



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 327, 30 April 2021

Events

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

Black Lives Matter

“Sharp rise in parents seeking to ban anti-racist books in US schools”

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2021/apr/06/sharp-rise-in-parents-seeking-to-ban-anti-racist-books-in-us-schools>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 18 Apr 2021)

This follows on from the article noted in *Ebulletin* 326, “‘George’ Tops Most Challenged List for Third Year in a Row: ‘Stamped’ Takes No. 2 Spot”.

This *Guardian* article looks at the American Library Association’s annual Top 10 ‘most challenged’ books:

““Two years ago, eight of 10 books were challenged for LGBTQ concerns,” Deborah Caldwell-Stone, OIF director, told *School Library Journal*. “While George is still No 1, reflecting the challenges to LGBTQ materials that we see consistently these days, there’s been a definite rise in the rhetoric challenging anti-racist materials and ideas ... We’re seeing a shift to challenging books that advance racial justice, that discuss racism and America’s history with racism. I think the list is reflecting the conversations that many people in our country are having right now, and it’s a reflection of our rising awareness of the racial injustice and the history of racial injustice in our country.”

“Books about racism: Recommendations to mark Stephen Lawrence Day”

https://www.bigissue.com/culture/books/books-about-racism/?fbclid=IwAR3JaSRw8jSMBM8p3NHLBeRB2Yy-QTX6i_iMFs-PE6pP9ODcrD9v9X2Llz8

(Source: Twitter, 23 Apr 2021)

“It’s 28 years since Stephen Lawrence was killed in a racist attack. His brother Stuart recommends books about racism, to help you educate yourself and your family.”

“Decolonising Museums”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/campaigns/decolonising-museums/?utm_campaign=1926711_23042021&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,15ANR,27LU0M,4F5E4,1

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 23 Apr 2021)

New blogs, case studies and more added to the MA resource page and video hub.

“What unconscious bias training gets wrong... and how to fix it”

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2021/apr/25/what-unconscious-bias-training-gets-wrong-and-how-to-fix-it>

(Source: email from Dave Percival, 30 Apr 2021)

Interesting assessment of the effects of unconscious bias training and whether, on its own, the training really creates change – the author concludes:

“Ultimately, the psychologists I’ve spoken to all agree that organisations should stop seeing unconscious bias and diversity training as a quick fix, and instead use it as the foundation for broader organisational change.”

Coronavirus/COVID-19

“Pandemic shows how ‘digital by default’ government services exclude those who need them most”

<https://business-reporter.co.uk/2021/04/22/pandemic-shows-how-digital-by-default-government-services-exclude-those-who-need-them-most/>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 25 Apr 2021)

Important article:

“The internet and other digital technologies have helped many of us cope with lockdown, and new ways of working have quickly become commonplace. But the pandemic has also exposed the ‘digital divide’ across the UK – and the fact that not everyone has access to a computer, tablet, laptop or smartphone – or has an internet connection in their home.

And with many pupils still having to study at home, for families that rely on mobile phones for an internet connection, online learning comes at a high price.”

Mapping young London: a view into young Londoners after a year in lockdown

https://d401c0eb-3fcb-4f8d-8ede-04ef556b9378.filesusr.com/ugd/3532bf_c14fda987c1d46f6b17a757e07f47f64.pdf

(Source: *Children & Young People Now Update*, 28 Apr 2021)

“Mapping Young London looks at a range of issues, the impact that Covid-19 has had, and the support or change that young Londoners want to see.”

The key findings include:

- “Priorities - Housing, employment, and mental health are the most important issues for young Londoners now, with Covid-19 and lockdown having a huge impact on these issues.

- Covid-19 and lockdown - Young people are overwhelming unhappy with the Government's response to the pandemic, with three in four (76.2%) believing the response was bad or very bad.
- Housing - Young Londoners are worried about not having a stable or safe space to stay (40.3%), with one in three having their housing situation impacted by Covid-19 and lockdown (31%).
- Employment - Two thirds (66.6%) said that Covid-19 and lockdown has impacted their, or someone in their household's employment, and half (51.4%) had said that their future employment plans had changed.
- Mental and physical health - Young Londoners are facing a mental health crisis, with a third (34.4%) reporting wellbeing scores indicating depression, and a majority (75.5%) indicating poor wellbeing.
- Safety and the police - A majority (83.8%) of those surveyed said that they believed that there is systematic racism in the police, with even more (88%) saying that they supported Black Lives Matter.
- Discrimination - Just less than half (45.2%) of those surveyed said that they had experienced discrimination in London, while two thirds (74.4%) said they thought discrimination was common in London.
- Fairness and finance - One in five (20.2%) of those surveyed said that their financial situation meant that they have to go without essentials.
- Youth services - Nine out of ten (88%) of those surveyed said that they do not feel that they have a say in how youth services are set up and run." [Taken from:
<https://www.partnershipforyounglondon.org.uk/mappingyounglondon>]

Women in the North: choosing to challenge inequalities

<https://www.ippr.org/files/2021-04/women-in-the-north-april21.pdf>

(Source: *IPPR Newsletter*, Apr 2021)

“Women have borne the brunt of the pandemic’s impacts in the past year. Around 45 per cent of working women across the North work in sectors that have seen the biggest negative impacts during the pandemic, such as in the health and social care, retail and hospitality sectors – and are therefore at greater risk of infection and mortality. And more women have been furloughed, including approximately 382,000 across the north of England.

In this paper, we draw on the evidence to begin to understand the impact of Covid-19 on women, particularly in the north of England. We take an intersectional approach, exploring how the confluence of pre-existing regional economic and social inequalities with the unequal impact of Covid-19 are making life disproportionately difficult for women, particularly those on the lowest incomes.

