The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 290, 14 November 2019

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

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government
Report of the Special rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights
https://srpovertyorg.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/a_74_48037_advanceuneditedversion-1.pdf
(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 7 Nov 2019)
New report from the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights:

> "The digital welfare state is either already a reality or is emerging in many countries across the globe. In these states, systems of social protection and assistance are increasingly driven by digital data and technologies that are used to automate, predict, identify, surveil, detect, target and punish. This report acknowledges the irresistible attractions for governments to move in this direction, but warns that there is a grave risk of stumbling zombie-like into a digital welfare dystopia. It argues that Big Tech operates in an almost human rights free-zone, and that this is especially problematic when the private sector is taking a leading role in designing, constructing, and even operating significant parts of the digital welfare state. The report recommends that instead of obsessing about fraud, cost savings, sanctions, and market-driven definitions of efficiency, the starting point should be on how welfare budgets could be transformed through technology to ensure a higher standard of living for the vulnerable and disadvantaged." [Summary, p1]

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies
Homelessness and rough sleeping
https://www.wmsmp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Homelessness-roundtable-report-FINAL.pdf
(Source: *WMSMP* [West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership] *E-Bulletin*, 10, Oct 2019)
This University of Birmingham "Policy Lab" paper reports on a 'roundtable' discussion:

> "On 4 October 2019, the University of Birmingham convened a roundtable on the subject of homelessness, bringing together experts from academia, local government, the NHS and civil society." [p1]

The paper outlines key reasons for the increasing number of people who are homeless, and goes on to make a series of recommendations, including;

> "Use the 2022 Commonwealth Games to inspire social change: We should use the opportunity of hosting the games in Birmingham to deliver lasting benefit to all citizens, which includes homeless people. The authorities should avoid using heavy-handed measures to clear the streets, such as PSPOs [Public Spaces Protection Orders]. Instead, plans should be put in place to tackle the underlying causes of homelessness and improve the quality of life for people on the streets. With the eyes of the world on us, we can offer Birmingham as an example of how to address complex social issues using sport and the legacy of the games as a catalyst." [p3]

Manifesto for a better childhood
https://www.ncb.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/Policy_docs/Reports/NCB_BetterChildhoodManifesto%20-%20FINAL4Nov2019.pdf.
(Source: email from NCB, 8 Nov 2019)
Launch of a new Manifesto by the National Children's Bureau, calling for a "[…] Children's and Young People's Strategy built on the principle that children and young people themselves must have a say in the political process." [p4]

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

State of hunger: a study of poverty and food insecurity in the UK
https://www.stateofhunger.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/State-of-Hunger-Report-November2019-Digital.pdf
(Source: JRF *Weekly round-up*, 8 Nov 2019)
Major new report from the Trussell Trust, which outlines findings from year 1 of a three-year research project.

Headlines include that between 8-10% of households are food insecure (2016-2018), 2.8% are severely food insecure (2016), and up to 2% of UK households use a foodbank (2018-2019).

The report identifies key drivers of foodbank use (eg Universal Credit), and concludes:

> "These findings from the first year of the State of Hunger reveal clear areas for policymakers to consider. They also underline that there are grounds for serious concern about the situation facing many households on the lowest rungs of the economic ladder, not least the serious adverse effects of food insecurity, hunger and destitution on people's health and wellbeing. The State of Hunger will continue to highlight emerging evidence and particular themes as it progresses through the coming years." [p109]

There is a brief summary of the report at: https://www.stateofhunger.org/.

"Anti-Bullying Booklist for children and young people"
https://tra-resources.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/entries/document/3931/NEW-Anti-Bullying_booklist.pdf
(Source: The Reading Agency *Newsletter*, Nov 2019)
To tie in with Anti-Bullying Week (11-15 Nov), The Reading Agency has published this useful booklist.

Diversity in books and other materials for children & young people
"Tackling the Racism in Children's Classics"
https://www.webjunction.org/news/webjunction/tackling-racism-in-childrens-classics.html?utm_source=SFMC&utm_medium=email&utm_content=November+6+2019+Crossroads&utm_campaign=&utm_term=WebJunctionCrossroads_COMM
(Source: WebJunction *Crossroads*, Nov 2019)
This post introduces a blog series originally published during the summer of 2019 on the Nashville Public Library blog, and which describes how library staff started to discuss potentially problematic titles amongst themselves, and then went on to explore these with young people.

