



## The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 374, 28 April 2023

### Events

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

### Climate emergency/the environment – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

#### “Green Libraries”

[https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/GreenLibraries?utm\\_campaign=723729\\_PMLG%20Newsletter%20April%202023&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals&dm\\_i=6WFS,FIFL,9VBO9,1X8GK,1](https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/GreenLibraries?utm_campaign=723729_PMLG%20Newsletter%20April%202023&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals&dm_i=6WFS,FIFL,9VBO9,1X8GK,1)

CILIP webpage – which also has a link to:

#### “Action, Inspiration and Insight at Inaugural Green Libraries Conference”

<https://www.cilip.org.uk/news/635911/Action-Inspiration-and-Insight-at-Inaugural-Green-Libraries-Conference.htm>

The main takeaways from the Conference, including:

- “Funding has had real impact on communities through green initiatives
  - [download the Green Libraries Case studies](#)
- Libraries are in a unique position between local authorities and the communities they serve
  - This means they can reach a wide audience
  - And run pilot green schemes at scale, as well as laying down data-baselines for wider reaching green initiatives
- Action doesn’t need to be big – making small changes to library infrastructure like repurposing furniture is a great start, and doesn’t cost much
- Green libraries initiatives that incorporated nature helped build relationships with staff and communities
- Engagement is circular and you have to start somewhere, it doesn’t matter if something fails the first time it still has an impact – even if it means starting again
- Data should underpin every activity when it comes to greening your buildings, and its easy to get started, all you need to do is measure your energy usage by dividing KW/h energy use by total floor area of the building”

## Climate emergency/the environment – Other Agencies

### ***The People’s Plan for Nature***

[https://wild-isles.cdn.prismic.io/wild-isles/dd3f4ca9-956b-4e98-8ad8-8d0f8dbb178a\\_PPFN-ExecutiveSummary-150323-FINAL1.pdf](https://wild-isles.cdn.prismic.io/wild-isles/dd3f4ca9-956b-4e98-8ad8-8d0f8dbb178a_PPFN-ExecutiveSummary-150323-FINAL1.pdf)

Just in case you haven’t seen this:

“Created in collaboration with thousands of people across the UK, the plan sets out their vision for the future of nature and the actions that we all need to take to protect and renew it.” [p5]

It calls on local government to:

“Assist in creating grassroots coordination in local areas, including the creation of local directories of partners and projects.” [p15]

Something we could help with ...

## Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

### **“The National Digital Inclusion Network”**

[https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/our-network-services-map/?utm\\_source=Good+Things+Foundation+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=5f70ca872e-](https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/our-network-services-map/?utm_source=Good+Things+Foundation+Newsletter&utm_campaign=5f70ca872e-)

[EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_04\\_05\\_08\\_12\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_874c1dbcc0-5f70ca872e-110066901](https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/our-network-services-map/?utm_source=Good+Things+Foundation+Newsletter&utm_campaign=5f70ca872e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_04_05_08_12_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_874c1dbcc0-5f70ca872e-110066901)

(Source: *Good Things Foundation News*, Apr 2023)

The NDIN has just launched this map which you can use to find services near you:

“The network is made up of thousands of community partners in the UK, all working to tackle digital exclusion by delivering data, devices and digital skills training.”

## ***Deepening poverty in Scotland – no one left behind?***

[https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/deepening-poverty-scotland-no-one-left-behind?utm\\_campaign=726238\\_Copy%20of%20April%202023&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Joseph%20Rowntree%20Foundation&dm\\_i=7ADY,FKDA,1R494R,1XI0K,1](https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/deepening-poverty-scotland-no-one-left-behind?utm_campaign=726238_Copy%20of%20April%202023&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Joseph%20Rowntree%20Foundation&dm_i=7ADY,FKDA,1R494R,1XI0K,1)

(Source: *JRF Newsletter*, 28 Apr 2023)

New “Briefing” from JRF:

“This briefing studies the shocking increase in very deep poverty in Scotland. It shows that in the last 20 years or so, while overall poverty levels (and particularly those for children and pensioners) have fallen, the proportion, and number, of people in very deep poverty has risen dramatically.” [p1]