This paper is a call to leaders across the North to commit to a better understanding of the impact of the pandemic on women and to take action to help build back fairer.” [p3]

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

“Are museums failing those who need support most?”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/opinion/2021/04/are-museums-failing-those-who-need-support-most/?utm_campaign=1926711_23042021&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,15ANR,27LU0M,4F5E4,1

“Opinion” piece from Mark O’Neill, which begins with a challenging statement:

“Are museums super-serving the well-educated and well-off, and failing those who most need educational support? If you look at the Taking Part survey data on the demographic of museum visitors in England over the past 15 years, it is hard to avoid that conclusion.”

This is followed by a request for case studies:

“I have been asked to write a chapter on museum access for a Bloomsbury Handbook on arts and music, and I’m hoping that Museums Association members can help me find examples of museums and communities, where the progress is better than the national statistics suggest.”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“Big Issue Invest launches Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Measurement Tool”

<https://bigissueinvest.com/blog/big-issue-invest-launches-diversity-equality-and-inclusion-measurement-tool/>

(Source: *Black & Asian News*, 23 Apr 2021)

“Big Issue Invest has designed a Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Measurement Tool to support organisations to measure their diversity characteristics internally and within the different groups that use their services.

Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion are principles at the heart of the Big Issue Invest and Big Issue Group mission. As a social investor, it is important that we ensure our funds are accessible and inclusive of different communities and individual needs to ensure we build a world that works for everyone. By sharing this tool, we hope to encourage organisations to collect and share their own diversity data and use it within their own decision-making around DEI practices and policies. This is one way in which we are working towards our mission and striving towards equity in the social investment sector.”

The measurement tool is freely available for any organisation to use and can be downloaded from the Big Issue Invest website:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1w8zLSApF470kEqXqEwMq3WfV3zbyqOevq4YS_xfkyMq/edit#gid=413488197.

“Gender-based violence”

https://blogs.ncvo.org.uk/2021/04/28/equity-diversity-and-inclusion-edi-round-up-april-2021/?_cldee=am9obkBuYWRkZXlub3JnLnVr&recipientid=contact-449e2fd22746e411b4e4d89d6765e198-bf7718d4bf074feda2585a4db5cb8964&esid=b5be0ebe-8ea9-eb11-b1ac-0022489a7d94

(Source: NCVO *Equity, Diversity and Inclusion round-up*, 30 Apr 2021)

Important round-up from NCVO who have put out a strong statement about tackling gender-based violence – and its frequent invisibility in media coverage – and have also drawn together some resources for further learning, including:

- Violence and harassment towards women
- Feminism and intersectionality
- Masculinity and fighting sexism.

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

How libraries can support children's wellbeing: resource pack

Available to download as a Word document from:

<https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/resource/childrens-mental-health-and-wellbeing-guide>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 18 Apr 2021)

Important new resource pack from Libraries Connected, ASCEL and The Reading Agency.

“The offer to children and young people from public libraries as described in The Children’s Promise and expressed through the Universal Library Offers demonstrates how libraries can contribute to improving children’s wellbeing. In this pack we highlight specific areas where we believe library services can contribute to the recovery of children and their families.

We have included links to national support or resources and case studies. We hope you will use this pack to review how your own service is responding to the current needs of children, to inspire ideas for further action, to pro-actively build local partnerships with health, leisure, education to offer joined-up support to communities and as a source of advocacy materials to stakeholders and decision makers [...]

We intend this document to be a living resource so if there are case studies or elements you wish to add, please email info@librariesconnected.org.uk.”

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

“How a difficult childhood makes it more likely you’ll have mental and physical health problems as an adult”

https://theconversation.com/how-a-difficult-childhood-makes-it-more-likely-youll-have-mental-and-physical-health-problems-as-an-adult-153154?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conv

[ersation%20for%20April%2026%202021%20-%201929518880&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%2026%202021%20-%201929518880+CID_68246cfa9ddeef109eae643889cfac59&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=How%20a%20difficult%20childhood%20makes%20it%20more%20likely%20youll%20have%20mental%20and%20physical%20health%20problems%20as%20an%20adult](https://theconversation.com/for%20April%2026%202021%20-%201929518880&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%2026%202021%20-%201929518880+CID_68246cfa9ddeef109eae643889cfac59&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=How%20a%20difficult%20childhood%20makes%20it%20more%20likely%20youll%20have%20mental%20and%20physical%20health%20problems%20as%20an%20adult)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 26 Apr 2021)

Important new article co-written by Michael Marmot:

“Decades of research shows how negative childhood events – such as abuse or neglect – can have a detrimental impact on a person’s long-term physical and mental health. It has been linked to accelerated ageing, chronic disease and even premature death.”

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

“Gay wage gap: it’s linked to discrimination – and is bad for economic growth”

https://theconversation.com/gay-wage-gap-its-linked-to-discrimination-and-is-bad-for-economic-growth-159956?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%2030%202021%20-%201934818935&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%2030%202021%20-%201934818935+CID_687697ac9503f70aa3f7d75770ebe1ba&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Gay%20wage%20gap%20its%20linked%20to%20discrimination%20%20and%20is%20bad%20for%20economic%20growth

(Source: *The Conversation*, 30 Apr 2021)

Important widening-out of the usual discussions around the gender pay-gap:

“The wage gaps that exist between men and women and between white and black people have received a lot of attention in recent years. But there’s another wage gap that tends to be overlooked – between heterosexuals and LGBT+ people.”