> "Whether or not you choose to share classic books such as these with the children in your life, we encourage you to have open conversations with them on the topic of race. It's important; there is a wealth of research in support of that fact. In the absence of conversations on the topic, children can come to problematic and factually inaccurate conclusions."

The last para is particularly helpful:

> "We are approaching this from a place of learning. This means that, along the way, we may make missteps that need pointing out to us. We are open to hearing how this work can be improved."

Health & Wellbeing issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations
Public libraries respond to the opioid crisis with their communities: summary report
https://www.oclc.org/content/dam/research/publications/2019/oclcresearch-public-libraries-respond-to-opioid-crisis-summary-report.pdf
(Source: WebJunction *Crossroads*, Nov 2019)
Report on US libraries' response.

> "In response to the growing opioid crisis in the United States, OCLC – a global library cooperative – and the Public Library Association (PLA) sought to better understand how public libraries are responding to the opioid crisis locally with partners. Eight public libraries and their respective community partners participated in this research study, which is based on interviews with library staff, library board members, staff at community partner organizations, and members of the community." [p9]

The report identified the following key responses:

- "increased relevant resources made available to the community, such as naloxone and drug disposal kits
- made a positive impact on patrons' lives
- increased community awareness and knowledge about the opioid crisis
- began to address stigma about substance use disorder
- increased positive perception of the library
- developed new partnerships and expanded existing ones, resulting in coordinated efforts that better meet community needs
- reached other libraries and community organizations" [p10]

Disability issues – Other Agencies
Specific Learning Differences/Difficulties in prison
http://www.dyslexia-malvern.co.uk/
(Source: Clinks *Light Lunch*, 608, 1 Nov 2019)
Dyslexia Consultancy Malvern* has produced a series of booklets for people working with prisoners with Specific Learning Difficulties. The booklets cover a wide range of areas from principles of support to employability and disability issues, looking particularly at People with Specific Learning Difficulties (namely Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Dyscalculia)

*"Dyslexia Consultancy Malvern advises and supports people with Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and Attention Deficit Disorder, known collectively as Specific Learning Differences/Difficulties (SpLDs). It also offers consultancy, training and resources for professionals."

How to put on an accessible exhibition
Web version: https://www.shapearts.org.uk/news/accessible-curating
Pdf: https://www.shapearts.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=7033c77d-4aae-4e70-8dc6-2070cdaa9edd
(Source: *Museums North East News*, 12 Nov 2019)
> "We have created this short guide for curators, programmers and exhibition organisers to give an overview of how to ensure that the exhibition you're putting on is accessible and inclusive of disabled people.
>
> This guide forms part of our series of free resources on art, disability and access. It should be seen as an overview to support an approach that considers access and inclusion from the very beginning and at all stages of an organisation or individual's work. Almost 20% of the UK population identify as disabled; Shape's resources are designed to provide arts organisations and professionals with the knowledge and tools required to help build a more diverse, equal and inclusive cultural sector for disabled people as artists, audiences and workers."

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

"Home Office pays religious groups to help deport rough sleepers"
https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/nov/05/home-office-pays-religious-groups-to-help-deport-rough-sleepers
Just in case you didn't see this *Guardian* coverage of investigations carried out by a number of refugee organisations:

> "Religious and community organisations have been paid thousands of pounds by the Home Office to assist immigration enforcement teams in removing people from the UK, in most cases rough sleepers.
>
> There is mounting concern about Home Office tactics to deport migrant rough sleepers from the UK and its use of payments to assist with these removals, with the department facing accusations of racial profiling."

Welcoming and supporting newcomer children
https://www.equalityni.org/Blog/Articles/November-2019/Welcoming-Newcomers?utm_source=NewZapp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ezine-Nov19
(Source: email from Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, Nov 2019)
Blogpost by Deborah Howe (Senior Policy Officer, Equality Commission NI) outlining their response to the Department of Education's review of its Supporting Newcomer Pupils policy, including, for example:

- "We think that effective use of dual language resources would help Newcomer learners access the curriculum. A formal mechanism for sharing good practice and what works such as after school clubs, translated newsletters and more use of technology to communicate with parents would also be of benefit to all schools."

"Asylum support: UK rights and expectations"
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-support-uk-rights-and-expectations
(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Newsflash* Oct-Nov 2019)
New from the Home Office:

> "This guide is for asylum seekers in asylum accommodation and contains important information about:
>
> - UK culture, values and law
> - health and welfare services
> - staying safe and getting support"

It has been translated into 10 languages.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

"A dizzying maze': how the UK immigration system is geared to reject"
https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/nov/01/dizzying-maze-uk-immigration-system-hostile-environment
A *Guardian* "Long Read" article, looking at how complex and expensive it is to try to get through the UK immigration system.