## **The Trussell Trust – End of Year Stats**

[https://www.trusselltrust.org/news-and-blog/latest-stats/end-year-stats/?utm\\_campaign=726238\\_Copy%20of%20April%202023&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Joseph%20Rowntree%20Foundation&dm\\_t=0,0,0,0,0](https://www.trusselltrust.org/news-and-blog/latest-stats/end-year-stats/?utm_campaign=726238_Copy%20of%20April%202023&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Joseph%20Rowntree%20Foundation&dm_t=0,0,0,0,0)

(Source: JRF *Newsletter*, 28 Apr 2023)

Headlines include:

“Food banks in the Trussell Trust network saw the highest ever levels of need, even more than during the peak of the pandemic, as more people found their incomes did not cover the cost of essentials like heating and food. Between April 2022 and March 2023, the number of people that used a food bank for the first time was 760,000.

December 2022 was the busiest month on record for food banks in the Trussell Trust network, with a food parcel being distributed every 8 seconds.”

## **“BT Group partners with AbilityNet to help improve digital skills among older people”**

<https://newsroom.bt.com/bt-group-partners-with-abilitynet-to-help-improve-digital-skills-among-older-people/>

(Source: *Later Life AGENDA*, 27 Apr 2023)

“BT Group has announced a new partnership with the charity AbilityNet to help improve the digital skills of 4,000 older and digitally excluded people across the UK in 2023.

The partnership will run a UK-wide ‘Senior Skills Programme’ that will deliver more than 1,000 group and one-to-one training sessions to those who need it most in regions across the UK.

Sessions will be available in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Birmingham, Manchester and London. The locations were chosen based on a growing demand for tech support among older people aged 65+ in these areas.”

## **Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion – Other Agencies**

### **“Belonging: why it is the next step on the equity, diversity and inclusion ladder”**

[https://www.timeshighereducation.com/campus/belonging-why-it-next-step-equity-diversity-and-inclusion-ladder?utm\\_source=mkg&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=campus&spMailInglD=25379202&spUserID=MTAxNzcxMzc5Nzk1MQS2&spJobID=2212994453&spReportId=MjlxMjk5NDQ1MwS2](https://www.timeshighereducation.com/campus/belonging-why-it-next-step-equity-diversity-and-inclusion-ladder?utm_source=mkg&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=campus&spMailInglD=25379202&spUserID=MTAxNzcxMzc5Nzk1MQS2&spJobID=2212994453&spReportId=MjlxMjk5NDQ1MwS2)

(Source: *THE Campus+ Monthly Showcase*, 26 Apr 2023)

Interesting article that argues that we should start considering ‘belonging’ as the next issue to consider:

“Belonging asks: ‘Does everyone on campus feel valued, connected and able to be their authentic self?’ In many ways, belonging is the emotional counterpart to inclusion (‘Have everyone’s ideas been heard, respected

and understood?’). It is the feeling of having personal involvement in an environment. A sense of belonging is centred on gaining acceptance, being part of something and feeling supported as well as giving support to others.”

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

#### **“Dogger to the rescue: how my mother’s books brought joy to the children of Ukraine”**

[https://www.theguardian.com/books/2023/apr/09/shirley-hughes-books-children-ukraine-library?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other&fbclid=IwAR1TI1NtgKk55c2DJT8ph2cLJ4zmi\\_xScbaqxTNaWHwjHvfVPNADpsLlu8](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2023/apr/09/shirley-hughes-books-children-ukraine-library?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other&fbclid=IwAR1TI1NtgKk55c2DJT8ph2cLJ4zmi_xScbaqxTNaWHwjHvfVPNADpsLlu8)

Just in case you didn’t see this terrific article:

“After the death last year of children’s author Shirley Hughes, her son took hundreds of her books, including the award-winning *Dogger*, to libraries in Ukraine, where reading is helping to heal the children traumatised by war”

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

#### ***Healthy people, prosperous lives: the first interim report of the IPPR Commission on Health and Prosperity***

[https://www.ippr.org/files/2023-04/1682577258\\_healthy-people-prosperous-lives-april-2023.pdf](https://www.ippr.org/files/2023-04/1682577258_healthy-people-prosperous-lives-april-2023.pdf)

(Source: *IPPR Newsletter*, 27 Apr 2023)

New report which is receiving some media attention.

