The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 223, 20 December 2016

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

Funding & Opportunities
CILIP Conference 2017 – call for papers
http://cilipconference.org.uk/call-for-papers/
> "We are looking for papers to cover two strands of the conference. Both strands will have six outlined topics and are designed to attract a specific section of the conference audience, and each will have their own aims, objectives and outcomes."

The two strands are:

- Future Trends, including:

    o Public Policy
    o Law
    o Technology
    o Learning
    o Society
    o **Social Justice** [emphasis mine]

- Workshops (which will take a more practical approach), including:

    o Marketing
    o Copyright
    o Data Protection / Freedom of Information
    o Teaching Information Literacy
    o Evaluation and Impact
    o Customer Service

Further details about the papers and how to submit are at:
http://cilipconference.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/CILIP-Conference-2017-Call-for-Papers.pdf.

Submissions must be completed by **Friday 10 February 2017**.

Community Archive & Heritage Awards 2017
http://www.communityarchives.org.uk/content/awards/community-archive-heritage-awards-2015
(Source: email from Elaine Davis, 1 Dec 2016)
> "Celebrating the importance of community archives and heritage

The Community Archives and Heritage Group (CAHG) are pleased to announce the opening of nominations for the Community Archive & Heritage Awards 2017.

The Awards are open to all community groups in the UK and Ireland who are members of CAHG. Community archives, community heritage groups, community museums and community archaeology groups are all included in CAHG. If your group is not a member of CAHG it is free to join.

Entries can be submitted in 4 different categories: Inspiration, Innovation, Website of the Year and Best New Group; (the last is specifically for groups established after 1 January 2015).

In addition to the annual 'category' awards there is also an award made for the Community Archive and Heritage Group of the Year. This award is sponsored by Sticks Research Agency. All entries are automatically considered for this award.

The closing date for entries is the **31st January 2017**."

Equality Act 2010
Religion or belief: is the law working?
https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/religion-or-belief-report-december-2016.pdf
(Source: National Secular Society *Newsline*, 2 Dec 2016)
Important new report from the EHRC, which

"[…] explores whether Great Britain's (GB's) equality and human rights legal framework sufficiently protects individuals with a religion or belief and the distinctiveness of religion or belief organisations, while balancing the rights of others protected under the Equality Act 2010 (the Equality Act)." [p3]

In tandem, they have also produced helpful, practical guidance – see:
https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/religion-or-belief.

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

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations
"How Libraries are Boldly Innovating to Meet the Needs of Changing Communities"
http://www.shareable.net/blog/how-libraries-are-boldly-innovating-to-meet-the-needs-of-changing-communities
(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 27 Nov 2016)
Focusing mainly on the developments at Lafayette Library, this interesting article also looks at other examples of community/outreach work.

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

NEET statistics quarterly brief: July to September 2016, England

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/571248/SFR59-2016_NEET_Statistics_Quarterly_Brief_Q3-2016.pdf

(Source: NCB *Policy & Parliamentary Information Digest*, 28 Nov 2016)

Latest statistics:

> "The proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) remained broadly flat for the 16-24 age group. Within this, there was a fall in the NEET rate for the 16-18 age group and a rise for the 19-24 age group. The proportion of young people not in education or training (NET) fell for the 16-18 age group but rose for 19-24 resulting in a slight increase in NET for 16-24 overall."

"Government confirms life chances strategy has been dropped"

http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/2002923/government-confirms-life-chances-strategy-has-been-dropped?utm_content=&utm_campaign=201216_DailyNews&utm_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now&utm_medium=adestra_email&utm_term=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2Fcyp%2Fnews%2F2002923%2Fgovernment-confirms-life-chances-strategy-has-been-dropped

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Daily*, 20 Dec 2016)

> "A government strategy to boost the life chances of the poorest children in the country will not be published, the government has confirmed, with elements of it instead set to feature in a green paper to be published next year [...]
>
> The strategy had been due to feature measures designed to address child poverty, including a plan to significantly expand parenting provision, and potentially introduce a voucher scheme for parenting classes.

"Cross-government child poverty unit scrapped"

http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/2002924/cross-government-child-poverty-unit-scrapped

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Daily*, 20 Dec 2016)

Just in case you haven't seen this …

> "The government's cross-departmental child poverty unit has been abolished, with the government confirming that its functions have been subsumed into the wider remit of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)."

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

"Our Top Ten Teachers and Librarians Blogs of 2016"

http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/blog/teachers-librarians/2016/11/our-top-ten-teachers-and-librarians-blogs-of-2016#.WD1uGIVnAns.twitter

(Source: email from Andrew Givan, Renfrewshire, 29 Nov 2016)

Scottish Book Trust has just published its most popular posts of 2016 – all interesting, but particularly good to see Pauline Simpson's post about the Skoobmobile.