"Make yourselves at home: the meaning of hospitality in a divided world"
https://www.theguardian.com/food/2019/oct/29/make-yourselves-at-home-the-meaning-of-hospitality-in-a-divided-world
Another "Long Read" article, this one looking at the importance of welcoming (and feeding) strangers.

LGBT African Asylum Seeker Research Project Report
http://mccnorthlondon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/LGBT-African-Asylum-Seeker-Research-Project-Report.pdf
(Source: *WMSMP* [West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership] *E-Bulletin*, 10, Oct 2019)
Important project report, looking at the needs of LGBT African people seeking asylum – and a significant need is for information:

> "15 participants mentioned information as an important support need, two of whom agreed that it was a support need when directly asked. At least four clearly noted the potential circularity of this problem: without some very basic information being provided, they do not know where to get information. One expanded on this: since they had been a teacher back home, they were presumed to know how to access information, but this was not the case in a setting so culturally and technologically different from that from which they had come. Another person said how much they wished they had had someone designated to tell them which support to access, and what they need to do at each stage of the application process. Most of the discussion of information as a support need involved wanting to know where to go for legal support, or wanting to know more about what is involved in the asylum application process from start to finish, or wishing that from the start they had had a leaflet or booklet listing the charities they could go to for help." [p49]

Migrants in the UK: an overview
https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Briefing-Migrants-in-the-UK-An-Overview.pdf
(Source: *WMSMP* [West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership] *E-Bulletin*, 10, Oct 2019)
"Briefing" from the Migration Observatory, which "[…] provides a basic overview of the UK's foreign-born population."

Key findings include:

- "In 2018, people born outside the UK made up an estimated 14% of the UK's population, or 9.3 million people. An estimated 39% of migrants came from EU countries.

- Compared to the UK born, migrants are more likely to be adults aged 26 to 64, and less likely to be children or people of retirement age.
- London is the UK region with the largest number of migrants: 3.2 million foreign-born people in 2018.
- Poland is the most common country of birth and the most common citizenship among migrants in the UK.
- About half of non-EU migrants said they came to the UK for family reasons in 2018, while the most common reason for migration among EU migrants was work." [p1]

"Nearly 1 in 10 rough sleepers in London are victims of modern slavery"
https://www.hestia.org/news/nearly-1-in-10-rough-sleepers-in-london-are-victims-of-modern-slavery?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=10986067_NEWSL_HMP%202019-10-22&dm_i=21A8,6JGWJ,FLWRBJ,Q0SD9,1
(Source: *WMSMP* [West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership] *E-Bulletin*, 10, Oct 2019)
Press release from the charity Hestia*, which highlights the findings of their just-published report:

> *Underground lives: homelessness and modern slavery in London*
> https://www.hestia.org/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=7c01ce39-fded-468f-bca3-6163ed16844e

*"At Hestia, we support adults and children across London in times of crisis. Last year we worked with nearly 10,00 people, including victims of modern slavery, women and children who have experienced domestic abuse, young care leavers and older people."

"Joint open letter about Rough Sleeping Support Service (RSSS)"
https://www.pilu.org.uk/category/news/
(Source: email from Museum of Homelessness, 6 Nov 2019)
The Public Interest Law Centre has coordinated a joint letter to London local authorities about the Home Office's Rough Sleeping Support Service. The letter:

> "[…] calls on local councils not to participate in the Rough Sleeping Support Service until serious concerns about how the scheme operates have been addressed. The signatories are asking councils not to participate in any scheme that involves council employees or commissioned services (including charity workers) passing on personal information about rough sleepers to the Home Office without their fully informed consent at every stage.
>
> The letter also calls on local authorities to cancel service-provision contracts with voluntary-sector organisations that have a track record of passing on personal information about rough sleepers to the Home Office without their fully informed consent. Finally, the signatories ask local councils to make a detailed commitment to funding independent,

specialized accommodation, advice and support services for migrant and refugee rough sleepers in their area."

The text of the letter is at: http://www.pilu.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/RSSS-Joint-letter-4.11.19.pdf.

One of the co-signatories of the letter is the Museum of Homelessness.

