

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 161, 5 September 2014

Events

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

NB there is a RSS feed on this page, which means that you could be automatically alerted to new events, courses and conferences as they are added!

Consultations

Consultation on draft Widening Participation Strategy

<http://nw.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/widening-participation-incubator-project/draft-publication-of-our-widening-participation-strategy/>

(Source: email from Jo Ward, 28 Aug 2014)

“Health Education England (HEE) is pleased to share our proposed ‘Widening Participation: It Matters’ strategy. The strategy sets out the context and drivers for the strategy, our proposed goals and the initial set of actions that we believe are needed in order to build up and progress efforts to ensure a diverse, talented and inclusive workforce.

Before finalising this strategy we would really welcome your feedback to check the relevance of the strategy and the actions indicated. Please do take an opportunity to review the strategy and complete a short survey to capture your feedback. The consultation period will run from **26th August until 30th September 2014.**”

“Consulting on the statutory review of our Strategic Plan”

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/our-work/ehrc-consultations/consulting-statutory-review-our-strategic-plan>

(Source: email from EHRC, 29 Aug 2014)

“Our current Strategic Plan was published on 27 March 2012 and can be viewed [here](#). Under the Equality Act 2006 it must be reviewed at least once every three years, which means that by 27 March 2015 we need to have consulted on it and taken any representations into account.

At the same time, we are developing our next statutory report on progress towards equality and human rights, to be entitled 'Is Britain fairer? The state of equality and human rights 2015'. This will be published in September 2015, and will be an important source of evidence on which to base our future Strategic Plan.

In light of this, the Commission is proposing the following course of action and would welcome your views on it:

- To defer any fundamental revision of the [Strategic Plan](#) until after our statutory report on progress towards equality and human rights is published next year. By then, the context for our future work should also be clearer following Scotland’s referendum and the General Election;

- To retain the Strategic Plan in its current form, subject to some minor amendments; and
- To maintain the current strategic priorities and the key objectives identified in our current Business Plan. The strategic priorities and key objectives are listed below.

Any representations on this proposal can be sent to strategicplanconsultation@equalityhumanrights.com or to Karen Grayson, Fleetbank House, 2-6 Salisbury Square, London, EC4Y 8JX by **12 November 2014.**”

Funding & Opportunities

Paul Goggins Memorial Prize

<http://www.appgpoverty.org.uk/home-page/paul-goggins-memorial-prize/>

(Source: Clinks *Light Lunch*, 357, 29 Aug 2014)

“The APPG on Poverty is honoured to announce the Paul Goggins Memorial Prize. Paul Goggins MP was the Secretary of the APPG Poverty and a strong voice for the anti poverty campaign in and outside of Parliament.

The prize will be awarded to the best civil society initiative that can demonstrate that it has reduced poverty in a tangible way. The prize, worth £3000, will be given jointly by the APPG on Poverty and the [Webb Memorial Trust](#).

We welcome nominations on behalf of local community projects and are looking for innovative and engaging ideas that have worked effectively in and with local communities.

Submissions can take any form, and creative ways of expression are particularly encouraged. Photographs, videos and other visual supporting evidence will be welcomed.

To enter, the organisation or project will need their local MP to nominate them before **5th October 2014.**”

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

Elitist Britain?

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/347915/Elitist_Britain_-_Final.pdf

(Source: NCB *Policy & Parliamentary Information Digest*, 1 Sept 2014)

Latest report from the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission, which:

“highlights a dramatic over-representation of those educated at independent schools and Oxbridge across the institutions that have such a profound influence on what happens in our country. It suggests that Britain is deeply elitist.” [p2]

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

Tacking poverty across all ethnicities in the UK

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/Tackling-poverty-ethnicities-uk-summary.pdf>

(Source: Migrants Rights Network *Weekly Migration News*, 26 Aug 2014)

This new report from JRF

“... draws together the key points in understanding the impact of ethnicity on poverty, and draws to a close JRF’s first phase of research into this subject.

