



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 359, 4 September 2022

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 – Other Agencies *Education inequalities*

<https://ifs.org.uk/inequality/chapter/education-inequalities/>

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Early Years and Education Bulletin*, 16 Aug 2022)

New report from the Institute for Fiscal Studies:

“Education levels have risen over time, in the UK and internationally. The share of students achieving at least five good GCSEs or equivalent increased from under 40% in the early 1990s to a high of 82% in 2012, while the share of the working-age population with a degree has more than doubled since 2000 – from just under 20% in 2000 to just over 40% in 2020.

Despite rising qualifications, England stands out internationally for nearly non-existent improvements in skills when making comparisons across generations. In virtually all OECD countries, literacy and numeracy skills are substantially higher among young people aged 16–24 than among the older generation (aged 55–65). England is the exception to the rule: while its 55- to 65-year-olds perform relatively well, especially in literacy, young people in England have not improved on these skills at all. That has left England ranked 25th out of 32 countries in terms of the literacy skills of its young people.”

In addition:

“The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly worsened overall outcomes as well as widening inequalities. The share of pupils leaving primary school meeting literacy and numeracy benchmarks fell from 65% in 2018–19 to 59% in 2021–22. (The government’s levelling up agenda aims to see this reach 90% by 2030.) Children from more disadvantaged backgrounds may have fallen twice as far behind as the average child, in part due to worse experiences with home learning. Disadvantaged children had less access to resources to learn at home. They were less likely to receive resources such as online classes during the first lockdown, and more likely to be absent more frequently and for longer than their better-off peers.”

Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion – Other Agencies

The everyone economy

<https://www.managers.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/The-Everyone-Economy-CMIs-75th-Anniversary-Report.pdf>

(Source: email from CMI, 11 Aug 2022)

Sub-titled “CMI’s plan for sharing work, opportunity and success”, this new report to mark the 75th anniversary of the Chartered Management Institute:

“To inform this report, we gathered fresh evidence from CMI’s global membership community of managers and leaders; from our specially convened 75th-anniversary advisory council; from a series of “Leading Lights” interviews with global leaders; from established players changing their operating model to disruptive start-ups; and from grass-roots projects. We also explored research from multiple publications and organisations.

The picture that emerges is troubling. Despite efforts, far too many people face discrimination and exclusion. Managers and leaders will face raised levels of change, complexity and risk in the years ahead. Our economies, organisations and individual leaders have serious weaknesses. The burden will not only be on those directly affected; it will be on us all as we shall see.

We also see a clear pathway to realising full economic and social opportunity – by ensuring that everyone, regardless of background or personal characteristics, has the chance to make their best possible contribution, and reach their maximum personal potential. This hopeful path is the focus of the report.” [p5]

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

Creative health & wellbeing

https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/publication/creative-health-wellbeing?_cldee=yP7gLxV2Tdc9S_2m5O9mGpTR2NnZNsCg0fZsYi-QbMO3OziON4hFwq2N-1NPbnG1D1eY90F5zYmzyQ5zPCIJA&recipientid=contact-161817eeb7f9eb1194ef000d3ad67cfb-8bc2fb4600224772af399ae21625deb0&esid=6b698370-4207-ed11-82e5-000d3ad58038

(Source: email from Nicky Boyd to gem@jiscmail.ac.uk, 4 Aug 2022)

New from Arts Council England:

“Creative Health & Wellbeing is a plan for how we’re going to work within health and social care, and how we’ll promote collaboration between organisations and practitioners in the creative and health sectors.”

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

African and Caribbean reminiscence activity book

https://shop.alzheimers.org.uk/helpful-products/games-and-activities/African-and-Caribbean-Reminiscence-Activity-Book?utm_medium=email&utm_source=dotdigital&utm_content=hep-igc-3&utm_campaign=978609_enews-fundraisingnews-14July22-ig-cash&dm_i=57EL,KZ3L,2JFJ2V,2HPWR,1

(Source: email from Alzheimer's Society, 14 Jul 2022)

New from Alzheimer's Society:

“The dementia-friendly African Caribbean Reminiscence activity book will provide hours of reminiscence, recollections and fun anecdotes for all the family and carers, whilst helping with memory recall, stress relief, creativity, cognitive and motor skills.

This book contains easy-to-complete dementia-friendly activities that reflect the richness of everyday African and Caribbean life from its people, culture, and traditions.”

NB Charged-for publication.

Bloody good period

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14XmuK8AhpYxQts3jD6jXRFx8KpM9jZcS/view>

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 16 Jun 2022)

New guide from Bloody Good Employers, which “[...] discusses how to embed menstrual equity across your workplace.”

Heads up: rethinking mental health services for vulnerable young people

<https://thecommissiononyounglives.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/COYL-Heads-Up-Report-July-2022.pdf>

(Source: email from Power2, 2 Sep 2022)

This is the last thematic report from the Commission on Young Lives – it highlights the “[...] very profound crisis in children and young people’s mental health in England” [p3] and makes a number of recommendations. These include:

- “A national ‘Programmes on Prescription’ scheme in every area. Building on emerging local approaches, the roll out of a major funded programme of social prescribing for mental health wellbeing that enables GPs and health professionals to pay for sports and arts sessions, music, drama, activities, youth clubs, outings, and volunteering programmes to improve young people’s confidence, self-esteem, and skills and make friends. This would be delivered after school, at weekends and during holidays.” [p63]
- “Wellbeing and mental health training and support for all professionals working with children and young people.” [p64]

- “Better information and support for parents to support children and young people’s positive mental health and wellbeing. Parents can often struggle to help their children with their mental health and do not know where to turn. We would like to see more resources for parents, and more support in schools, children’s centres, and family hubs, to provide positive support to improve wellbeing and to find specialist help if needed. This should include training for parents to help them support their children’s mental health.” [p64]

Migration issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“South Asian History in Surrey”

<https://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/themes/subjects/diversity/south-asian-history-in-surrey/>

(Source: email from Di Stiff to archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk, 10 Aug 2022)

Webpage with further info about Surrey’s collections, plus links to relevant organisation.