Lift the ban: the right to work of people seeking asylum in the UK according to International Human Rights Law
http://justfair.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/JF-Lift-the-Ban-Sept2019-FINAL.pdf?mc_cid=44f610282b&mc_eid=17c19d737e
(Source: Just Fair *Newsletter*, Oct 2019)
New paper from Lift the Ban (http://lifttheban.co.uk/) and Just Fair (http://justfair.org.uk/), arguing that it is time to allow people seeking asylum to work.

The paper concludes:

> "People who have risked everything to find safety in the UK should have the best chance of contributing and integrating into society. This means giving people seeking asylum the right to work so that they can use their skills and live in dignity. The UK Government should give people seeking asylum and their adult dependants the right to work, unconstrained by any 'shortage occupation list', after they have waited six months for a decision on their initial asylum claim or further submission. A policy change in this regard would be welcomed by the public and it would benefit the economy. It would also mean the UK meets international human rights law and is no longer a continental outlier." [p8]

A framework for good practice in voluntary ESOL
http://natecla.org.uk/uploads/media/208/16911.pdf
(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Newsflash* Oct-Nov 2019)
New from the National Association for Teaching English and other Community Languages to Adults is this Framework which:

> "[…] is intended primarily for those working in, and with, the voluntary sector in the field of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages). It provides a set of principles of good practice, together with case studies for illustration. NATECLA hopes it will also inform policy makers and funders charged with integrating the work of volunteers into a national approach for those with languages other than English who seek to become active citizens in England.
>
> We celebrate the way in which voluntary organisations have grown and tailored their work to fit with local needs and resources, and we feel that there is now a need and a desire to agree on and to share best practice amongst us. This will hopefully be of use both to newer organisations and to those which are well-established but reviewing their practice." [p1]

"Section 28: What was it and how did it affect LGBT+ people?"
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcthree/article/cacc0b40-c3a4-473b-86cc-11863c0b3f30
(Source: *The University of Portsmouth Equality & Diversity Newsletter*, 1 Nov 2019)
Useful brief look at Section 28, where it came from and its effect.

Broader issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations
Manifesto 2019
https://www.museumsassociation.org/download?id=1265286
(Source: Museums Association email updates, 14 Nov 2019)
The MA has published its Manifesto.

> "It calls for increased investment in museums across all four nations of the UK after a decade of austerity. The demands range from increased support for local museums and further provision for urgent repairs, to helping museums grow their digital capacity and simplifying business rates." [Taken from: https://www.museumsassociation.org/news/14112019-MA-publishes-Museums-Manifesto-ahead-of-2019-general-election?utm_campaign=1621866_14112019&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,YRFU,27LU0M,3NDIC,1]

It also outlines eight priorities for the next Government:

- Support for local museums
- Support urgent repairs to museum buildings and estates
- Support museums' capacity to deliver place-making, health and wellbeing and learning and engagement
- Support digital infrastructure and engagement to ensure museums and collections remain accessible, relevant and innovative
- Embed Exhibition Tax Relief
- Maintain free entry to national museums
- Negotiate a close economic partnership with the EU that works for museums
- Simplify business rates.

"#VoteLibraries this December"
https://www.cilip.org.uk/news/476790/VoteLibraries-this-December.htm
CILIP is leading a campaign "[…] calling on politicians to put local communities at the heart of their election campaigns."

> "At VoteLibraries.uk, library supporters across the UK can sign the pledge to #VoteLibraries, download social media elements, posters and campaign materials to use in their local area, and email their local candidates to encourage them to show their support. The campaign is a core component of Libraries Deliver, a joint outreach and advocacy initiative from CILIP and the EveryLibrary Institute, a US-based not-for-

profit organisation who have been campaigning for public libraries since 2013."

Further info at: https://www.librariesdeliver.uk/votelibraries.

"Durham Commission report is published"
https://culturallearningalliance.org.uk/durham-commission-report-is-published/
(Source: Cultural Learning Alliance *Newsletter*, 13 Nov 2019)
Very useful intro and summary from the Cultural Learning Alliance.

The recommendations include:

- "The development of a pilot national network of Creativity Collaboratives established through joint working between DfE, the Arts Council and education trusts
- Better recognition, research and evaluation of teaching for creativity in schools and a recognition of this teaching in the Ofsted inspection process
- A clearer focus on digital technology and its role in a creative education
- Inclusion of the arts as standard in the curriculum to key stage 3, and a National Plan for Cultural Education
- A focus on early years learning, including training for the workforce
- Creative opportunities out of school hours and in the world of work"

The summary also highlights two key themes:

- This is a report about creativity, not about the arts
- Access to the arts is a social justice issue.