

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 269, 27 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

“£500,000 fund launched to celebrate Windrush Generation throughout the year”

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/500000-fund-launched-to-celebrate-windrush-generation-throughout-the-year?utm_source=b6f1046c-6651-4c56-9d7a-862853bc640a&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

“Thousands of communities across the country will have the opportunity to bid for a share of £500,000 of new funding to hold their own local events to celebrate the contribution of the Windrush Generation on Windrush Day and throughout the year.

The fund, which launches today (22 November 2018), will provide money to local councils, charities and community organisations seeking to hold commemorative and educational events to mark the arrival of the Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks. This could include exhibitions, seminars, school projects and street parties.”

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

“How libraries are leading the way with diversity”

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/blog/how-libraries-are-leading-way-diversity>

ACE blogpost by Sue Williamson, Director, Libraries and Birmingham, which “[...] looks at how the libraries we have welcomed into our National Portfolio are championing diversity, while re-defining what a library is, and what it can be.”

The post also includes a link to John Vincent’s report, *Libraries welcome everyone: six stories of diversity and inclusion from libraries in England* – see:

https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/download-file/ACE_Libraries_welcome_everyone_report_July18.pdf.

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“CLA Strategy Group publishes Social Justice Statement”

<https://culturallearningalliance.org.uk/cla-strategy-group-publishes-social-justice-statement/>

(Source: Cultural Learning Alliance *Newsletter*, 27 Sep 2018)

In Sept, the Cultural Learning Alliance published a social justice statement which begins:

“The Cultural Learning Alliance champions a right to arts and culture for every child.

Every child should have access to the benefits that arts and culture bring.

Equality of access to arts and culture is the right of every child and should be unaffected by income, ethnicity, gender, disability or location. This is a social justice issue: research shows that children with an arts deficit are disadvantaged educationally and economically while their more fortunate peers – generally from more affluent backgrounds – are more resilient, healthier, do better in school, are more likely to vote, to go to university, to get a job and to keep it. Participation in the arts fuels social mobility.”

The announcement also has the CLA’s plan for 2018-2019.

Homelessness in Great Britain: how many people are homeless – the numbers behind the story

[https://england.shelter.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/1620236/Homelessness in Great Britain - the numbers behind the story.pdf](https://england.shelter.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/1620236/Homelessness_in_Great_Britain_-_the_numbers_behind_the_story.pdf)

(Source: JRF *Weekly round-up*, 23 Nov 2018)

As Shelter say:

“The true level of homelessness is extremely difficult to count. With this work our aim is to estimate the number of people (adults and children) that are recorded as homeless as at the end of Quarter 1 2018, which is the latest available set of official homelessness data. We do not seek to assess how many people are sofa-surfing or experiencing other non-officially recorded types of homelessness, so our results will always be to some degree the tip of the iceberg.

Our total consists of four elements:

1. Homeless and living in temporary accommodation
2. Rough sleeping
3. Single hostel spaces
4. Homeless and in temporary accommodation that has been arranged by Children's Services under the Children Act” [Taken from:

[https://england.shelter.org.uk/professional_resources/policy_and_research/policy_library/policy_library_folder/research_homelessness in great britain - the numbers behind the story\]](https://england.shelter.org.uk/professional_resources/policy_and_research/policy_library/policy_library_folder/research_homelessness_in_great_britain_-_the_numbers_behind_the_story)

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

“A wave of change?”

<https://culturehealthwellbeing.wordpress.com/2018/11/26/a-wave-of-change/>

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

New blogpost by Victoria Hume (Director of the Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance), looking at the implications of Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock’s speech* about the benefits of social prescribing.

As Victoria says:

“This is indeed a strange time for advocates of culture, health and wellbeing. On the one hand, we are hearing the most high-level support from government in living memory. On the other, we are constantly reminded of the existential threats to the health and social frameworks in – or at least *near* which we operate [...]

How best can we reconcile support for the new wave of holistic thinking spearheaded by Matt Hancock, with a capacity to critique the falling away of the fundamental principle of (must it be said? quality) care free at the point of need, with the brutal effects of universal credit, and so on and so on?

I don't have an answer (and welcome your thoughts if you would like to comment below). But I do feel that if the cultural and heritage sectors are to do the health and wellbeing work we have long argued they can, the health and social infrastructure around this work must be lifted off its knees.”

* The speech, “The power of the arts and social activities to improve the nation's health”, is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-power-of-the-arts-and-social-activities-to-improve-the-nations-health>.

“Creativity and Wellbeing Week is going national!”

<http://www.lahf.org.uk/creativity-and-wellbeing-week-going-national>

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

“London Arts in Health Forum and the Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance are working together to expand Creativity and Wellbeing Week into a national event, building on its enormous success across London. Creativity and Wellbeing Week 2019 will run from 10-16 June 2019 [...]

To build on the enormous success of the Week across London, we are now expanding to become a national event, as a collaboration between London Arts in Health Forum and the Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance.