The research found that:

- Racism and discrimination are major factors limiting opportunities for people from ethnic groups;
- Local and national government, and service providers involved in employment, education and care must effectively monitor outcomes according to ethnicity; and
- ‘Low wage traps’ affect ethnic minority workers particularly badly.”

“What You Need To Know About Poverty And Education”

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/charlotteinyork/what-you-need-to-know-about-poverty-and-education-hjc0>

(Source: JRF *Newsletter*, Aug 2014)

Useful briefing on the links between poverty and educational achievement.

Just in case you haven’t come across BuzzFeed before:

“BuzzFeed is the social news and entertainment company. BuzzFeed is redefining online advertising with its social, content-driven publishing technology. BuzzFeed provides the most shareable breaking news, original reporting, entertainment, and video across the social web to its global audience of more than 150M.” (From:

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/about>)

A divided Britain? Inequality within and between the regions

<http://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/attachments/resources/A%20Divided%20Britain.pdf>

(Source: *Monthly News from The Equality Trust*, Aug 2014)

This new briefing from The Equality Trust exposes both the myth that London as a whole is wealthier than other regions in the UK and the dangers in not recognising the growing levels of inequality:

“When total wealth is looked at, those at the top in London are amongst the wealthiest in the UK. But in stark contrast, the poorest quartile in London has less wealth than the poorest quartile in all other regions bar the North East. In other words, while London does have high wages and huge wealth at the top, the gap to those at the bottom is huge.

Inequality within and between UK regions is a significant problem, and we should not trivialise just how unbalanced the UK is towards London and the South East. But it must also be noted that the most significant

and troubling inequality is not between London and other UK regions, but nationwide between those at the top and the rest of us ...” (From the press release: <http://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/news/divided-britain-inequality-within-and-between-uk-regions>)

Disability issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Transition to the new 0 to 25 special educational needs and disability system

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/348591/Transition_to_the_new_0_to_25_special_educational_needs_and_disability_system_statutory_guidance_for_local_authorities.pdf

(Source: NCB *Policy & Parliamentary Information Digest*, 1 Sept 2014)

Subtitled “Statutory guidance for local authorities and organisations providing services to children and young people with SEN”, this document summarises the changes that came into effect on 1 Sept.

Inclusive language: words to use and avoid when writing about disability

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-communication/inclusive-language-words-to-use-and-avoid-when-writing-about-disability--2>

(Source: *STV Bulletin* 168, 3 Sep 2014)

New guidelines from the Office for Disability Issues, which includes information on collective terms and labels; using positive not negative phrases; use of everyday phrases; a list of words to use and avoid; and some tips on behaviour.

Disability issues – Other Agencies

“Tech Thursday: Make your computer speak Part 5: Text-to-speech on mobile devices”

<http://www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk/news/tech-thursday-make-your-computer-speak-part-5-text-speech-mobile-devices>

(Source: *STV Bulletin* 167, 27 Aug 2014)

“In this fifth part, we will have a look at how to make your smartphone or tablet speak. Mobile systems all come with built-in high quality text-to-speech which means that they can start speaking to you out of the box. On the other hand, the selection of text-to-speech software is not as extensive as on the desktop.”

“Blindness in Scotland”

<http://www.rnib.org.uk/scotland-scotland-news-and-media/what-was-it-be-blind-or-partially-sighted-edwardian-edinburgh-and>

(Source: *STV Bulletin* 167, 27 Aug 2014)

“RNIB Scotland has announced that it has been awarded £55,700 funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for its ‘Seeing Our history’ project which will provide a unique record of what it was like to be blind or partially sighted in Edinburgh and the Lothians one hundred years ago. The aim is to compile a 60 page booklet in hard copy, Braille and Talking Book formats.”

