

# The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 267, 2 November 2018

## Events

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

## Funding & Opportunities

### Trust for London

<https://www.trustforlondon.org.uk/funding/>

(Source: NCVO Funding Central *Newsletter*, 24 Oct 2018)

According to NCVO:

“Trust for London is a registered charity which aims to benefit disadvantaged people in London, and its funding programmes are intended to support projects that tackle poverty and inequality across London.

There is particular interest in work that develops new and imaginative ways of addressing the root causes of London’s social problems, especially work which has the potential to influence and change policy, practice and public attitudes. The Trust is willing to support unpopular causes and activities that the Government is unlikely to fund. It will also respond to new issues and ideas and find creative ways of tackling deep-rooted problems relating to poverty and inequality.”

The next deadlines for applications are **5 February 2019** and **4 June 2019 (1pm)**.

Further info from and enquiries to: [info@trustforlondon.org.uk](mailto:info@trustforlondon.org.uk).

### Excellence in Prison Libraries Award 2019

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/prlg>

(Source: email from Sue Wilkinson, Chair CILIP Prison Libraries Group, 2 Oct 2018)

“Entries are now open for the Excellence in Prison Libraries Award. This award acknowledges best practice in prison libraries. The award is made for a single, original project, initiative or example of best practice, large or small that has had a lasting impact on both the prison library service and the wider prison community. This could be a creative project, a new service initiative or a collaborative activity with an external or prison partner.”

The closing date for entries is **28 February 2019**.

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

**“Dear Damian Hinds, What’s so difficult about giving every child a library ticket?”**

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2018/oct/23/what-difficult-giving-every-child-library-ticket-michael-rosen>

Just in case you haven’t seen the latest in Michael Rosen’s “Letter from a curious parent” column.

**“Empowered Collaboration: Privilege, Lived Experience and Emotional Labour”**

<https://aranewprofessionals.wordpress.com/2018/10/26/empowered-collaboration-privilege-lived-experience-and-emotional-labour-jasspreet-thethi/>

(Source: email from *Off the Record*, 26 Oct 2018)

Jasspreet Thethi from the John Rylands Library has been researching ways to combat the lack of diversity in heritage institutions.

In a series of blogposts, she has previously explored some practical issues, including:

- Ways to challenge problematic labelling, see: <https://rylandscollections.wordpress.com/2018/08/25/respectful-descriptions-of-marginalised-groups-in-archives/>
- How to highlight erased groups\*, see: <https://rylandscollections.wordpress.com/2018/09/18/archivesandinclusivity/>
- How to improve overall representation in exhibitions, see: <https://rylandscollections.wordpress.com/2018/10/01/archives-and-inclusivity-exhibitions-for-all/>.

\*In terms of ‘erased groups’, Jasspreet says:

“An erased community is a group who have been repeatedly marginalised during recorded history and therefore have little or no easily accessible written social history to represent them in archives.”

In this post, she makes recommendations for acknowledging and beginning to deal with privilege; emphasises the need to respect lived experience; and looks at the importance of recognising emotional labour, for example:

“When working with an advisory group to assist with archives or exhibitions it must be understood that they are being asked to commit large amounts of emotional labour while using their life experience to assist the institution, often with no or minimal financial backing.”

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

### ***Developing a national barometer of prejudice and discrimination in Britain***

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/national-barometer-of-prejudice-and-discrimination-in-britain.pdf>

(Source: email from EHRC, Oct 2018)

This new research report published by the EHRC “[...] measures prejudice and discrimination in Britain experienced by people with a wide range of protected characteristics: age, disability, race, sex, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.” [p9]

Headlines include:

- “42% of people in Britain said they had experienced some form of prejudice in the last 12 months.
- Data from the combined representative panel survey and boost sample data indicated that experience of prejudice was higher in minority groups. This should be interpreted with some caution because of methodological differences from the main survey. In the last year:
  - 70% of Muslims surveyed experienced religion-based prejudice
  - 64% of people from a black ethnic background experienced race-based prejudice
  - 61% of people with a mental health condition experienced impairment-based prejudice, and
  - 46% of lesbian, gay or bisexual people experienced sexual orientation-based prejudice.
- Ageism can be experienced by people at any age. In line with previous research, a higher proportion of British adults reported experiencing prejudice based on their age (26%) than on any other characteristic.” [p10]

In terms of attitudes, the research found that:

- “Nearly three-quarters of people in Britain (74%) agreed that there should be equality for all groups in Britain, but one in ten (10%) people surveyed disagreed.
- More people expressed openly negative feelings towards some protected characteristics (44% towards Gypsies, Roma and Travellers, 22% towards Muslims, and 16% towards transgender people) than towards others (for example, 9% towards gay, lesbian or bisexual people, 4% towards people aged over 70, and 3% towards disabled people with a physical impairment).
- A quarter expressed discomfort with having a person with a mental health condition as their boss (25%) or as a potential family member (29%). Around one-fifth of respondents said they would feel uncomfortable if either an immigrant or a Muslim person lived next door

(19% and 18% respectively), and 14% said they would feel uncomfortable if a transgender person lived next door.

