The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 366, 2 December 2022

Events

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

Coronavirus/COVID-19

"Attainment gap wider than pre-pandemic, study finds"
https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/attainment-gap-wider-than-pre-pandemic-study-finds
(Source: Children & Young People Now *Update*, 24 Nov 2022)

> "Research has found that while many infant school-aged children have caught up after the health crisis, the disadvantage gap is 'wider than before the pandemic and shows no sign of reducing'."

The article refers to research published by the Education Endowment Foundation, see: https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/news/socio-economic-attainment-gap-remains-stubbornly-wide-after-pandemic-with-reading-skills-particularly-affected.

"Long COVID stigma may encourage people to hide the condition"
https://theconversation.com/long-covid-stigma-may-encourage-people-to-hide-the-condition-194939?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%2023%202022%20-%202473924773&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%2023%202022%20-%202473924773+CID_41acbfa34504fe3997b1bfb44b9b6060&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Long%20COVID%20stigma%20may%20encourage%20people%20to%20hide%20the%20condition
(Source: *The Conversation*, 24 Nov 2022)
Researchers have found:

> "Nearly two-thirds (63%) of respondents said they had experienced overt discrimination related to their illness. Examples of this enacted stigma include being treated with suspicion and disrespect, or friends ceasing contact due to their health condition.
>
> In addition, 91% of those surveyed shared that they lived in fear of prejudice (anticipated stigma). For example, they worried people would not believe their illness was real, or that they were at risk of losing their jobs due to having long COVID."

Equality Act 2010
"Public Sector Equality Duty: Guidance for Schools"
https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty-guidance-schools?utm_source=e-shot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Novemberstakeholdernewsletter
(Source: *News from the Equality and Human Rights Commission*, 30 Nov 2022)
The EHRC has just published updated guidance for schools in England:

> "The PSED is a duty on public authorities (including schools) to consciously consider how their policies or decisions affect people who share protected characteristics.
>
> For school pupils, these are:
>
> - disability
> - gender reassignment
> - pregnancy and maternity
> - race
> - religion or belief
> - sex
> - sexual orientation.
>
> Age and Marriage and civil partnership are protected characteristics, but they do not apply to pupils in schools."

Funding & Opportunities
"Mindsets + Missions"
https://www.museumsassociation.org/funding/mindsets-and-missions/#msdynttrid=IQVsCSgKeqcXejs4S40UBYZ4IzE8IXOGkpgxC4MgEhc
(Source: email from Museums Association, 23 Nov 2022)
> "Mindsets + Missions is a new learning and grants programme, funded by UK Research and Innovation, which supports museums and science centres to engage underrepresented groups with knowledge, research and innovation."

The deadline for individuals and organisations to apply is **19 December 2022**.

Health & Wellbeing issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations
"Health on the High Street: The Role of Public Libraries"
https://dcmslibraries.blog.gov.uk/2022/11/16/health-on-the-high-street-the-role-of-public-libraries/
DCMS blogpost by Darren Smart (Somerset Libraries), outlining their work to promote public health by "[…] gathering all the existing health and wellbeing resources into a distinct, branded Wellbeing Zone."

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

Anxiety nation? Economic insecurity and mental distress in 2020s Britain
https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/anxiety-nation-economic-insecurity-and-mental-distress-2020s-britain
(Source: JRF *Newsletter*, 28 Nov 2022)

> "This report starts by highlighting the shaky foundations of material life for many Britons: recourse to private rentals has doubled over the past generation, and the 2010s left increasing numbers of households with no savings at all. It goes on to highlight worrying markers of mental ill-health, including the fact that 17% of English adults have recently received antidepressants, a proportion that has grown much faster than in Germany, Italy and most other comparable countries. Finally, it examines the links between the two, documenting the way in which economic exposure leaves people far more vulnerable on a whole range of worrying mental health markers." [inside front cover]

"Amphora"

https://www.solent.ac.uk/research-innovation-enterprise/research-at-solent/projects-and-awards/march-plus-project
(Source: email from Nicky Boyd to gem@jiscmail.ac.uk, 2 Dec 2022)
Some very useful new toolkits:

> "Taking part in heritage projects, like archaeology, has become a really popular way to improve mental health and wellbeing and they really can help people. But there can be times when projects might not have the right set up to make sure that the participants and the historic remains are well looked after. By bringing together a panel of 44 stakeholders – including people with experience of living with mental health issues and also those with expertise in mental health and heritage – in a Delphi Consultation, we were able to build a set of best practice guidelines to help make sure that people are safe and looked after when they take part, and that we look after the things and places that mean something to us.
>
> The guidelines are called AMPHORA - Authentic and Meaningful Participation in Heritage or Related Activities – and they focus on projects that offer active participation to help improve the mental health of individuals who live with complex mental health challenges."

- *Guidance for project providers*, https://www.solent.ac.uk/research-innovation-enterprise/research-at-solent/projects-and-awards/documents/amphora-guidelines-project-providers.pdf

- *Checklist for project providers,* https://www.solent.ac.uk/research-innovation-enterprise/research-at-solent/projects-and-awards/documents/amphora-guidelines-checklist.pdf

- *Guidance for social prescribers*, https://www.solent.ac.uk/research-innovation-enterprise/research-at-solent/projects-and-awards/documents/amphora-guidelines-social-prescribers.pdf

- *Guidance for potential participants*, https://www.solent.ac.uk/research-innovation-enterprise/research-at-solent/projects-and-awards/documents/amphora-guidelines-participants.pdf

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

Libraries and Sanctuary …
https://www.facetpublishing.co.uk/page/detail/libraries-and-sanctuary/?K=9781783305001

Just in case you haven't seen this, my new book was published on 3 Nov. In addition: "For the first 12 days of December, all Facet titles are 50% off including free postage!

