



ISSN 1475-8202

The Network Newsletter: tackling social exclusion in libraries, museums, archives and galleries

Number 155, March 2014

(Formerly published as *Public Libraries & Social Exclusion Action Planning Network Newsletter*, issue 1, May 1999 – issue 29, September 2001)

The Network's Website is at www.seapn.org.uk and includes information on courses, good practice, specific socially excluded groups, as well as the newsletter archive.

Contents List

Did you see ...?

- *CILIP Update* – page 2
- *Museums Journal* – page 2

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

- *Poverty in suburbia ...* – page 3

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

- *How does money influence health?* – page 3

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

- *Urban Libraries Council* – page 5

Abbreviations and acronyms – page 6

Did you see ...?

CILIP Update

The February issue¹ includes the following items of interest:

- “Prescription books reach 100,000”, which announces the successful take-up of the Books on Prescription scheme [p9]
- “Digital inclusion checklist online”, which reports briefly on the role of the checklist² which has been developed by the Government Digital Service [p11]

Museums Journal

The March issue includes some important articles:

- Gareth Harris “Demographic make-up is the key”, which is a brief article about a new research report³ that suggests that patterns of UK tourism will change over the next ten years, particularly the influence of changing families (eg LGBT families, step-families) [p9]
- Geraldine Kendall “Museums set their sights on public sector commissions”, which looks at some recent developments around local authorities’ commissioning services from museums (eg National Museums Liverpool’s “House of Memories” project) [pp12-13]
- Maurice Davies “Why not take ‘impact’ as a starting point?” [“The policy column”], which briefly argues for museums starting any work by first identifying the impacts they want to have⁴ [p17]
- Rebecca Atkinson “Lest we forget”, a look at sites “that help people remember and understand tragic events” [pp20-25]
- Geraldine Kendall “Deep impact”, which looks at examples of museums’ positive impact on people’s lives (including volunteering) [pp26-29]

¹ CILIP Update, February 2014. Further information at:

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/cilip/membership/membership-benefits/monthly-magazine-journals-and-ebulletins/cilip-update-magazine>.

² See: <https://gds.blog.gov.uk/2014/01/13/a-checklist-for-digital-inclusion-if-we-do-these-things-were-doing-digital-inclusion/#second-identifier>.

³ *Domestic leisure tourism trends for the next decade*. VisitEngland, 2013. Available to download as a pdf (459 kb) from: <http://www.tmi.org.uk/documents/2013-domestic-leisure-trends-for-the-next-decade.pdf>.

⁴ This relates to the strategy, *Museums change lives: the MA’s vision for the impact of museums*. Museums Association, 2013. Available to download as a pdf (2170 kb) from: <http://www.museumsassociation.org/download?id=1001738>. This was assessed in *The Network Newsletter*, 146, June 2013, pp5-7. Available to download as a pdf (113 kb) from: http://www.seapn.org.uk/site_content_files/files/newsletter_ns_146.pdf.

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

Poverty in suburbia ...

This new report⁵ from the Smith Institute maps increasing poverty in the suburbs, based on studies of eight cities:

“Poverty is prevalent in suburbs of major cities, and in certain places in suburbia it has worsened significantly.

- There has been a marked narrowing in poverty rates between suburbs and inner-city areas in London, Manchester and Newcastle.
- Increased rates have often been in suburbs furthest from the city centre.
- There were differences between the cities: Birmingham, for instance, experienced above-average increases in self-employment while Liverpool experienced above-average rises in part-time working.
- Overall, however, changes in worklessness, unemployment and housing tenure played a large part in the narrowing of poverty rates, whereas car ownership and overcrowding pulled the results in the other direction.
- Since the recession the rate of increase across a range of mean-tested benefits tended to be higher in these eight major cities than for the rest of the country.” [p36]

The eight cities are: London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield, Newcastle, Bristol and Leeds.

Useful background study which also highlights the increasing gap between rich and poor.⁶

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

How does money influence health?

This important new research⁷ has just been published by JRF. It looked “at hundreds of theories to consider how income influences health. There is a

⁵ Paul Hunter. *Poverty in suburbia: a Smith Institute study into the growth of poverty in the suburbs of England and Wales*. Smith Institute, 2014. Available to download as a pdf (10750 kb) from: <http://www.smith-institute.org.uk/file/Poverty%20in%20Suburbia.pdf>.

⁶ Source: NCB *Policy & Parliamentary Information Digest*, 4 Apr 2014.

⁷ Michaela Benzeval *et al.* *How does money influence health?* JRF, 2014. Available to download as a pdf (368 kb) from: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/income-health-poverty-full.pdf>. Summary (84 kb) also available from: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/income-health-poverty-summary.pdf>.

graded association between money and health – increased income equates to better health. But the reasons are debated.”⁸

“Improving the income of the poorest members of society is often proposed as a way of improving their health, and hence reducing health inequalities. However, for this policy to be effective, it is important to understand *how* money influences health. Effective policy responses must take all the factors that link income and health into account.