“The UK is getting poorer and sicker. The UK faces a challenging economic outlook. While the March budget had some improved economic news, the UK economy is still projected to shrink in 2023, inflation remains high and the fall in household spending power in the next two years is predicted to be the highest in 70 years [...] At the same time, population health is going backwards. After rapid progress on life expectancy in the 20th century, the UK has rising rates of death and impairment – including higher prevalence of long-term conditions and greater rates of multimorbidity [...]

Good health has its own value – but this paper tests its relationship with prosperity. Good health is vital to an enjoyable and meaningful life, free from avoidable pain, anxiety and, in the worst cases, premature death. But it is also a crucial determinant of our economic prospects, both at an individual and a national level. This has been poorly accounted for by policymakers. In that context, this paper sets out to quantify whether better health could provide an answer to some of our most deep-rooted economic challenges and what policies could help ‘price in’ its value across all decisionmaking [sic]. Having conducted a multi-year data analysis that follows individuals over time, this report concludes that poor health harms both individual and national prosperity.” [p5]

## **Reading matters – a new resource for social prescribers from Improving Me**

<https://www.improvingme.org.uk/media/1225/reading-matters-final-version.pdf>

(Source: email from Jo Ward, 13 Mar 2023)

“This occasional paper reflects Improving Me’s commitment to creative health and highlights the role and value placed on social prescribing, so what better way to mark International Social Prescribing Day than producing an introductory resource on the place of creative health in supporting link worker wellbeing, and all women’s health and wellbeing.”  
[p2]

It really advocates the importance of reading, showing just how important it is in terms of maintaining good health.

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

### **UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers**

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-09/hl6324>

(Source: MEMO [*Minority Ethnic Matters Overview*], 786, 24 April 2023)

This exchange sets out very clearly the issues around people getting to the UK to claim asylum:

Question: Lord Strasburger

“To ask His Majesty's Government what are the legal methods for refugees who are citizens of Somalia, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Eritrea, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar or the Democratic Republic of the Congo to apply for asylum in the UK when they are (1) living in the country of their citizenship, (2) living in a safe third country, or (3) living in an unsafe third country.”

Answer: Lord Murray of Blidworth

“Whilst we sympathise with people in many difficult situations around the world, we are not bound to consider asylum claims from the very large numbers of people overseas who might like to come here. Asylum is for people in danger in their home country. Those who need international protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach – that is the fastest route to safety.

Between 2015 and December 2022, just under half a million people were offered safe and legal routes into the UK– including those from Hong Kong, Syria, Afghanistan, Ukraine as well as family members of refugees.

This includes over 28,200 refugees resettled through the government’s refugee resettlement schemes. Our family reunion policy has also reunited many refugees with their family members; we have issued over

44,659 visas under our refugee family reunion Rules since 2015. The UK is one of the largest recipients of UNHCR referred refugees globally, second only to Sweden in Europe since 2015.

The UK continues to welcome refugees and people in need through existing resettlement schemes which include the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Community Sponsorship, the Mandate Resettlement Scheme and the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS)."

**“UK: Protect unaccompanied children seeking asylum say UN experts”**

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/04/uk-protect-unaccompanied-children-seeking-asylum-say-un-experts>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 786, 24 April 2023)

UN experts:

“[...] expressed alarm at the current policy and practice of housing unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in temporary hotel accommodations instead of under the responsibility of local authorities.”

**“Scotland for Ukrainians: a guide for displaced people”**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotland-for-ukrainians/>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 786, 24 April 2023)

“This guide is for people displaced from Ukraine arriving under the Scottish Super Sponsor Scheme.