So, if you feel like it's time to spruce up your shelves or want to branch out into a new area of library and information sciences, 'tis the season to browse the wonderful titles on offer.

Use the code 12DAYS at the Facet checkout."

Migration issues – Other Agencies

Independent Commission of Inquiry into Asylum Provision in Scotland with particular reference to failings in the provision of care to New Scots during the Covid pandemic – part two November 2022
https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62af1289a666c80e00b17253/t/636b9190408f81778746eaa7/1667994032702/AIS+Phase+2+Report+Full.pdf
(Source: *MEMO* [*Minority Ethnic Matters Overview*], 768, 21 Nov 2022)
Highly critical report from the panel chaired by Helena Kennedy:

> "It is four months since this Inquiry published its first report. In the intervening time my Panel and I have had our eyes opened to an appalling situation that at times challenges credulity. We began the second phase of our Inquiry knowing that tragic events, including two deaths and multiple stabbings, had occurred when 321 people seeking asylum were moved from safe, secure apartments to hotels at the beginning of the Covid pandemic. Knowing too, that the asylum system, even by the admission of the then Minister for Safe and Legal Migration, Kevin Foster, was 'broken.'
>
> What we were less prepared for were the eyewatering costs – human and financial – of the wider system that underpins support for people seeking asylum in the UK. Nor were we prepared for the levels of incompetence, confusion and chaos, sometimes to the point of being manifest as cruelty, in that system." [p6]

Understanding the rise in Channel crossings
https://www.ippr.org/research/publications/understanding-the-rise-in-channel-crossings?mc_cid=5f25309531&mc_eid=fbc917e5f6
(Source: *IPPR Newsletter*, 28 Nov 2022)

Important new briefing from IPPR, which:

> "[…] draws on interviews with key experts and stakeholders – including those with lived experience of crossing the Channel in small boats – as well as analysis of Home Office data. It sets out some of the potential factors explaining the recent rise, gives an overview of the government's approach up till now and assesses its potential implications. It also sets out some potential ways forward, which we intend to explore and assess in more detail in our final report for this project.

A new consensus? How public opinion has warmed to immigration
https://www.ippr.org/research/publications/a-new-consensus?mc_cid=5f25309531&mc_eid=fbc917e5f6
(Source: *IPPR Newsletter*, 28 Nov 2022)
New paper from IPPR, which:

> "[…] explores how views have changed and what this means for the current politics of immigration.
>
> The evidence suggests there is now more scope for a welcoming, flexible, and fair migration system than many realise. Over the past decade, the public has become strikingly more positive about immigration across a range of indicators.
>
> The public favour an immigration system which is well-managed, recognises contribution, and exercises compassion. There is also broad support for a compassionate approach to refugees."

"Asylum backlog hits 150,000 and net migration hits 500,000"
https://freemovement.org.uk/asylum-backlog-hits-150000-and-net-migration-hits-500000/?mc_cid=cfdb654195&mc_eid=7d8713d645
(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 28 Nov 2022)
Post from Free Movement, which picks up on two issues that have had considerable coverage in the media, see for example:

- "Migration to UK rises to record 504,000 with Ukraine and Hong Kong schemes", https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/nov/24/uk-net-migration-figures-record-ons
- "'Here to stay': Colchester's Hongkongers on making new lives in the UK", https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/nov/20/how-colchester-hongkongers-are-making-new-life-in-the-uk

Broader issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government
LGA "Commission on Culture and Local Government case studies"
https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/culture-tourism-leisure-and-sport/commission-culture-and-local-government/commission-culture
(Source: *Living Knowledge Network Bulletin*, 25 Nov 2022)

"To help us evidence the four themes of the culture commission, we asked councils and local cultural sector partners to provide case studies that demonstrate the role publicly funded culture can play in place, social mobility, inclusive economic recovery and health inequalities."

These are very useful brief case studies from the cultural sector.

Reimagining where we live: cultural placemaking and the levelling up agenda – Third Report of Session 2022–23
https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/31429/documents/176244/default/?utm_campaign=557503_PMLG%20November%20Newsletter%202022&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals&dm_i=6WFS,BY67,9VBO9,1G8N7,1
(Source: CILIP Public and Mobile Libraries Group *Newsletter*, Nov 2022)
Report from the HOC Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee.

It has a section, "Access to library services", which includes a note of some of the benefits of providing library services:

- "Providing important services to people from a range of socioeconomic groups, including access to reading and learning materials and the internet, providing physical study space, and hosting community and cultural events and activities, which increases the public's access to and participation in arts and culture;
- Contributing to quality of life, alongside other infrastructure like heritage, museums, local media and so on;
- Creating reasons to visit high streets and town centres and contributing to wider economic activity of the local area, which the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society asserts can increase local business revenue by up to 10 percent; and
- Acting as engines for entrepreneurship, economic growth and job creation through the services they offer, such as through the British Library's Business and IP Centre (BPIC) Network, self-development opportunities and in support of the UK's 'knowledge economy' and 'knowledge-intensive businesses' such as research and development, advertising, market research and polling, consulting, accounting, auditing, and so on […]" [pp51-52]

This section concludes:

"The services and spaces offered by public libraries remain an important part of a community's infrastructure for people who are digitally excluded or who live in deprived neighbourhoods. The Government should support the development of a network of hubs providing cultural spaces, workspaces and free, fast internet access in places most in need of levelling up in order to modernise library service provision." [p54]