



## The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 370, 21 February 2023

### Events

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

### Funding & Opportunities

#### Libraries Improvement Fund (LIF) Round 3

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/our-open-funds/cultural-investment-fund/libraries-improvement-fund-lif-round-3>

(Source: email from Alison Hoolihan, ACE, 8 Feb 2023)

ACE have announced this next round of funding for libraries in England:

“This fund will enable library services across England to invest in a range of projects to upgrade buildings and technology so they are better placed to respond to the changing ways people are using them.”

Key info includes:

**Total fund:** £10.5 million for 2023/24

**Grant range:** Capital expenditure between £50,000 to £499,999

**Eligibility:** A local authority making an application on behalf of a library service in England.

#### Key dates

Expressions of Interest open: 9am on 17 April 2023

Expressions of Interest deadline: midday 19 June 2023

Full application forms open: 9am on 19 July 2023

Full application deadline: midday 18 September 2023.

Further details on above weblink.

### Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

#### State of the Sector 2022

[https://www.clinks.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/clinks\\_state-of-the-sector-2022\\_Final%20%28reduced%20size%29.pdf](https://www.clinks.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/clinks_state-of-the-sector-2022_Final%20%28reduced%20size%29.pdf)

(Source: email from Clinks, 9 Feb 2023)

“This research explores how the voluntary sector working in criminal justice fared during the 2021/22 financial year. The findings are based on

97 responses to an online survey and eight in-depth interviews, accompanied by analysis of data submitted to the Charity Commission by 'crime and justice' organisations." [p5]

**"Is Levelling Up tackling needs? No one knows."**

<https://www.thinknpc.org/blog/is-levelling-up-tackling-needs-no-one-knows/>

(Source: New Philanthropy Capital *Weekly Update*, 7 Feb 2023)

Critical article by New Philanthropy Capital (NPC):

"As soon as the official announcements were made the government was criticised by Labour and others in the media for skewing the funding away from 'left-behind areas'. Isn't Levelling Up meant to be about the North? Why is more funding going to productive areas like London and the South-East? Leaving aside the reasonable response that more people live in London, and that per person much more funding was going North, this criticism also misses a bigger issue with the agenda.

The concern the government's critics have is that affluent areas are benefiting more from Levelling Up money than poorer areas. But here's the kicker. We don't know to what extent the funding is tackling needs anywhere.

This is because the way the government is collecting and sharing information means we cannot answer fundamental questions about if Levelling Up is working or not [...]"

***Ageism: what's the harm?***

<https://ageing-better.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-02/Ageism-harms.pdf>

(Source: *Later Life AGEnda*, 7 Feb 2023)

New report from the Centre for Ageing Better:

"Ageism is often dismissed as being harmless, but evidence shows that it causes significant damage to individuals, the economy and society.

Ageism causes people to be excluded from society and its institutions; it also leads people to limit their lives, activities and aspirations, damaging their health and wellbeing. And the ageism that is engrained in our culture and institutions means that people are devalued and marginalised as they get older, creating divisions and inequalities in society." [p2]

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

***Confronting white nationalism in libraries: a toolkit***

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6127dea2925e45475fcbfca9/t/63b49601f2f90f18fd230c94/1672779266254/Confronting+White+Nationalism+in+Libraries+FINAL.pdf>

(Source: *Progressive Librarians Guild Digest*, 120 (1), 14 Feb 2023)

Important new resource:

“Written by and for librarians in collaboration with Western States Center, this toolkit is organized around six realistic scenarios, highlighting proactive and reactive practices for taking action along with communications approaches.” [website]

“This toolkit is designed to help readers counter multiple forms of organized bigotry. This includes organizing that draws on anti-Blackness, anti-Indigenous bigotry, anti-immigrant bigotry, anti-Muslim bigotry, antisemitism, misogyny, and anti-LGBTQ+ bigotry.” [p2]

***Cracks in our foundations: addressing the longstanding attainment gap in England's primary schools***

<https://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/CSJ-Cracks-in-our-Foundations.pdf>

Important new report:

“England's primary school system has a long-standing problem: each academic year thousands of pupils leave primary school without reaching expected standards in foundational skills. These children go on to secondary school ill-equipped to engage in further learning and unable to reach their true potential [...]