It provides information on:

- where to get support including visa and immigration advice
- getting to Scotland including visa and travel information
- what happens when you arrive in Scotland
- matching you to a host
- longer-term accommodation options
- settling into life in Scotland
- advice and information services”

**Migration issues – Other Agencies**

**“Two ways to address the asylum backlog and improve access to justice”**

[https://freemovement.org.uk/two-ways-to-address-the-asylum-backlog-and-improve-access-to-justice/?mc\\_cid=46b755ef71&mc\\_eid=7d8713d645](https://freemovement.org.uk/two-ways-to-address-the-asylum-backlog-and-improve-access-to-justice/?mc_cid=46b755ef71&mc_eid=7d8713d645)

(Source: Free Movement Weekly Newsletter, 11 Apr 2023)

Important posting:

“The government is right that the asylum backlog needs to be urgently addressed, but the Illegal Migration Bill will not tackle the backlog in any meaningful sense and could cause devastating harm to the rights of some of the most persecuted people in the world and the international refugee system. There are two key ways to address the asylum backlog and promote access to justice: by increasing the productivity of Home

Office asylum decision-makers; and by simplifying and prioritising some of the procedures involved in asylum processing.”

***Napier Barracks: the inhumane reality an in-depth report of the experiences of men held in quasi-detention at Napier Barracks***

[https://www.jrsuk.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/JRS-UK-Report\\_Napier-Barracks-the-inhumane-reality\\_March-2023\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.jrsuk.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/JRS-UK-Report_Napier-Barracks-the-inhumane-reality_March-2023_WEB.pdf)

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 786, 24 April 2023)

New report from the Jesuit Refugee Service:

“This report shines a light onto the experiences of people placed in the asylum camp at the disused Napier Barracks in Kent. The Barracks were repurposed as accommodation for people seeking asylum in September 2020, and have since been used to accommodate single men in the early stages of the asylum process. This kind of asylum accommodation – large-scale, institutional, in an out-of-town camp, and so accommodation in a quasi-detention setting – was new in the UK. The site rapidly became mired in problems, including a serious COVID-19 outbreak and a fire. In June 2021, the High Court ruled that Napier did not meet the minimum legal standards for asylum accommodation. The Home Office claims to have made many improvements since then.” [p6]

**“One in five international students in Scotland experience homelessness”**

<https://newstartmag.co.uk/articles/one-in-five-international-students-in-scotland-experience-homelessness/>

(Source: *New Start*, 28 Apr 2023)

Shocking stats:

“International students are almost twice as likely to experience homelessness as home students, with 21% of international students having experienced homelessness since starting their studies, compared to 12% of home students.

International students struggle to secure housing more than home students because many do not have a UK based guarantor, which is required by most landlords to secure a tenancy. They are also more often targeted by housing scams, in which fraudsters pose as landlords and demand they pay a deposit in advance. When the student arrives in the country, they find the property they believe they had secured does not exist.”

**Broader issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations**

**“Third of UK librarians asked to censor or remove books, research reveals”**

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2023/apr/20/third-of-uk-librarians-asked-to-censor-or-remove-books-research-reveals>

Just in case you didn't see this article:

“A survey by Cilip shows members of the public using increasingly threatening behaviour about the removal of books on empire, race and LGBTQ+ themes”

### **Broader issues – Other Agencies**

***Britons want a bigger role for the state in delivering a social contract***

<https://fairnessfoundation.com/role-of-gov>

(Source: email from The Equality Trust, Apr 2023)

New research by the Fairness Foundation has found, amongst other things, that:

“A large majority of voters think that the government should fund a wide-ranging social contract, with guaranteed provision of a range of services including social care, early years education and care, public transport and housing.”

The Fairness Foundation:

“We are an independent and politically non-aligned charity. Our vision is a fairer Britain in which everyone has the same chance to live their best and fullest life. Our mission is to change the terms of the public debate about fairness, to promote the benefits of a fair society, and to inspire citizens, organisations and decision-makers to create a fairer society.”  
[taken from <https://fairnessfoundation.com/>]