“How local libraries help welcome refugees”

<https://bookriot.com/how-libraries-help-welcome-refugees/>

Interesting article which picks up my 2015 CILIP blogpost

(<https://www.cilip.org.uk/news/482799/Welcoming-Refugees-to-the-UK-and-to-Libraries.htm>) and then focuses on recent developments, such as the Libraries of Sanctuary movement.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“How refugees leading city walking tours helps increase their sense of belonging – new research”

https://theconversation.com/how-refugees-leading-city-walking-tours-helps-increase-their-sense-of-belonging-new-research-182882?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2017%202022%20-%202323423148&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2017%202022%20-%202323423148+CID_c5cce07e623f297ae505b9eb614d3040&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=How%20refugees%20leading%20city%20walking%20tours%20helps%20increase%20their%20sense%20of%20belonging%20%20new%20research

(Source: *The Conversation*, 17 Jun 2022)

“Our new study has found that walking tours led by refugees and asylum seekers helped the tour’s participants see their point of view, and helped the refugees gain new connections in the city.”

“Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak want to crack down on migration – an expert reviews their plans”

https://theconversation.com/liz-truss-and-rishi-sunak-want-to-crack-down-on-migration-an-expert-reviews-their-plans-188246?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2016%202022%20-

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/aug/16/liz-truss-rishi-sunak-migration-expert-opinion>
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/aug/16/liz-truss-rishi-sunak-migration-expert-opinion>

(Source: *The Conversation*, 16 Aug 2022)

Without wishing to wade into “politics”, I thought this was an interesting assessment of the leadership hopefuls’ policies.

A refugee’s story

<https://booksbeyondwords.co.uk/bookshop/paperbacks/a-refugees-story>

(Source: email from Hannah Green, City of Sanctuary, 19 Jul 2022)

New from Beyond Words:

“Ali and Omar love playing football with their friends and sharing food with their family. But when war reaches their town, the boys leave their home and family behind in search of safety. The journey is long and dangerous, and the two brothers are separated along the way. Ali arrives in a new country alone, confused and frightened. He is safe now, but where is Omar?”

Ali misses his family but slowly he starts to make new friends and rebuild his life. Then one day Ali gets the news he has been wishing for. Omar has been found. He and Omar are reunited and are free to enjoy the things they love together again.

This story will enable refugees and asylum seekers to share their own stories about their homeland, their journeys and experiences, and will help build empathy and understanding amongst the communities who are welcoming them.”

This is in the “Books Beyond Words” series:

“Books Beyond Words are award-winning wordless picture stories covering topics including physical and mental health, lifestyle and relationships, abuse and trauma, grief and bereavement, employment, and criminal justice.

Each story is co-created with and for people who find pictures easier to understand than words. This includes people with learning disabilities and/or autism, people with cognitive or communication difficulties, such as Dementia, people who have difficulty with reading, including some Deaf people, and people who do not use the language of the country where they are living.” [Taken from:

<https://booksbeyondwords.co.uk/about>]

NB charged-for publication.

“Why we should abandon the concept of the ‘climate refugee’”

https://theconversation.com/why-we-should-abandon-the-concept-of-the-climate-refugee-182920?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%202024%202022%20-%202382023778&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%202024%202022%20-%202382023778+CID_d797bdbecae41fd5fba0d2cd0399892a&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Why%20we%20should%20abandon%20the%20concept%20of%20the%20climate%20refugee

(Source: *The Conversation*, 24 Aug 2022)

Important article that urges us to look at the impact of economic and politics, rather than talking simplistically about “climate refugees”.

“Afghan refugees on the racism they’ve faced in their first year in Europe”

https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/afghanistan-europe-refugees-one-year-anniversary-taliban/?utm_source=SEGMENT%20-%20Newsletter%3A%20oD%20weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Where%20do%20Liz%20Truss%27s%20policies%20come%20from%3F%20%F0%9F%A4%94&kx=1_8D1xQSf81SrwgQ7oVGBK2bIBk82FazIk5OMY7463I%3D.YjCYwm

(Source: *openDemocracy Weekly Newsletter*, 3 Sep 2022)

Timely reminder of the plight of Afghan sanctuary seekers.

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

LGBTQIA+ guide for parents & guardians

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57bdabb11b631b72531db1bd/t/62c7f62927494c1ee2b9a6ee/1657271881718/LGBTQIA%2B_Guide_For_Parents_%26_Guardians.pdf

(Source: email from *PinkNews*, 6 Aug 2022)

Excellent new guide:

“This guide has been designed to give parents and guardians the information they need on what it means to be a young LGBTQIA+ person in Ireland today.” [p4]

"our28: Section 28, now and then"

<https://our28.org.uk/>

(Source: email from *Gendered Intelligence*, 4 Aug 2022)

New from *Gendered Intelligence*:

“Our 28 is a campaign by *Gendered Intelligence* highlighting the disastrous effect of anti-LGBT laws in history – and warning against them happening again.

We’ve spoken to those who lived through Section 28 and those who are suffering under the current anti-trans government.

We want to make sure that we learn from our history, not repeat it. We want to make sure that the UK will never see another section 28.”