

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 221, 21 November 2016

Events

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

Congratulations!

Better World Books Literacy Grants

<http://cares.betterworldbooks.co.uk/grants/literacy-grants-projects/>

(Source: email from Better World Books, 14 Nov 2016)

Congratulations to Network member recipients of the 2016 library grants, including:

- Swindon Libraries “Book of Memories”: “We at Swindon Libraries are determined to support people with dementia and their families through putting together specially selected historical local photographs, which will be the basis for a set themed books to help stimulate memory recall of growing up in Swindon.”
- Leeds Library and Information Services “Make-A-Zine Workshops & Fair”: “The DIY ethos of zine making encourages everyone to realise their creative potential as an artist, writer or storyteller. Zines can help individuals and community groups to express their views and make tangible connections to their history, their present and their identity.”

Equality Act 2010

PSED

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-24/50003/>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 501, 7 Nov 2016)

Interesting to note, in a reply to a Written question about collecting data on funding allocated to people who have protected characteristics as listed in the Equality Act 2010, that the Government response reiterated the importance of the Public Sector Equality Duty:

“The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) is a key lever for ensuring that public bodies, including executive agencies, already consider the potential impact of their decisions, including decisions about funding allocation, on people who share different protected characteristics.

The PSED requires public bodies, and those carrying out public functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- advance equality of opportunity, and;
- foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

Public bodies must be able to show how equality issues have been considered when they develop, implement, evaluate and review policies, services and processes.”

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

“What makes a great community hub”

<http://www.tinderfoundation.org/our-thinking/blog/what-makes-great-community-hub>

(Source: Elizabeth Ash *Digest of e-cuttings*, 6 Nov 2016)

Further to the item in the last Ebulletin (“Speech and comments by Helen Milner, Tinder Foundation”), Helen has written a piece on the Tinder Foundation website, saying that she realised that her previous comments had caused a storm, and outlining what makes a good community hub. She goes on to say:

“I hope that this kicks off a debate - not a twitter storm - but a real discussion with people who would like to think more holistically about the needs of our communities. People not just within the libraries sector, but including all those that support and are supported by it - local authorities, health services, digital inclusion organisations, social inclusion charities and many more.

We’ll talk to some partners and let you know what we think we can do to create the right kind of safe space to discuss what makes a great community hub.”

“At your service”

<http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2016/11/public-services/at-your-service/#>

(Source: *LJXpress – Library Journal*, 8 Nov 2016)

Very useful articles, outlining some of the work in US libraries with veterans:

“Libraries, both public and academic, are well positioned to serve the unique needs of this population by offering programming and meeting space, sharing veterans’ stories, and providing the community connections necessary to transition successfully from military to civilian life.”

“Network created for museums celebrating gender equality milestones in 2018”

http://www.museumsassociation.org/news/20092016-network-gender-equality-milestones-2018?dm_i=2VBX,BDQ8,27LU0M,13V1C,1

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 28 Sep 2016)

“The Museums Association (MA) has created an informal network for museums with plans to commemorate the anniversaries of several gender equality milestones in 2018, including the centenary of the Representation of the People Act, which saw voting rights granted to women for the first time.”

To join the network, please email sharon@museumsassociation.org.

“iPad lending in Suffolk”

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2016/11/11/ipad-lending-in-suffolk/>

New Libraries Taskforce blogpost by Helen Haynes, Suffolk Libraries, about their work to promote digital aspects of the service:

“[...] whether that’s digital library services, new technology or IT training. The iPad lending project combines all 3 as it improves people’s access to digital library services by providing them with the technology and the skills to do so.”

Museums Change Lives

http://www.museumsassociation.org/video/151120156-museums-change-lives?dm_i=2VBX,CFUT,27LU0M,1843T,1

(Source: email from the Museums Association, 16 Nov 2016)

First in a new series of videos illustrating how museums are increasing their social impact.

“A sense of community”

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2016/11/04/a-sense-of-community/>

Libraries Taskforce blogpost about a Good Neighbours scheme in Hampshire and “Chat and Chill” sessions in Suffolk:

“Through providing free access to government information and digital services, employment assistance, learning and more, libraries play an invaluable role in community members’ lives. They can also reduce social exclusion, disadvantage and isolation by knowing their users and responding to the needs of their community.”

The “Chat and Chill” sessions are:

“[...] aimed at women who are newly arrived to Britain and whose English is very limited. It’s not an ESOL course; it’s a group to help women acclimatise to British culture and it equips them with everyday skills such as making doctors appointments, how to chat with your child’s teacher, etc. There’s a whole range of soft and hard skills gently taught through a really informal programme with brilliant resources on hand to support this. Also, it’s about helping these ladies make friends as it’s an isolating and lonely thing to come to a new country.”

“Dudley Libraries’ Digital Festival”

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2016/11/07/dudley-libraries-digital-festival/>

Libraries Taskforce blogpost about Dudley’s festival to promote digital inclusion.

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

“Libraries can be a health lifeline for people most at risk”

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-libraries-community-idUSKBN1352OD>

(Source: email from John Pateman, 15 Nov 2016)

Brief report on a new research project:

“Their analysis of Philadelphia libraries and how communities use them concludes that libraries can offer specific programs that directly and indirectly improve health, such as classes to improve skills or literacy. Librarians can also act as support figures, connecting people with resources for basic needs like housing.”