Creativity and Wellbeing Week will feature a number of key events, including a focus on the support arts professionals receive working in health and wellbeing, and a networking event.

We are encouraging individuals and organisations working with creativity and culture in relation to health and wellbeing across the country to submit public events to the website. Your events will appear on a national map with the information you provide to us.

Visit <http://www.creativityandwellbeing.org.uk/> and follow the simple instructions to submit your information [...]

If you are interested in putting on an event but aren't sure where, or if you're a venue that is unsure what event to host, please get in touch with neil@lahf.org.uk or info@culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk and we may be able to help make some new partnerships!"

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

“Prescribing social activities to lonely people prompts ethical questions for GPs”

https://theconversation.com/prescribing-social-activities-to-lonely-people-prompts-ethical-questions-for-gps-105439?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%2022%202018%20-%201167310578&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%2022%202018%20-%201167310578+CID_00bfe80d7c316b2f9624542a7d7af72c&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Prescribing%20social%20activities%20to%20lonely%20people%20prompts%20ethical%20questions%20for%20GPs

(Source: *The Conversation*, 22 Nov 2018)

Interesting article that looks at whether prescribing is the correct route (could it medicalise loneliness and increase its stigma, for example?). It argues the case for widening involvement:

“What might reduce the stigma more, however, is a flagship policy that expands people’s opportunities to be meaningful social contributors.”

and concludes:

“The new loneliness strategy is the beginning of a process. The government deserves applause for appointing the world’s first loneliness minister, Tracey Crouch, to take seriously the late MP Jo Cox’s crusade to uncover the hidden tragedy of widespread loneliness in the UK. It also deserves credit for tackling loneliness through cross-government proposals that are necessarily tentative and open to review, as more evidence emerges on the causes and remedies of loneliness.

For now, although we have raised legitimate concerns about the expansion of social prescription, we do not think they are unethical.”

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

“Libraries welcoming blind and partially sighted people”

<https://vocaley.es.co.uk/libraries-welcoming-blind-and-partially-sighted-people/>

Drawn from John Vincent’s Arts Council report, this news-post on the VocalEyes website highlights public libraries’ work with blind and partially-sighted people.

Neurodiversity issues – Other Agencies

“How adults with dyspraxia navigate daily life”

https://theconversation.com/how-adults-with-dyspraxia-navigate-daily-life-105515?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%2022%202018%20-%201167310578&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%2022%202018%20-%201167310578+CID_00bfe80d7c316b2f9624542a7d7af72c&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=How%20adults%20with%20dyspraxia%20navigate%20daily%20life

(Source: *The Conversation*, 22 Nov 2018)

Brief look at the impact of dyspraxia on adults' daily lives.

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

“Chief Inspector publishes his report on the Home Office’s management of asylum accommodation provision”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chief-inspector-publishes-his-report-on-the-home-offices-management-of-asylum-accommodation-provision>

(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Newsflash* Oct-Nov 2018)

“Inspectors examined resources, policies, processes and performance in respect of the provision, by the Home Office, of asylum accommodation.”

As the highlight quotes from the report say:

“For several reasons, not least the difficulty of extracting evidence from the Home Office, this inspection proved more challenging than most. My report is likely to please no-one. It was clear from the Home Office’s response to the draft report that this topic touched a nerve. It considered my criticisms unfair and believed its efforts had not been fully recognised.”

And:

“Meanwhile, I suspect that the many non-government organisations (NGOs) and other stakeholders engaged with asylum accommodation, and those living in it, will feel that the report has not gone far enough in challenging the standards of accommodation and support provided.”

“Operation Portal: Mediterranean situation”

https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean?utm_source=ECRE+Newsletters&utm_campaign=0367928ee8-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_11_02_12_18&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ec9497afd-0367928ee8-420529541

(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Newsflash* Oct-Nov 2018)

UNHCR has produced stats on arrivals into Europe up to Nov 2018. This includes:

- 109,073 refugees and migrants have arrived in Europe

- 102,967 refugees and migrants have arrived by sea
- 6,106 by land
- Some 2,075 people have died or have gone missing while trying to make the journey to reach the Mediterranean

The most common countries of origin of arrivals were Guinea, Syria, Morocco and Mali.

Constituency casework: immigration, nationality and asylum

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN03186/SN03186.pdf>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 590, 26 Nov 2018)

House of Commons Library Briefing Paper (no: CBP03186, 21 Nov 2018)

“This briefing provides a short overview of the UK’s immigration and asylum system and basic British nationality law. It also outlines the legal restrictions on giving immigration advice, gives some suggestions on handling constituents’ enquiries, refers to some sources of information that may be helpful for straightforward questions, and highlights training courses available to Members’ staff.” [p3]

Migration issues – Other Agencies

A guide to your rights for EEA/EU citizens in Scotland

<https://hrcscotland.files.wordpress.com/2018/10/guide-to-eu-citizen-rights-full-web-ready.pdf>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 589, 19 Nov 2018)

Very useful guidance:

“This guide was produced by the Civil Society Brexit Project with JustRight Scotland. The Civil Society Brexit Project is a collaboration between the Human Rights Consortium Scotland and SULNE – the Scottish Universities Legal Network on Europe, funded by the Legal Education Foundation.” [p1]

Your asylum appeal hearing: information to help you [film]

<https://www.asylumaid.org.uk/>

(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Newsflash* Oct-Nov 2018)

Asylum Aid have produced an animated film which explains what a person seeking asylum will see and do when going to their appeal.