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

Jewish Glasgow: an illustrated history

<http://www.sjac.org.uk/events/book.html>

(Source: *Broadsheet*, the Scottish Council on Archives e-magazine, issue 30, Aug 2014)

“The first ever pictorial history of Jews in Glasgow has recently been published by the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre. The book by Kenneth Collins, Harvey Kaplan and Stephen Kliner is lavishly illustrated in full colour and does justice to the 200-year old story of Jews in the city. It draws heavily on the collections of the Archives Centre and includes chapters on Jewish identity in Scotland, education, business and employment, health and welfare, religious life, Zionism, leisure and culture, and art.”

NB Charged-for publication.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

On speaking terms

http://www.demos.co.uk/files/On_speaking_termsweb.pdf?1408395571

(Source: Migrants Rights Network *Weekly Migration News*, 26 Aug 2014 – see:

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/news/2014/demos-report-strongly-criticises-way-english-language-courses-are-provided-immigrant-commu?utm_source=Migrants+Rights+News&utm_campaign=8e8174d4d1-MRN_News_26-08-2014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1084a7080c-8e8174d4d1-197822741)

Important new report from Demos. As MRN says:

“[The report] argues that newcomers to the UK have not been served well by the failure of governments to put in place a national strategy for the provision of language courses for everyone who would benefit from improved English language skills. This has not been helped in recent times by a 40% cut in funding for ESOL courses across the country.”

The report argues for a national strategy for the provision of language courses, and proposes a number of recommendations, including: “Money saved by local authorities from cuts to translation services should instead be ploughed back into ESOL provision.”

International students and the UK immigration debate

<http://www.britishfuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/BRFJ2238-International-Students.WEB-FINAL.Embargo-25.8.14.pdf>

(Source: Migrants Rights Network *Weekly Migration News*, 26 Aug 2014)

The think-tank British Future and university lobby group Universities UK have just published a report that outlines public opinion on international student migration:

“This report proves that there is strong public support for international student migration, and that people seem to understand the economic and educational benefits brought to Britain by those who come here to study.”
[p6]

“Net migration target misses the point – again”

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/blog/2014/08/net-migration-target-misses-point-again?utm_source=Migrants+Rights+News&utm_campaign=52458aac99-MRN+News+01-09-2014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1084a7080c-52458aac99-197822741

(Source: *Migrants' Rights Network Weekly Migration News*, 1 Sept 2014)

Important posting by the MRN:

“A closer look at the ONS statistics and the persistent rise of net migration levels, suggests that this isn't a story of 'immigration out of control'. Despite the tough talk and hostile policies pushed forward by politicians, it seems that a pragmatic need for immigration within the UK's recovering economy may have been the culprit, creating an increased demand for foreign skills and greater opportunities for migrants than other neighbouring countries over the recent period.”

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

“Ferguson infoPlaylist”

<http://cooklibrary.wordpress.com/2014/08/21/ferguson-infoplaylist/>

(Source: email from Kathleen McCook, 21 Aug 2014)

Great example of the social role that libraries can play:

“This infoPlaylist prepared by Librarians Joyce Garczynski and Megan Browndorf contains background information, news and social media coverage, analysis and opinions as well as the official responses related to these events.”

There is also a brief round-up of the positive role that libraries play in difficult circumstances (including in Ferguson) in “Public Libraries in Times of Need: Ferguson and Beyond” – see: http://webjunction.org/news/webjunction/public-libraries-in-times-of-need.html?utm_source=WhatCountsEmail&utm_medium=Crossroads&utm_campaign=Crossroads.

Broader issues – Other Agencies

“DBS checks (formerly ‘CRB checks’), protection and safeguarding”

<http://www.volunteering.org.uk/component/gpb/protectionandsafeguarding>

(Source: *Clinks Light Lunch*, 357, 29 Aug 2014)

“Volunteering England has published a web page containing many links to resources and fact sheets concerning the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and effective protection and safeguarding. The resources include information about the DBS Update Service, and guidance documents from the DBS for registered bodies on how to identify the type of workforce that a DBS applicant will be working in.”