"Women carry the burden of poverty – we should end that injustice"
http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/helen-barnard/women-in-poverty_b_13428572.html
(Source: JRF *Weekly round-up*, 9 Dec 2016)
Huffington Post blogpost by JRF, highlighting recent research showing that women bear the brunt of poverty:

> "Figures released by JRF as part of the BBC's 100 Women series highlight this reality. A fifth of women – around 5.1million – live in poverty in the UK, compared to 4.4million men."

Diversity in books and other materials for children & young people
"Everybody In – An Inclusion and Diversity Charter for the Children's Book World"
http://www.everybodyin.co.uk/
(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 29 Nov 2016)

> "The key aim of the Everybody In charter is to help all those involved in the book world to move forward in making books more inclusive.
> The charter has been developed in close liaison with publishers, booksellers, libraries, authors, illustrators, teachers, and organisations such as The Publishers Association, The Booksellers Association and ASCEL. Other key agencies have also endorsed the charter, including YLG, the SLA and the Society of Chief Librarians. The key to Inclusive Minds is its collaborative nature, drawing together all relevant parties to work together.
>
> Everyone working with children and books must play a part in ensuring that all children can find authentic representations of themselves in books, as well as seeing those who are different from them. To this end, the charter is open to all audiences so that we can take collective responsibility.
>
> The charter represents a way for organisations to demonstrate how 'inclusively minded' they are, and offers practical and achievable ways of ensuring real change. Signatories agree with four statements of intent and select three actions to work on. We've suggested some actions, but signatories are free to write their own.

Health & Wellbeing issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government
Children and young people's mental health: time to deliver – the report of the Independent Commission on Children and Young People's Mental Health
http://epi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/time-to-deliver-web.pdf
(Source: *YoungMinds Newsletter*, Nov 2016)
This is the final report from the Commission:

"Over the last year, the Commission has monitored progress made in improving Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) following the government's investment of an extra £1.4bn over five years. The report suggests that it is unclear how much of the new money is reaching frontline services."

The key recommendation is for the Prime Minister to issue a "mental health challenge" similar to that for dementia.

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Immigration Act 2016
(Source: Migrants Rights Network *Weekly Update*, 28 Nov 2016)
Just in case you weren't aware of this, the English or Welsh language requirements for public sector workers came into force on 21 November. The Government has issued a Code of Practice directed to public sector employers setting out what is expected from them.

The Code of Practice is at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/539802/code_of_practice_english_language_requirement_public_sector_workers.pdf.

According to the Migrants' Rights Network:

"The workers who will need to meet these standards of language are all staff who work in customer-facing roles including permanent and fixed-term employees, apprentices, self-employed contractors, agency temps, police officers and service personnel."

MRN are critical of this initiative – see their blogpost at:
http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/blog/2016/11/testing-language-public-sector-case-preaching-choir.

Unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children: safeguarding pressures thematic report from the ADCS
http://adcs.org.uk/assets/documentation/ADCS_UASC_Report_Final_FOR_PUBLICATION.pdf
(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Newsflash* Oct-Nov 2016)
Important background report.

"The number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) looked after by local authorities in England have more than doubled between 2014, reaching 4,210 in 2016. A relatively small number of local authorities (largely the 'port' authorities) have been supporting a disproportionately large number of UASC. To address this, the voluntary National UASC Transfer Scheme (NTS) came into effect from July 2016. It is predicated upon each local authority accepting UASC up to 0.07% of its child population to achieve a more equitable distribution across the

country. Following the dismantling of the Calais camp, the pace and number of UASC who need to be transferred has increased. This report looks at the changing national picture and aims to provide information about the characteristics and needs of UASC and refugee children, and the services delivered to meet their needs."

Migration issues – Other Agencies
"85% of Brits have inaccurate views on immigration"
http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/Press_release_-_85_of_Brits_have_inaccurate_views_on_immigration.pdf
(Source: Migrants Rights Network *Weekly Update*, 28 Nov 2016)
Press release announcing the results of new research:

- "More than half (53%) of UK citizens are overestimating the number of EU migrants entering the UK
- 85% of UK citizens are unaware of the true proportion of EU migrants in the total migrant population […]
- One in four (25%) Leave voters believe that more than 70% of migrants entering the UK last year came from EU countries. (The actual total stands at just 43%.)"