While the government is ambitious about improving education and life chances for young people, teachers fear that they are not on course to achieve their aims. The idea that 90 per cent of all children in 2030 will leave primary school reaching these expected standards is a far cry from reality.

Our polling reveals that at the just 40 per cent of teachers said that they were confident that most of their pupils would meet expected standards in 2023. Even starker, just 17 per cent of teachers are confident that this will be true for most of their disadvantaged pupils.

Our education system needs to ensure every child leaves primary school with a strong grasp of foundational skills, at the very minimum. Foundational skills are essential for future education, work, and wellbeing.

This report sets out an ambitious plan to create an education system which allows all children to secure the foundational skills they need to thrive.” [p6]

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

**Diversity in books and other materials for children & young people**

**“In the far from diverse publishing industry, sensitivity readers are vital”**

[https://theconversation.com/in-the-far-from-diverse-publishing-industry-sensitivity-readers-are-vital-199913?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conv](https://theconversation.com/in-the-far-from-diverse-publishing-industry-sensitivity-readers-are-vital-199913?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conv)

[ersation%20for%20February%2021%202023%20-%202549025620&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%2021%202023%20-%202549025620+CID\\_2b9539fc178b04ff7d73255fb77f2d9c&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_uk&utm\\_term=In%20the%20far%20from%20diverse%20publishing%20industry%20sensitivity%20readers%20are%20vital](https://www.conversation.com/2021/02/2023-02-25/49025620?utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%2021%202023%20-202549025620+CID_2b9539fc178b04ff7d73255fb77f2d9c&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=In%20the%20far%20from%20diverse%20publishing%20industry%20sensitivity%20readers%20are%20vital)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 21 Feb 2023)

Interesting article looking at the controversy over introducing ‘sensitivity readers’ to “[...] provide editorial feedback on omissions, discontinuity, cliché and credibility issues in a book draft – specifically where they relate to subject matter about people from marginalised groups.”

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

**“Working Toward Wellness: Exploring Trauma-Informed Librarianship”**

[https://www.libraryjournal.com/story/Working-Toward-Wellness-Exploring-Trauma-Informed-Librarianship?utm\\_campaign=LJXpress&utm\\_medium=email&hsmi=246064440&hsenc=p2ANqtz-9oqN2jIWavY7Zo-6qzSAZdCn4e6K6FXJzN1w98EnrJoFBlt2dEJUat6AUXCn4LFckpRmNI9le8V9wcSzwngSR0gUP6Q&utm\\_content=246064440&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://www.libraryjournal.com/story/Working-Toward-Wellness-Exploring-Trauma-Informed-Librarianship?utm_campaign=LJXpress&utm_medium=email&hsmi=246064440&hsenc=p2ANqtz-9oqN2jIWavY7Zo-6qzSAZdCn4e6K6FXJzN1w98EnrJoFBlt2dEJUat6AUXCn4LFckpRmNI9le8V9wcSzwngSR0gUP6Q&utm_content=246064440&utm_source=hs_email)

[NB you will need to register – free – on-site to access the article]

(Source: *LJXpress – Library Journal*, 14 Feb 2023)

Important article that explores what trauma is and how libraries may respond:

“As awareness increases about the need to address personal challenges both inside and out of the library, staff and practitioners – from leaders to frontline workers – are sharing their experiences, observations, and views around trauma-informed librarianship”

### **Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies**

**Children’s Mental Health Week 2023: Library toolkit**

[https://tra-resources.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/entries/document/6466/Childrens\\_Mental\\_Health\\_Week\\_2023\\_library\\_toolkit.pdf](https://tra-resources.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/entries/document/6466/Childrens_Mental_Health_Week_2023_library_toolkit.pdf)

(Source: email from The Reading Agency, 2 Feb 2023)

Just in case you didn’t see this new toolkit from The Reading Agency and Libraries Connected for Children’s Mental Health Week (6-12 February 2023):

“The theme for this year is Let’s Connect. People thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing. When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing. When we do not socially connect, we can sometimes feel isolated and lonely – which can have a negative impact on our mental health. Children’s Mental Health Week will be encouraging people to connect with others in healthy, rewarding, and meaningful ways.