The research report itself is:

Beyond books: public libraries as partners for population health
<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/35/11/2030.abstract>

“Public Health England and libraries – potential to work more closely together”

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2016/11/17/public-health-england-and-libraries-potential-to-work-more-closely-together/>

Libraries Taskforce blogpost looking at what PHE does, and how there is potential for closer working with libraries.

It also notes the launch of a new campaign to raise awareness of the key symptoms of sepsis at the end of Nov:

<https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/54-sepsis>.

Disability issues – Other Agencies

“Let's help every child love books, whatever their needs”

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-blogs/blogs/booktrust/1034>

(Source: email from BookTrust, 7 Nov 2016)

“It can be hard knowing what books to pick for children with additional needs. BookTrust consultant Alex Strick has tips for ensuring that everyone can access and enjoy stories.”

Sight Loss Data Tool

<http://www.rnib.org.uk/knowledge-and-research-hub-key-information-and-statistics/sight-loss-data-tool>

(Source: *STV Bulletin* 220, 8 Nov 2016)

RNIB have just published an updated version of their Data Tool, which contains a number of key additions.

Let's play! Toys and play ideas for young children with vision impairment

http://www.rnib.org.uk/sites/default/files/APDF-ENG071605_RNIB%20Play%20Guide_0.pdf

(Source: RNIB *Insight Online*, 16 Nov 2016)

“We have launched a play guide to help parents, teachers and carers of children with vision impairment create fun-filled playtimes where the child can develop and explore their senses. Written in collaboration with two parents, the guide includes stimulating toy suggestions and ideas to create positive play environments.”

Sense have also developed two play toolkits: one for early years play settings and their staff, and one for parents: <https://www.sense.org.uk/play/toolkits>.

Sense is a national charity that supports people who are deafblind, have sensory impairments or complex needs, to enjoy more independent lives: <https://www.sense.org.uk/content/about-us>.

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

“How Libraries are Helping Newcomers Adjust to Life in Toronto”

<http://torontoist.com/2016/11/how-libraries-are-helping-newcomers-adjust-to-life-in-toronto/>

(Source: email from Wolfgang Kaiser, 16 Nov 2016)

Very positive piece on Toronto Public Library’s work with local settlement agencies.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“Immigration and Brexit (and Trump): it’s more about social attitudes than social class”

<http://classonline.org.uk/blog/item/immigration-and-brexit-and-trump-its-more-about-social-attitudes-than-social-class>

(Source: email from Class, 11 Nov 2016)

Important new blogpost which challenges assumptions about class, immigration and economics:

“As an explanation for hostility to immigration and for the Brexit vote, the narrative that presents ‘working class people with legitimate concerns’ about immigration on the one hand, and on the other, an out-of-touch ‘metropolitan elite’, has become a virtual common sense on parts of the left. But while it contains some elements of truth, overall this framing is not just an oversimplification but a distortion, which will lead to bad politics and bad policy.”

“Detained and nowhere to go – the hidden misery of stateless people in the UK”

<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/migration-pulse/2016/detained-and-nowhere-go-hidden-misery-stateless-people-uk>

(Source: Migrants Rights Network *Weekly Update*, 14 Nov 2016)

Brief blogpost from Migrants’ Rights Network, which gives some background to a recent report from the European Network on Statelessness, *Protecting stateless persons from arbitrary detention in the United Kingdom* – see:

http://www.statelessness.eu/sites/www.statelessness.eu/files/ENS_Detention_Reports_UK.pdf.

“Language barrier leaves refugees facing struggle to rebuild their lives”

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/nov/16/language-barrier-refugees-english-classes-integration-esol>

Just in case you didn’t see this article in *The Guardian*, which focuses on the lack of support for new arrivals, especially in terms of ESOL.

It’s an update on progress with an ESRC research project – see:

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/migration/research/integrationcitizenship/refugeeresettlement>.

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

Libraries Taskforce blogposts

There have been two recent posts about arts/music events in libraries:

- “Loop the Loop”, <https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2016/10/26/loop-the-loop/>, which “has introduced experimental art to new audiences and has embraced animation, manga drawing, jazz, pop up musical performances and film making.”
- “Get it Loud in Libraries”, <https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2016/10/27/get-it-loud-in-libraries/>, which outlines the expansion of the music skills programme.

Broader issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Eroding trust: the UK’s Prevent counter-extremism strategy in health and education

Executive summary:

<https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/sites/default/files/eroding-trust-execiutive-summary-20161017.pdf>

(Source: email from Bill Bolloten, 24 Oct 2016)

Important report which has had considerable media coverage and which argues that:

“The UK’s Prevent strategy, which purports to prevent terrorism, creates a serious risk of human rights violations. The programme is flawed in both its design and application, rendering it not only unjust but also counterproductive.”

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

Post-Brexit

Roma communities and Brexit: integrating and empowering Roma in the UK

http://www.ippr.org/publications/roma-communities-and-brexit?utm_source=IPPR+weekly+newsletter&utm_campaign=406468a611-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2016_10_28&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b30c067fe-406468a611-277593261

(Source: *IPPR Newsletter*, 28 Oct 2016)

Important new report:

“As a consequence of the Brexit vote, Roma migrant communities in the UK – already a vulnerable group – face further insecurity over the terms of their residency, and the end of EU funding to support their integration. This report examines the evidence on the disadvantages that Roma experience, and recommends how cash-strapped local authorities can help them by supporting community cohesion in more strategic ways.”