Restricting the economic rights of asylum seekers: cost implications
https://asylumwelfarework.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/welfare-costs-working-paper.pdf
(Source: Migrants Rights Network *Weekly Update*, 28 Nov 2016)
The report from a Warwick University research project says:

"The government could slash as much as 25% off the £233.5 million annual bill for asylum support payments if asylum seekers and those refused asylum who cannot go home were allowed to work in the UK […]"

It recommends:

"1. That both asylum seekers and refused asylum seekers who cannot return to their country of origin be granted access to the UK labour market without the Shortage Occupation List restriction. The European standard is to grant access if individuals have been waiting for 6 months or more for a decision on their claim.

2. That in light of the lack of evidence that forcing individuals to live in poverty either acts as a deterrent for those considering coming to the UK, or encourages those already here to leave, welfare support levels for asylum seekers and refused asylum seekers be increased to at least 70% of Job Seekers Allowance but more ideally in line with the JSA rate."

"KS2 Refugee Books"
https://padlet.com/jon_biddle/p3i2el3kmxe
(Source: email from Anne Harding, 18 Nov 2016)

"Books about refugees, mostly suitable for children in Key Stage 2"

Broader issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations
"Giving public libraries strong leadership and commitment"
http://www.cilip.org.uk/blog/giving-public-libraries-strong-leadership-commitment
CILIP blogpost by Nick Poole that calls for support for ten "Principles for the Leadership and Development of Public Library Services in England:

1. England's public libraries are part of a successful network which delivers key outcomes including learning, health and wellbeing, digital inclusion, civic participation and stronger local economies.

2. Securing these outcomes for the long-term depends on effective leadership through a fully-funded and evidence-based National Public Library Plan for England that is owned jointly by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Association.

3. Implementing this plan requires appropriate governance of the library network, including partnerships for local delivery, regional and national support and with appropriate engagement with the equivalent strategies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

4. It also requires a national strategy for the development of the professional library workforce alongside the appropriate use of volunteers.

5. Effective national support for the library network requires an appropriately-resourced and mandated national development function, the responsibilities of which should include quality standards, targeted investment and development support and a transparent approach to monitoring and impact evaluation.

6. HM Treasury must make available to Local Authorities emergency relief funding and transitional support to ensure they are adequately resourced and funded to meet their statutory obligation for the provision of a quality public library service and to set in place appropriate plans for long-term governance and sustainability.

7. Library service points should not be transitioned out of statutory provision unless all alternative options for their maintenance have been explored, a full cost/benefits analysis has been conducted in consultation with the community and a realistic plan for long-term support is put in place.

8. Where a Local Authority fails to meet agreed standards on statutory public library service delivery (so-called 'hollowing-out' of services) DCMS and DCLG should use effective strategies for early intervention & improvement, including options for sanction and the removal of library services (and funding) into a national or regional Library Service.

9. Public libraries must work in partnership with other local community organisations to sustain and amplify the reach and impact of their services.

10. Public engagement with libraries should be promoted and encouraged through a joined-up programme of media and public relations led jointly by members of the Leadership for Libraries Taskforce (and in future by the organisation with responsibility for the national development function for public libraries)."

"Changing times, changing roles"
https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2016/12/08/changing-times-changing-roles/
Libraries Taskforce blogpost by Leon Bolton, which looks briefly at the fast-changing "public library landscape".

Post-Brexit
"Campus Libraries See Increase in Discriminatory Incidents"
http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2016/11/academic-libraries/campus-libraries-see-increase-in-discriminatory-incidents/#_
(Source: *LJXpress* – *Library Journal*, 29 Nov 2016)
Depressingly, but perhaps not surprisingly, it isn't just happening in the UK …

"Between Wednesday, November 9—the day after the U.S. presidential election—and Wednesday, November 16, the Southern Poverty Law Center collected reports of more than 700 incidents of hateful intimidation and harassment through submissions to its #ReportHate page, which launched the day after the election. More than 60 of these occurred on academic campuses, including in libraries, ranging from verbal attacks, fliers, and personal notes containing hate speech to postings on social media. Most of these have thus far been limited to graffiti and property defacement, but at least one student has been physically confronted."

Understanding the Leave vote
http://whatukthinks.org/eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/NatCen_Brexplanations-report-FINAL-WEB2.pdf
(Source: Migrants Rights Network *Migrants' Rights News*, 19 Dec 2016)
New research by NatCen shows that the foundations of the Leave campaign's success rested on the support it secured from three distinct groups of voters, rather than just on the support of the 'left behind':

"The three groups attracted by the Leave message are:

• Economically deprived, anti-immigration (12% of the population, 95% voted Leave).
• Affluent Euro-sceptics (23% of the population, 75% Voted Leave).
• Older working classes (16% of the population, 73% voted Leave)."
[Taken from: http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/news/2016/did-anti-migrant-feeling-fuel-leave-campaign]