In this toolkit you will find links to a range of resources and activity ideas that can support your library to get involved.”

### **“Building positive mental health”**

[https://www.youngminds.org.uk/professional/resources/building-positive-mental-health/?utm\\_source=enewsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=february\\_2023&utm\\_term=O25](https://www.youngminds.org.uk/professional/resources/building-positive-mental-health/?utm_source=enewsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=february_2023&utm_term=O25)

(Source: *YoungMinds e-newsletter*, Feb 2023)

New “[...] guide for professionals and volunteers who work with young people in the community. It focuses on helping young people to build positive mental health and includes downloadable worksheets and instructions on how to use these activities in 1:1 and group settings.” [Taken from email]

### ***Young adults’ communication and the gender gap***

[https://cdn.literacytrust.org.uk/media/documents/Young\\_adults\\_communication\\_and\\_the\\_gender\\_gap\\_kOEsrvj.pdf](https://cdn.literacytrust.org.uk/media/documents/Young_adults_communication_and_the_gender_gap_kOEsrvj.pdf)

(Source: National Literacy Trust *Newsletter*, Feb 2023)

Important new research report from the NLT, “Exploring young adults’ confidence communicating about their mental wellbeing, work and participation in society” [p1] and the key role that literacy plays in this.

### **“Nearly 140,000 young people providing unpaid care to loved ones, census finds”**

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/nearly-140-000-young-people-providing-unpaid-care-to-loved-ones-census-finds>

(Source: *Children & Young People Now Update*, 15 Feb 2023)

“The number of young people who provide at least 20 hours of unpaid care to loved ones each week has risen over the past decade, with nearly 140,000 under-24s now acting as young carers, recent census data has found.”

## **Disability issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations**

### **The Sensational Museum**

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2023/02/disability-research-project-aims-to-transform-access-and-inclusion/#>

(Source: Museums Association update, 10 Feb 2023)

Announcement of the launch of this new project:

“The Museums Association is among the partners in a research project exploring how access and inclusion can be transformed by putting disability at the centre of museum practice.

The £1m Sensational Museum project, which will acknowledge the diversity and difference of all visitors, begins in April and will run until July 2025. It will focus on two key areas: how museums manage the objects in their collections and how the stories behind these objects are communicated to the public.”

The project press release is at: <https://sensationalmuseum.org/press-release/>, and there is also more info about the project.

### **Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government**

#### **News article: “New inquiry examines human trafficking in the UK”**

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/83/home-affairs-committee/news/185985/new-inquiry-examines-human-trafficking-in-the-uk/>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 778, 13 Feb 2023)

“The Home Affairs Committee has announced a new inquiry into the trafficking of human beings.”

#### **Refusing to process asylum claims: the safe country and inadmissibility rules**

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9724/CBP-9724.pdf>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 778, 13 Feb 2023)

This HOC Library “Research Briefing” gives very useful background info on the different rules around eligibility to claim asylum – worth skimming.

#### **News release: “Supporting New Scots”**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/supporting-new-scots/>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 777, 6 Feb 2023)

“Additional funding has been secured to support work to integrate refugees across Scotland.

The £1.6 million in funding will focus on the development of a refreshed New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy, ensuring refugees and asylum seekers are supported to make their new communities their home.”

The news release gives brief info about five projects, one of which is “£500,000 in targeted funding for two of the highest priority areas: ESOL and Employability.”

### **Broader issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government**

#### **Machinery of Government Change**

<https://www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/blog/machinery-of-government-change-07-02-23/>

(Source: *Heritage Update*, 486, 9 Feb 2023)

On 7 Feb, the Government announced a restructuring which has created four new departments:

- Department for Energy Security and Net Zero,
- Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
- Department for Business and Trade
- Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Further info on above weblink.