- Around a third of British adults felt that efforts to provide equal opportunities had gone ‘too far’ in the case of immigrants (37%) and Muslims (33%). In contrast, nearly two-thirds thought that such efforts had ‘not gone far enough’ for people with a mental health condition (63%) or people with a physical impairment (60%).” [p10]

The intention of the report is to provide a set of measures that can be repeated regularly in order to track changes in behaviour and attitudes.

### **Diversity in books and other materials for children & young people**

#### **“Equal Play: What does gender equality look like in childhood?”**

<http://www.aneharding.net/2842/equal-play-gender-equality-look-like-childhood/>

(Source: email alert from Anne Harding Training, 2 Nov 2018)

New blogpost by Anne Harding, which reports on the key issues discussed at the Mayor of London’s Equal Play conference – her list of ‘take-aways’ is important and thought-provoking.

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

#### **Royal Society for Public Health's Research Corner**

<http://www.lahf.org.uk/resources/rsph-sig-research-corner-october-2018>

(Source: *Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance Bulletin*, Oct 2018)

“Each month the Arts in Health Special Interest Group at the RSPH will curate a short collection of recent peer-reviewed papers that may be useful for practitioners and researchers working in this area. In each case a short summary will be followed by a link to the full paper for those interested in reading further. Where possible we will try to link to open-source papers that anyone can read, without needing university access.

These updates, curated by the Royal Society for Public Health's special interest group for arts and health, will be migrated to an archive on the Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance website once it launches in February 2019. We are grateful to London Arts in Health Forum for hosting this Research Corner in the interim!”

Includes, for example: “Museums can help protect against dementia”; “Music listening supports mental health in care homes”.

#### **“Network of support for people with cancer”**

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2018/10/25/network-of-support-for-people-with-cancer/>

Guest post on the Libraries Taskforce blog from Craig Tobin (Macmillan Project Manager for Macmillan in Lanarkshire). As the editor’s note says:

“Many will be familiar to those who work with Macmillan in libraries across England, but this multi-member partnership and programme might also spark some new thinking.”

The post outlines the work of the partnership:

“Macmillan in Lanarkshire was launched in 2016: a dynamic partnership between CultureNL, South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture, North Lanarkshire Leisure and Macmillan Cancer Support. The programme covers 2 local authorities and operates 19 cancer support and information services across Lanarkshire libraries. The network includes 4 cancer support hubs where people affected by cancer have:

- access to emotional support
- on-site complementary therapies
- access to benefits advice
- help with transport to and from appointments
- practical support in the home and, most importantly
- someone to talk to in their time of need

This is a true example of partnership working where relationships with NHS Lanarkshire, Health and Social Care, and in particular with the Health Improvement team, have strengthened the vision and role of libraries to become health hubs in the heart of the Lanarkshire communities.”

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

***Mental wellbeing, reading and writing: how children and young people’s mental wellbeing is related to their reading and writing experiences***

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/research-services/research-reports/mental-wellbeing-reading-and-writing/>

(Source: National Literacy Trust *Supporters’ Newsletter*, Oct 2018)

This report has picked up quite a lot of media coverage.

“Our analysis found that:

- Children and young people who are the most engaged with literacy have better mental wellbeing than their peers who are the least engaged (Mental Wellbeing Index scores of 7.9/10 vs 6.6/10)
- Children who are the most engaged with literacy are three times more likely to have higher levels of mental wellbeing than children who are the least engaged (39.4% vs 11.8%)
- Conversely, children who are the least engaged with literacy are twice as likely to have low levels of mental wellbeing than their peers who are the most engaged (37.4% vs 15%)
- Children with above expected reading skills are three times more likely to have high levels of mental wellbeing than their peers with below expected reading skills (40.3% vs 13.1%)

- As children transition from primary to secondary school, their levels of literacy engagement and mental wellbeing both begin and continue to decline
- Boys who are the most engaged with literacy have higher levels of mental wellbeing than girls who are equally engaged (Mental Wellbeing Index scores of 8.1/10 vs 7.6/10)”

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

#### ***Progress on disability rights in the United Kingdom UK Independent Mechanism update report to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities***

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/progress-on-disability-rights-in-the-uk-crpd-shadow-report-2018.pdf>

(Source: email from EHRC, Oct 2018)

“In August 2017, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee) examined the extent to which the UK and devolved governments are in compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) [...] The CRPD Committee requested information from the UK one year on from the examination of the steps taken to implement its recommendations on: independent living; work and employment; and an adequate standard of living and social protection; as well as some related issues covered in the report on the CRPD Committee’s 2016 inquiry [...]

