



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 380, 8 August 2023

Events

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

Black Lives Matter/Anti-racism

Contains strong language: a guide to talking about racism

<https://reframingrace.org/site/assets/files/1220/containsstronglanguagerrjuly23.pdf>

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 27 Jul 2023)

New from Reframing Race*, this important guidance aims:

“[...] to shift the public conversation on racism and to build demand for serious action for anti-racism, race equity and racial justice.” [p9]

It has lots of practical suggestions for moving on this “public conversation” and is immensely usable.

* “Reframing Race is a non-profit research-based initiative that exists to change the public conversation on racism in order to build an anti-racist future.” See: <https://reframingrace.org/about/what/>.

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

Equality Act 2010

The socio-economic duty in action: case studies from England and Wales

https://justfair.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/The-socio-economic-duty-in-action-Case-studies-from-England-and-Wales.pdf?mc_cid=5ab1fcc910&mc_eid=17c19d737e

(Source: email from Just Fair, 27 Jul 2023)

New report from Just Fair and Greater Manchester Poverty Action, which:

“[...] presents a range of case studies to illustrate how the duty can improve decision-making and assist local authorities and public bodies in tackling socio-economic inequality. The case studies outline a number of ways in which the duty is being used to tackle inequality, including:

- attracting more applicants to jobs;
- easing the cost-of-living crisis;
- preventing increases in school meal prices;
- responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.” [p3]

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“Who is in poverty in London?”

<https://trustforlondon.org.uk/news/who-is-in-poverty-in-london/>

(Source: *Left Foot Forward*, 28 Jul 2023)

Important blogpost from Trust for London:

“The latest data shows that after housing costs, one in four Londoners are in poverty. But poverty doesn’t affect everyone equally. Here we look at how different groups are impacted.”

“Large ethnic differences in wealth at all levels of net worth shows new LSE report”

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/News/Latest-news-from-LSE/2023/h-August-2023/Large-ethnic-differences-in-wealth-at-all-levels-of-net-worth-shows-new-report>

Important new LSE News post:

“The typical person from a Bangladeshi, black Caribbean or black African background has no significant level of household net worth, in contrast to the typical white Briton who has a household net worth of £140,000, according to new research.

Ethnic minority groups in Britain, at all levels of wealth, are substantially less well off than white Britons, shows the report [...]

The exceptions are British Indians who have a typical household net worth of £160,000.

The report looks at, for the first time, the scale and causes of ethnic disparities in wealth at all levels of net worth.

The wealthiest five per cent of British white people have £893,000, or more, in household wealth, which is nearly three times higher than the wealthiest five per cent of people from black African backgrounds who have £304,000 in household wealth.

At the other end of the wealth spectrum, 31 per cent, 38 per cent and 44 per cent of people from black Caribbean, Bangladeshi and black African backgrounds respectively are in net debt [...] This compares to 15 per cent of the white British population and 11 per cent of people of Indian heritage.”

The research itself, published as a “Working Paper”, is at:

http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/119885/1/III_Working_Paper_97_Karagiannaki.pdf .

Editorial: “The Guardian view on the digital divide: a growing problem that must be taken seriously”

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/aug/06/the-guardian-view-on-the-digital-divide-a-growing-problem-that-must-be-taken-seriously>

(Source: *Later Life AGEnda*, 8 Aug 2023)

Important piece:

“From GP appointments to railway tickets to cashless parking, key services in the UK are being delivered digitally. For many, the convenience is a tangible benefit. But there are appreciable downsides for the millions of people who find it difficult to carry out basic day-to-day functions in a world that assumes everyone is comfortable online. In the name of progress, the danger is that a wall is erected between wider society and a group that tends to live outside England’s south-east and be older, poorer and more vulnerable.”

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

“People with dementia tell us how to talk to them”

https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-support/publications-and-factsheets/dementia-together/dementia-together-magazine/how-talk-people-dementia?utm_medium=email&utm_source=dotdigital&utm_content=Talking%20to%20people%20with%20dementia%20-%20button%20CTA&utm_campaign=1403404_0089%3A%204%20August%202023&dm_i=57EL,U2VG,2JFJ2V,3JJ8S,1

(Source: email from Alzheimer’s Society, 4 Aug 2023)

Useful pointers to good practice.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“It’s wrong that UK immigration and asylum systems make people destitute”

https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/its-wrong-uk-immigration-and-asylum-systems-make-people-destitute?utm_campaign=819647_July%202023&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Joseph%20Rowntree%20Foundation&dm_i=7ADY,HKFZ,1R494R,27LFR,1

(Source: JRF *Newsletter*, 31 Jul 2023)

New JRF blogpost:

“The majority of people migrating to the UK come to work and study and have no safety net. Both our immigration and asylum systems make people destitute by design and need urgent reform.”

