



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 351, 22 April 2022

Events

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

Ukraine

“St Barbe Museum provides support to Ukrainian refugees”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2022/04/st-barbe-museum-provides-support-to-ukrainian-refugees/?utm_campaign=2128031_12042022&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,19LZZ,27LU0M,4XJUF,1

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 12 Apr 2022)

“St Barbe Museum in Lymington, in the New Forest district of Hampshire, has set up a new team of volunteers to provide support and to create a network to help refugees arriving from war-torn Ukraine.”

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

Prison education: a review of reading education in prisons

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prison-education-a-review-of-reading-education-in-prisons/prison-education-a-review-of-reading-education-in-prisons>

(Source: Clinks *Policy Briefing*, Apr 2022)

According to the summary from HMI Prisons:

- “Reading education is not given sufficient priority in the prison regime and reading is not a distinct part of the core education offer. There was sometimes a focus on achieving contractual qualification targets, rather than reading needs.
- In all the prisons we visited, systems to assess prisoners’ reading ability, identify their reading needs, implement solutions and monitor progress were largely absent.
- Education provision was often not organised in a way which supported prisoners to improve their reading, with many prisoners having to choose between education and work.
- The curriculum was not well designed to improve reading, with teaching staff often not knowing how to teach adults to read and resources being unsuitable for adults.
- Early reading provision in prisons relies heavily on delivery by voluntary organisations.
- Prisoners with the greatest need to improve their reading generally receive the least support.

- Libraries are not being used to give prisoners opportunities to practice reading.”

Consultation: “Independent Review of Social Cohesion and Resilience: call for evidence”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-review-of-social-cohesion-and-resilience-call-for-evidence>

(Source: National Secular Society *Newsline*, 14 Apr 2022)

“This call for evidence seeks views on: the experience of victims of extremism, protecting social cohesion and strengthening resilience against extremist and other harmful divisive activity.”

The consultation closes at 11.45pm on **2 June 2022**.

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

Navigating the criminal justice system: a guide for voluntary organisations working in the criminal justice system in England and Wales

<https://clinks.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Navigating%20the%20criminal%20justice%20system.pdf>

(Source: Clinks *Women’s Network Bulletin*, Apr 2022)

Very useful guide to ‘who does what’ and how the system works.

Diversity in books and other materials for children & young people

“23% Decrease in Black Characters in Children’s Bestsellers as BLM Bounce Fades”

<https://wordrated.com/representation-childrens-literature/>

(Source: Diverse Educators *Update*, Apr 2022)

Review of children’s books (presumably from the US):

“For this report, WordsRated has analyzed 1,511 children’s bestsellers published between 2012 and 2021 to understand the diversity landscape of children’s literature and how this has evolved over time.

It appears, that in 2021, the momentum quickly faded and it leaves us asking what can be done to ensure children are able to read books that reflect their lives and inform their sense of self.”

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

News item: “How do community assets, creative health partnerships and social prescribing tackle health inequalities?”

<https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/news/general-news/how-do-community-assets-creative-health-partnerships-and-social-prescribing>

(Source: *Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance Bulletin*, Apr 2022)

“[...] the Arts and Humanities Research Council (together with Natural Environment Research Council and Medical Research Council) recently launched a new programme exploring how community assets are supporting the levelling up agenda and how they can develop more

sustainable partnerships with health. Initially 12 pilot projects [*] across the UK have been funded covering a diverse range of programmes and partnerships from wild swimming to arts for young people, with more funding for the next phase to be announced imminently.

* There is further info about the pilot projects at:

<https://www.ukri.org/news/investment-in-culture-and-nature-to-boost-the-nations-health/>.

Dying Matters Awareness Week 2-6 May 2022: how you and your library can get involved

<https://hukstage-bucket.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2022-04/DM%20awareness%20week%20-%20resource%20pack%20for%20libraries.pdf>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 18 Apr 2022)

New resource from Hospice UK and Libraries Connected:

“We are delighted to work with Hospice UK to support the development of this resource to help libraries engage with Dying Matters Awareness Week. Libraries are uniquely placed as a centre for conversation, providing inclusive community-based activity and support, and a trusted space where issues around death and dying can be explored with caring staff on hand to help.

The event ideas and suggestions in this pack for libraries offer some brilliant opportunities to raise awareness of the Dying Matters campaign, and ways to support and advise their communities. Libraries Connected is continuing to develop work on death positive libraries, as part of our Universal Health and Wellbeing Library Offer. Working with partners, such as Dying Matters, helps us to create new ways to build on this offer for library services. We hope this will give you the inspiration to get involved!” [p3]

Migration issues – Other Agencies

Toxic: homelessness, social media & racism in a time of global upheaval

<https://museumofhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Toxic-Homelessness-Social-Media-and-Racism-in-a-time-of-global-upheaval-report-by-Museum-of-Homelessness-1.pdf>

(Source: email from Museum of Homelessness, 15 Mar 2022)

“What are the links between racist tweets, government immigration policy and far right violence towards people who are homeless? After events in 2020 where the far right targeted hotels where people who were homeless were sheltering from Covid, we set out to find out.

This report is the result of one year’s worth of qualitative [sic] research into how hate speech and acts, racism and toxic narratives about homelessness spread. Our investigation has included social media network analysis, field research and theoretical analysis.” [p1]

The report identifies six toxic messages used online by far-right groups and others, and urges us to learn to recognise these:

- “Migrants are prioritised for housing”
- "Migrants are more important than British veterans"
- “Britain is full”
- "Migrants sleeping on the streets are criminals who should be deported"
- "Migrants are ungrateful for the housing we give them"
- “The destruction of countryside is worsened by migration”

“Destroying the Asylum System”

<https://www.lrb.co.uk/the-paper/v44/n07/frances-webber/short-cuts>

(Source: *Black & Asian News*, 8 Apr 2022)

Free article from *London Review of Books*, which looks at the impact of the current asylum system on people seeking sanctuary, and assesses just how effective the UK’s provision is.

Right to work checks: a guide for Trade Union reps

https://migrantsrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Right-to-work-checks-guide-April-2022.pdf?mc_cid=3d2fb8cc2e&mc_eid=f4e6ea96b3

(Source: email from Migrants’ Rights Network, 13 Apr 2022)

“On 6 April 2022 the Home Office introduced changes to the right to work checks. The Home Office imposed a rule that employers must carry out right to work checks online if the employee is a holder of a Biometric Residence Permit or Biometric Residence Card, a Frontier Worker Permit, or holds pre-settled or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

We know from anecdotal evidence that a digital only system creates real risks of harm – discrimination, security and further risks for those who are digitally excluded. So, we want to ensure that migrant workers and their representatives are fully aware of the rules, and their rights when these checks are undertaken [...]

This guide has been produced to help trade union reps better understand the new right to work checks process to inform and support their migrant members and colleagues when they need it, and also aims to set a standard for representation.” [pp4-5]