One year on from the CRPD Committee’s examination of the UK’s record on the rights of disabled people, some progress has been made, such as the:

- independent review of the Mental Health Act 1983
- increase in the number of disabled people in employment and slight decrease of the disability employment gap; and government initiatives to further improve disabled people’s access to employment across the UK
- significant increase of the Access to Work payment cap
- proposals to introduce targets for the number of disabled people employed in the public sector in Scotland
- outworking of the time-limited welfare reform mitigations strategy in Northern Ireland
- Welsh Government’s Supporting People programme, and
- proposed measures to tackle online hate speech, harassment and abuse in the UK. However, the UK has taken only limited steps to address the concerns and recommendations of the CRPD Committee.” [pp6-7]

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

### **“Houston library sued by anti-gay activists over Drag Queen Story Hour”**

<https://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Houston-library-sued-by-anti-gay-activists-over-13322045.php>

(Source: *LJXpress – Library Journal*, 23 Oct 2018)

“A crew of anti-gay protesters rallied outside the federal courthouse Friday afternoon, announcing they have sued the Houston Public Library over a city-sponsored Drag Queen Story Hour which they say violates their freedom of religion.

Opponents of the story hour have also turned out to protest the library events, which began last summer in Montrose, the city’s historic gay enclave. Similar drag queen events have been hosted around the country with the aim of providing role models for children.

The lawsuit was filed Friday by a group who has vocally opposed marriage equality and joined the fight to defeat a proposed Houston ordinance that would have lifted gender restrictions on bathrooms. The group has asked a federal judge to halt the reading event, claiming they are not appropriate for all patrons.”

### **“Iowa man burns children's books from public library to protest Orange City Pride”**

<https://eu.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/2018/10/22/iowa-man-burns-childrens-books-orange-city-pride-public-library-lgbtq-literature-aclu-iowa/1728786002/>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 24 Oct 2018)

“The Orange City Public Library said it’s exploring legal options after a northwest Iowa man rented and then publicly burned several children’s books Friday.

The second annual OC Pride kicked off Friday with a story time for kids, a schedule shows. About an hour before the event, Paul Dorr started a live Facebook video, in which he stood near the Prairie Winds Event Center. The 27-minute video ends with Dorr throwing at least four books with LGBTQ themes that he claimed he rented from the public library into a burning trash can.”

### **“From Brooklyn to Wichita, public libraries create LGBTQ-affirming spaces”**

<https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/brooklyn-wichita-public-libraries-create-lgbtq-affirming-spaces-n920446>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 31 Oct 2018)

Just to show that there are still positive initiatives happening across the US, this article looks at drag queen storytelling – and more!

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

### “CILIP's Ethical Framework”

<https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/ethics>

After extensive consultation and discussion, CILIP has published its new Framework which includes seven ethical principles which members are asked to commit to:

- Human rights, equalities and diversity, and the equitable treatment of users and colleagues
- The public benefit and the advancement of the wider good of our profession to society
- Preservation and continuity of access to knowledge
- Intellectual freedom, including freedom from censorship
- Impartiality and the avoidance of inappropriate bias
- The confidentiality of information provided by clients or users and the right of all individuals to privacy
- The development of information skills and information literacy.

### “How Creative United's Prosper programme has boosted enterprise for libraries”

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2018/10/17/how-creative-uniteds-prosper-programme-has-boosted-enterprise-for-libraries/>

Libraries Taskforce blogpost by Sarah Thirtle (Director of Business Support Programmes at Creative United, who are delivering the Prosper business support programme), outlining the key results of the programme for the cultural sector as a whole, and linking to their report:

- Full report: *Evaluation of, and Learning from, Prosper Business Support Project*, [http://www.creativeunited.org.uk/resources/images/18-09-06\\_Prospers\\_FinalEvaluationReport\\_FINAL\\_\(1\).pdf](http://www.creativeunited.org.uk/resources/images/18-09-06_Prospers_FinalEvaluationReport_FINAL_(1).pdf)
- Executive summary, [http://www.creativeunited.org.uk/resources/images/CreativeUnited\\_ProspersReport\\_PDF\\_2018\\_aw\\_spreads.pdf](http://www.creativeunited.org.uk/resources/images/CreativeUnited_ProspersReport_PDF_2018_aw_spreads.pdf).

### “Evidencing impact in Norfolk”

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2018/10/03/evidencing-impact-in-norfolk/>

Libraries Taskforce blogpost which summarises the presentations at the final “Making an Impact” workshop, and which outlines Norfolk’s “Impact” evaluation tool. Blogpost includes links to the presentation’s slides.

### “Evidencing impact in Kent”

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2018/09/13/evidencing-impact-in-kent/>

Another Libraries Taskforce blogpost from the “Making an Impact” workshop – this one outlines Kent’s use of a framework to record library users’ experiences. The blogpost includes links to the presentation’s slides.