The report identifies key theories that explain how money influences health, including:

- materialist arguments: for example, money buys health-promoting goods and the ability to engage in a social life in ways that enable people to be healthy;
- psychosocial mechanisms: for example, the stress of not having enough money may affect health;
- behavioural factors: people living in disadvantaged circumstances may be more likely to have unhealthy behaviours;
- being in poor health may affect education and employment opportunities in ways that affect subsequent health.” [Full report, p1]

The report is densely argued, but important. It may be easiest to start with the conclusions, and then work back in terms of identifying how much further information you require – perhaps the final paragraph (please see below) will be enough to support our contention that the cultural sector, along with other agencies, has a role to play:

“... this review emphasises the interdependence of mechanisms. There is no specific pathway or mechanism that dominates the explanation, the pathways link to each other and interact across people’s lives in multiple ways that influence health.

This implies that broad-ranging policies are required to address health inequalities. There is, however, a particular emphasis on the importance of parental income for both their children’s health during childhood and also the long-term consequences of their future social economic and health circumstances. Further, health improvement policies that rely only on initiatives that target specific risk factors or deliver single interventions are in danger of being insufficiently comprehensive to yield anything more than modest benefits.” [p6]⁹

⁸ Taken from: http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/how-does-money-influence-health?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Weekly+publications+and+blogs+wb+10th+March+2014&utm_content=Weekly+publications+and+blogs+wb+10th+March+2014+CID_aeb77897c0ad1b6794b3b29105bc6351&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Publication%20How%20does%20money%20influence%20health.

⁹ Source: JRF *Weekly publications and blogs*, w/b 10 Mar 2014.

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

Urban Libraries Council

A timely reminder¹⁰ of the important work that the ULC does:

“The Urban Libraries Council (ULC), founded in 1971, is a membership association of leading public library systems in the U.S. and Canada.

With the help of our members, ULC strategically advances the value that 21st century libraries provide communities in critical areas such as education, lifelong learning, workforce and economic development, public safety, health and wellness and environmental sustainability.”¹¹

They publish “Leadership Briefs”, “four-page monographs that offer condensed analysis of critical issues driving library performance today.” Key titles include:

- *Libraries igniting learning* (2013)¹²
- *Library leaders owning leadership* (2012)¹³, which “identifies five leadership themes and five roles for library executives in the rapidly changing and increasingly complex public library environment.”
- *Library priority: community-civic engagement* (2011)¹⁴, which “explores how to move libraries from supporting players to valued leaders in today’s civic engagement space. It identifies five leadership roles to help libraries broaden their impact as the go-to resource for building a culture of enlightened, engaged, and empowered citizens.” [p1]

ULC also publish research reports, including:

- *Civic engagement: stepping up to the civic engagement challenge* (no date – c2011)¹⁵

This includes “Five Strategies for Leading the Way”:

- “Educating voters about civic responsibilities, including participating in municipal elections.
- Helping immigrants connect with their new homes.
- Building community histories that encourage community attachment.
- Bridging diverse cultures and disconnected groups.
- Creating a vision of an engaged, connected, healthy, vibrant community.” [p29]

¹⁰ Thanks to Simon Wallace for sending a link to the ULC.

¹¹ From: <http://www.urbanlibraries.org/about-us-pages-13.php>.

¹² See: http://www.urbanlibraries.org/filebin/pdfs/L_Brief_IV_Learning_Full_Rep.pdf.

¹³ See: http://www.urbanlibraries.org/filebin/pdfs/Leadership_Brief_Final_061112.pdf.

¹⁴ See:

http://www.urbanlibraries.org/filebin/pdfs/ULC_Leadership_Brief_II_Full_4Pages.pdf.

¹⁵ See: http://www.urbanlibraries.org/filebin/pdfs/ULC_Civic_Engagement_Report.pdf.

- *Partners for the future: public libraries & local government creating sustainable futures (2010)*¹⁶, which "... details how a strategic and successful relationship between the public library and local government can be formed in order to accomplish sustainability for a community. The report focuses on the 'triple bottom line' of sustainable development: economic prosperity, environmental quality and social equity, providing numerous examples of high-impact partnerships in specific communities."
- *Making cities stronger: public library contributions to local economic development (2007)*¹⁷ – this has obviously been overtaken by events, but the principles still apply.
- *The engaged library: Chicago stories of community building (2005)*¹⁸
- *Welcome, stranger: public libraries build the global village (2008)*¹⁹, which "provides examples of ULC member libraries transitioning immigrants into American life by welcoming, support and integrating these new residents from all over the world".

Abbreviations and acronyms

CILIP = Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals

JRF = Joseph Rowntree Foundation

NCB = National Children's Bureau

This Newsletter was compiled by John Vincent, and all items are written by him, unless otherwise stated. Please send any comments or items for the next issue to:

John Vincent
Wisteria Cottage
Nadderwater
Exeter EX4 2JQ

Tel/fax: 01392 256045
E-mail: john@nadder.org.uk

March 2014

¹⁶ See: http://www.urbanlibraries.org/filebin/pdfs/Sustainability_Report_2010.pdf.

¹⁷ See: http://www.urbanlibraries.org/filebin/pdfs/MakingCitiesStronger_Full_Report.pdf.

¹⁸ See: http://www.urbanlibraries.org/filebin/pdfs/Engaged_Library_Full_Report.pdf.

¹⁹ See: http://www.urbanlibraries.org/filebin/pdfs/Welcome_Stranger_Full_Report_08.pdf.