The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 272, 4 February 2019

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

Funding & Opportunities
National Heritage Lottery Fund
https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/news/new-look-national-lottery-heritage-fund-unveils-plans-next-five-years
(Source: email from Jo Reilly, HLF, 30 Jan 2019)
Launch of new NHLF funding framework.

The headlines are:

- "One single programme with three levels of funding; much simpler form for small grants
- Up to £250k available in a single-round application
- The Fund remains focused on outcomes; wellbeing added (learning and skills are still there, of course)
- EVERY applicant now must address our inclusion outcome 'a wider range of people will be involved in heritage'. We will expect to see projects that go way beyond legislation in terms of accessibility and more projects that deliver for under-represented communities
- There are some organisational changes too e.g. a move from 9 English regions to 3 territories."

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government
Rough Sleeping Strategy: delivery plan
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/762854/RSS_delivery_plan.pdf
This is a brief summary of what has been achieved so far (with some examples of good practice), plus a list of the Commitments made in the Strategy, with an update on progress with each.

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies
Cities outlook 2019
https://www.centreforcities.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/19-01-28-Cities-Outlook-2019-Full.pdf

This report has had considerable media coverage (eg "Deprived northern regions worst hit by UK austerity, study finds", https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/jan/28/deprived-northern-regions-worst-hit-by-uk-austerity-study-finds).

> "As a whole, there has been a 18 per cent fall in the day-to-day spending by local government in cities between 2009/10 and 2017/18, compared to a 9 per cent fall elsewhere [...]
>
> This meant that British cities – home to 55 per cent of the population – have shouldered 74 per cent of the total cuts to local government's day-to-day spending. On a per capita basis, this equates to cuts of £386 per person in cities compared to £172 per person elsewhere in Britain." [pp13-14]

The result has been that:

> "Cities in the north of England were much harder hit than those elsewhere in Britain […] Seven of the 10 cities with the largest cuts are in the North East, North West or Yorkshire, and on average northern cities saw a cut of 20 per cent to their spending. This contrasted to a cut of 9 per cent for cities in the East, South East and South West (excluding London).
>
> Barnsley has been the city hardest hit by austerity on this measure, with a reduction of 40 per cent in its day-to-day spending on services. This was a fall of around £145 million, which equated to a cut of £688 for every resident in the city.
>
> On a per capita basis, Liverpool has seen the largest cut. Its £441 million reduction in spending equates to £816 fall for every resident in the city.
>
> In terms of absolute cuts, London has been by far the hardest hit. The capital has had a total of £3.9 billion removed from services spending. This meant that London accounted for 30 per cent of all cuts in Britain, despite accounting for 16 per cent of the population." [p16]

UK poverty 2018
https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/uk-poverty-2018?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=JRF%20weekly%20round-up%20wc%203%20December%202018&utm_content=JRF%20weekly%20round-up%20wc%203%20December%202018+CID_467b3d854a5452147a5cf0165ae33b71&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Read%20the%20report. "Findings" [summary] and Full report available to download.
(Source: JRF *Weekly Round-up*, 7 Dec 2018)
Latest annual report from JRF. Headlines include:

- "Child poverty has been rising since 2011/12;

- 4.1 million children are living in poverty, a rise of 500,000 in the last five years;
- Four million workers are living in poverty –a rise of more than half a million over five years; and
- In-work poverty has been rising even faster than employment, driven almost entirely by increasing poverty among working parents."

Diversity in books and other materials for children & young people
"Able to Participate: Disability and Race in British Children's Books"
https://theracetoread.wordpress.com/2018/12/13/able-to-participate-disability-and-race-in-british-childrens-books/
(Source: email from Anne Harding, 17 Dec 2018)
Interesting blogpost by Karen Sands-O'Connor, which looks at representation in children's books:

> "[…] children have the right to be represented in all aspects of society, including children's books. And that means all children, including those who are experiencing either a temporary or permanent disability […]
>
> But it is unusual to find a main character of colour in a British children's book who is also disabled—too many 'problems' for one book!"

Health & Wellbeing issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government
Social prescribing
http://www.lahf.org.uk/1000-social-prescribing-link-workers-2021
(Source: Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance *Bulletin*, Jan 2019)
Announcement from London Arts in Health Forum:

> "NHS England has announced it will recruit 1,000 link workers to support social prescribing by 2021. The link workers will be affiliated to the new primary care networks proposed in the NHS long-term plan, and will help direct patients to local services and activities. Almost a quarter of GPs surveyed by GPonline in 2018 say that they already use social prescribing as a referral method. Funding for the local services has yet to be secured."

Disability issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations
Make A Noise In Libraries fortnight: 'Get Connected', 2-15 June 2019
> "The theme of MANIL 2019 is 'Get Connected' - We know that the areas of digital access and loneliness have not been far away from policy and project headlines over recent times, and these dual challenges are particularly of interest and relevance to blind and partially sighted people.
>
> We would like, during Make a Noise in Libraries Fortnight, for libraries across the UK to organise events and raise awareness around all that you already do to:

- Enable people with sight loss to engage with reading
- Help people connect to the reading method that best suits them
- Use technology to grow access and the pleasure of reading
- Create opportunities for people with sight loss to get together, and to meet with others near and (possibly) far!"