“Theresa May could win a slice of British ethnic minority vote with tough Brexit immigration line – what my research reveals”

https://theconversation.com/theresa-may-could-win-a-slice-of-british-ethnic-minority-vote-with-tough-brexite-immigration-line-what-my-research-reveals-107335?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%2026%202018%20-%201169910607&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%2026%202018%20-%201169910607+CID_e68a8e8c2892cd556403115a6a3f73f9&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Theresa%20May%20could%20win%20a%20sli

[ce%20of%20British%20ethnic%20minority%20vote%20with%20tough%20Brexit%20immigration%20line%20%20what%20my%20research%20reveals](https://theconversation.com/theresa-mays-dog-whistle-rhetoric-on-eu-citizens-jumping-the-queue-and-its-effect-on-my-four-year-old-107303?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201169810601&utm_content=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201169810601+CID_953ab9de1798dc8bde8ad98f0e3486bd&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Theresa%20Mays%20dog-whistle%20rhetoric%20on%20EU%20citizens%20jumping%20the%20queue%20and%20its%20effect%20on%20my%20four-year-old)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 26 Nov 2018)

Neema Begum from the University of Manchester reports on her research into ethnic minority views on Brexit. This is interesting – and indicates yet another area where community ‘bridges’ will need to be built.

There is also an increasing level of criticism for the PM’s speech – see, for example: https://theconversation.com/theresa-mays-dog-whistle-rhetoric-on-eu-citizens-jumping-the-queue-and-its-effect-on-my-four-year-old-107303?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201169810601&utm_content=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201169810601+CID_953ab9de1798dc8bde8ad98f0e3486bd&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Theresa%20Mays%20dog-whistle%20rhetoric%20on%20EU%20citizens%20jumping%20the%20queue%20and%20its%20effect%20on%20my%20four-year-old.

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

“Some Libraries Are Facing Backlash Against LGBT Programs — And Holding Their Ground”

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/mitchellkuga/librarians-drag-queen-story-hour-lgbt-safe-spaces>

(Source: email from Simon Wallace, 21 Nov 2018)

More in-depth exploration of what’s happening in the US, the backlash in some communities, and the growing support to continue with drag queen storytimes and other events.

LGBTQ issues – Other Agencies

“Trans educators toolkit”

<https://neu.org.uk/advice-and-resources/equalities/trans-educators-toolkit>

Just in case you haven’t seen these previously, the National Education Union has produced three very useful advice documents:

- *Transitioning at work – know your rights*,
<https://neu.org.uk/sites/neu.org.uk/files/KnowYourRights.pdf>
- *Transitioning at work – creating a policy*,
<https://neu.org.uk/sites/neu.org.uk/files/TransitioningatWork.pdf>
- *Transition care plan*, a draft Plan which “[...] addresses some of the action points you may need to put in place during an employee’s transition. The needs of each employee must be addressed individually and no two transitions will be the same.”
<https://neu.org.uk/sites/neu.org.uk/files/TransitionCarePlan.pdf>

OII Europe

<https://oiieurope.org/>

Just in case you haven't come across this organisation before:

“OII Europe is the only Intersex-led umbrella organisation working for human rights of intersex people in Europe.”

LGBT in Britain: home and communities

https://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/lgbt_in_britain_home_and_communities.pdf

This research, published earlier this year, highlights just how much work there is still to do – inside and outside LGBTQ ‘communities’ – to end discrimination.

NB Fuller assessment to appear in *The Network Newsletter*.

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

“New roadmap for public libraries to be investigated”

<https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/news/new-roadmap-public-libraries-be-investigated>

Just in case you haven't seen this:

“A new initiative has been launched to establish a stronger future for public libraries across England. Led by Libraries Connected and CILIP, the project will explore different options for how libraries could be funded, managed and delivered in the years ahead.

An initial scoping study is being backed by the Carnegie UK Trust – the foundation set up by the philanthropist Andrew Carnegie whose money built over 600 libraries in the UK and more than 2000 worldwide.

The study will gather the views of key stakeholders and will look at contrasting models for public library delivery internationally, including those found in Northern Ireland, Australia, USA, Holland and Finland. These countries all have a strong public library ethos but their services are delivered, managed and funded in different ways.

The results of the study will be available next year and will inform a funding bid for a major transformation programme beginning summer 2019.”