tackling digital exclusion in Scotland***

[https://digitalparticipation.scot/resources/reports?utm\\_source=Digital%20Unite%20Ltd&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=8659070\\_Sept%20newsletter%202017&dm\\_i=13LU,55LDQ,5MZA29,JSSIA,1](https://digitalparticipation.scot/resources/reports?utm_source=Digital%20Unite%20Ltd&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=8659070_Sept%20newsletter%202017&dm_i=13LU,55LDQ,5MZA29,JSSIA,1)

(Source: *News from Digital Unite*, Sep 2017)

The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations has just published:

“[...] the findings of a review of the 127 local Digital Participation Charter Fund projects which have been supported over the past three years, together with a literature review on digital exclusion carried out by the University of the West of Scotland. These reports give an insight into the current picture of digital exclusion across Scotland, as well as lessons learned on successful interventions.”

#### ***Multiple Needs: time for political leadership***

<http://meam.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Multiple-needs-time-for-political-leadership.pdf>

(Source: *Clinks Offender Health Bulletin*, Sep 2017)

“In this briefing, the Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) coalition sets out how the government can bring about the nationwide change we need.”

[p4]

The paper gives some very useful background info about people with multiple needs, which could well inform our own work with groups and individuals.

“The Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) coalition is made up of the national charities Clinks, Homeless Link and Mind. We work closely with Collective Voice, representing the substance misuse sector. Together we represent over 1,300 frontline organisations working in the criminal justice, drug and alcohol treatment, homelessness and mental health sectors.

Working together, we support local areas across England to develop an effective, coordinated approach to multiple needs that can increase wellbeing, reduce costs to public services and improve people’s lives.”  
[p2]

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

#### ***Making sense of social prescribing***

<https://www.westminster.ac.uk/file/113311/download>

(Source: *Newsletter from the National Alliance for Museums, Health & Wellbeing*, 18 Sep 2017)

“This guide has been coproduced by people with practical experiences of designing, commissioning, delivering, and evaluating social prescribing schemes. We want to support commissioners to understand what a good social prescribing scheme looks like. We also want new schemes to put the key ingredients into place – ones that we know will give them the best chance of success.

This guide reflects the latest information we have about social prescribing.” [p8]

#### **“Spotting the warning signs: How best to manage mental health issues”**

[http://www.managers.org.uk/insights/news/2017/september/spotting-the-warning-signs-how-best-to-manage-mental-health-issues?utm\\_source=Chartered%20Management%20Institute&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=8703775\\_Insights%2022%20September&dm\\_i=SYT,56JVJ,4H1XSR,JX2WF,1](http://www.managers.org.uk/insights/news/2017/september/spotting-the-warning-signs-how-best-to-manage-mental-health-issues?utm_source=Chartered%20Management%20Institute&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=8703775_Insights%2022%20September&dm_i=SYT,56JVJ,4H1XSR,JX2WF,1)

(Source: Chartered Management Institute *Insights*, 22 Sep 2017)

Helpful guidance from the Chartered Management Institute.

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

#### ***Immigration detention in the United Kingdom***

<http://detentionforum.org.uk/our-latest-briefing-paper-immigration-detention-in-the-united-kingdom/>

(Source: *MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview]*, 539, 25 Sep 2017)

New briefing paper from the Detention Forum, which looks at key facts about immigration detention, and calls for “systemic reform” of the process.