Full briefing note available at: https://www.seapn.org.uk/courses/make-a-noise-in-libraries-fortnight-2019-get-connected.

Migration issues – Other Agencies
Improving education for refugee background students: research findings
https://www.sussex.ac.uk/webteam/gateway/file.php?name=improving-education-for-rbs-nov2018-final.pdf&site=320
(Source: email 13 Dec 2018 via refed, http://www.refugeeeducation.co.uk/mailing.htm)
Very useful, practical research report:

> "This research aimed to understand the experiences of refugee background students (RBS) in secondary schools and colleges in order to support their progression to Higher Education. The research focused on the refugee students' experiences of arriving in, and moving through, the education system. Additionally, the research looked at the aspirations of young refugees, how these are being met and their perceptions of the difficulties and challenges they face in moving through the education system." [p5]

It concludes with a series of practical recommendations for: schools and colleges; providing support for families and carers; and universities.

"Heartbreaking story books made by Coventry young people who lived as refugees"
https://coventryobserver.co.uk/news/heartbreaking-story-books-made-by-coventry-young-people-who-lived-as-refugees/
(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 9 Dec 2018)
> "COVENTRY young people who have lived as refugees have created their own picture-books to tell their stories.
>
> They aim to help other children in their position see they are not alone as part of a research project across Nova Scotia, Canada and Coventry, UK.
>
> The project explores both the experiences and the creativity of displaced young people through picture book making.
>
> It has led to the creation of a collection of stories which can now be borrowed from libraries in both countries."

"Syrian, Scottish, British: how I came to belong before I became a UK citizen"
https://theconversation.com/syrian-scottish-british-how-i-came-to-belong-before-i-became-a-uk-citizen-108226?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201214511151&utm_content=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201214511151+CID_30fcd91e7215b99b9f3b0e5c14ca1f2a&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Syrian%20Scottish%20British%20how%20I%20came%20to%20belong%20before%20I%20became%20a%20UK%20citizen
(Source: *The Conversation*, 19 Jan 2019)
One refugee's story of settling in the UK:

> "I woke up early that day feeling anxious, with one thought ricocheting around my head: at 10.30am this morning, I shall become a British citizen. Then another thought muscled in: but I *am* a citizen already. I have always felt a strong sense of belonging to Scotland, to Britain, despite the fact my passport is Syrian. It felt strange and conflicting."

"'Everything changed in 2016': Poles in UK struggle with Brexit"
https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jan/27/everything-changed-in-2016-poles-in-uk-struggle-with-brexit
Just in case you haven't seen this round-up of views of Polish people living in the UK.

LGBTQ issues – Other Agencies
LGBT in Scotland: health report
https://www.stonewallscotland.org.uk/sites/default/files/lgbt_in_scotland_-_health_report.pdf
(Source: Equality and Diversity Forum *Newsletter*, 17 Jan 2019)
New report from Stonewall Scotland, which shows that, despite some strong efforts (eg by NHS Scotland):

> "[…] the extent of the health inequalities faced by LGBT people. It highlights experiences of poor mental health, substance abuse, discrimination in healthcare environments, and challenges in accessing health services.
>
> Half of LGBT people in Scotland have experienced depression in the last year, a figure which increases to seven in ten trans people. And within the LGBT community, bi and trans people, LGBT disabled people and LGBT people from lower income households are particularly at risk.
>
> Many LGBT people – particularly those who are trans – continue to be 'outed' without their consent, treated with inappropriate curiosity and subjected to unequal treatment by healthcare staff. Consequently, LGBT people can be deterred from accessing NHS services, with many avoiding healthcare treatment for fear of discrimination. It is inevitable

that this will have lasting effects on LGBT people's long-term health outcomes; an inequality which must be tackled." [p4]

Broader issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations
Libraries Taskforce
https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/supporting-libraries
(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 16 Jan 2019)
Just in case you missed this, the Arts Council has now taken on the work of the Taskforce until March 2020.

Broader issues – Other Agencies
2019 Read For Empathy book collections
http://www.empathylab.uk/2019-read-for-empathy-collections
(Source: email from EmpathyLab, 17 Jan 2019)

> "Our brand new 2019 Empathy Book Guides feature forty five titles specially selected by an expert cross disciplinary panel to strengthen children's empathy skills and inspire them to put empathy into action in their communities. The collection for 4-11 year olds has 30 superb books – picture books, novels, a graphic novel and a poetry collection.
>
> In response to demand from secondary school teachers, we have introduced a trial Guide for 11-16 year olds. This features fifteen books – two graphic novels, three poetry books, nine novels and a collection of short stories.
>
> Download both Guides for reviews, top tips, and more about Empathy Day on 11 June."

- Primary Guide, https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/b2f3fbc2/files/uploaded/EMPATHYLAB%20primary%20GUIDE%20LandscapeA4%20AW.pdf

- Secondary Guide, https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/b2f3fbc2/files/uploaded/EMPATHYLAB%20secondary%20GUIDE%20LandscapeA4%20web.pdf.