Afghan refugees: what happened to the warm welcome?

<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/What-happened-to-the-warm-welcome.pdf>

(Source: email from the Refugee Council, 3 Aug 2023)

Important new report from the Refugee Council:

“Two years ago, men, women, and children from Afghanistan, many of whom stood alongside British forces in conflict, were evacuated as Kabul fell to the Taliban. The British Government offered them safety and called this ‘*Operation Warm Welcome*’ [...]

While the initial effort had good intentions, the plans to welcome Afghan refugees are slowly being abandoned. Afghans fleeing the Taliban now make up the largest number of people crossing the Channel in small boats [...]

To underline the failure of the scheme set up to resettle Afghans, figures show that in the year ending March 2023, 8,429 Afghans crossed the Channel while only 96 have been newly resettled to the UK [...] through the various Government resettlement schemes. And now thousands of Afghans who have been stuck in temporary accommodation hotels, face eviction with nowhere to go and the prospect of being left homeless this summer.

This report uses published Home Office data alongside policy analysis and testimonies to set out the failures of the UK Government to fulfil its promise to protect and house Afghans fleeing danger and persecution.” [p1]

“Reclaiming the word ‘migrant’”

<https://migrantsrights.org.uk/projects/wordsmatter/reclaiming-language/reclaiming-migrant/>

(Source: Migrants’ Rights Network *Newsletter*, Aug 2023)

Short post in the “Reclaiming language” series, looking at the importance of reclaiming the word ‘migrant’.

Experiences of LGBTQ+ asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland: housing, houselessness, hotel detention and impact

<https://www.lgbthealth.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Refugee-Report-Final-E-Copy.pdf>

(Source: MEMO [*Minority Ethnic Matters Overview*], 800, 7 Aug 2023)

New report from LGBT Health & Wellbeing (<https://www.lgbthealth.org.uk/>):

“In February 2023 LGBT Health and Wellbeing held a community consultation exploring experiences of ‘housing’ with 32 individuals supported by our organisation via the LGBT+ Refugee Project. This Report was subsequently produced by LGBT Health and Wellbeing to raise awareness of some of the key issues faced by the community members who access our LGBT+ Refugee Project here in Scotland.” [p1]

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

The Heritage manifesto 2023

<https://www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Heritage-Manifesto-2023.pdf>

(Source: *Heritage Update*, 498, 27 Jul 2023)

The Heritage Alliance has just published its manifesto – this includes a call to:

- Support community cohesion and put heritage at the heart of regeneration

- Embed the historic environment in nature recovery and net zero strategies
- Reform the tax regime to promote long-term sustainable growth
- Harness cultural learning and skills at every age and help the workforce thrive
- Futureproof heritage institutions at both a national and a local level
[Taken from p2]

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

Broader issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

The reading framework

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1168960/The_Reading_Framework_July_2023.pdf?dm_i=5KYK,U5UE,43HQVX,3P9I6,1

(Source: School Library Association *Monthly Newsletter*, 18 Jul 2023)

Just in case you haven't seen alerts for this important new document.

“This document’s key objective is to help schools to meet the expectations set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework and the national curriculum. It aligns with Ofsted’s Education Inspection Framework.

It provides guidance about how reading should be taught in primary schools. It focuses on supporting leaders and teachers to make sure that their pupils start secondary school as confident readers, able to engage with the challenges of a wider curriculum. This is not only valuable to primary schools, but also to secondary school teachers to understand how reading is taught from the very beginning and how it develops before pupils enter year 7. It outlines some of the different challenges of teaching reading in the secondary curriculum and provides support for secondary schools in teaching pupils who have not yet met those expectations in reading.” [p5]

As the SLA email says:

“From early years in primary through to KS3, it links the importance of reading, talking, listening and writing and stresses the teamwork of teachers, librarians, leaders and carers working together to ensure children have a good experience of learning to read, so that reading for pleasure becomes a natural consequence. School librarians are not only mentioned, but noted as influencers of children's reading, helping pupils choose suitable titles.”

Broader issues – Other Agencies

The employability badge: skills for life, work and a stronger society

<https://demos.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/the-employability-badge-final.pdf>

(Source: Cultural Learning Alliance *Newsletter*, 31 Jul 2023)

New report from Demos, which looks at the level of youth unemployment:

“In this report, we identify what we call a double skills gap: a lack of both technical and transferable skills that are crucial in the workplace.” [p6]

and concludes that:

“One of the factors driving this skills gap is a lack of emphasis on transferable skills at school. Education reforms over the last decade have narrowed the focus of education to academic subjects, with less emphasis on skills like teamwork, leadership and communication. Employers told us that they are concerned about young people not being given opportunities for work experience or to undertake coursework that helps them develop skills such as speaking and listening.” [p6]

To overcome this, there needs to be a far greater emphasis on extracurricular activities.