



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 383, 5 October 2023

Events

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

Congratulations!

“We’re celebrating 30 years of the National Literacy Trust!”

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/support-us/literacy-trust-at-30/>

(Source: National Literacy Trust *Training and Resources*, Autumn 2023)

Congratulations and thanks to the National Literacy Trust (Network member). This part of the celebration includes an outline of key work developed over this time.

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“5.8m aged 65+ either unable to use the internet easily or aren’t online at all”

<https://theageactionalliance.org/2023/09/19/5-8m-aged-65-either-unable-to-use-the-internet-easily-or-arent-online-at-all/>

(Source: *Later Life AGEnda*, 19 Sep 2023)

“Alarming new analysis carried out by Age UK reveals that almost half (46%) of over-65s in the UK are unable to complete all eight of the most fundamental tasks required to use the internet safely and successfully.”

The summary includes the main findings.

Troubled waters: tackling the crisis on England’s coast

<https://www.ukonward.com/reports/troubled-waters-coast-in-crisis/>

(Source: *The Guardian*, 19 Sep 2023)

Important new report from Onward* that looks at some of the key issues facing seaside towns and communities, particularly:

- They are poorer
- They have more crime
- They have poorer health
- They have worse housing.

The report also has a number of recommendations around industry, seasonality, and demography and planning.

*“Onward develops bold and practical ideas for the next generation of centre right thinkers and leaders”, <https://www.ukonward.com/>.

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

“Children’s Arts and Mental Health Services? CAMHS and the arts working together”

<https://baringfoundation.org.uk/blog-post/childrens-arts-and-mental-health-services-camhs-and-the-arts-working-together/>

(Source: *Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance Bulletin*, Sep 2023)

New blogpost:

“Both CAMHS and the arts sector are under huge pressure but there are some inspiring examples of CAMHS/arts partnerships working together for the benefit of children and young people's mental health. Could there be more?”

The case studies are brief but give real insights into how the pieces of work developed – and their impact.

Disability issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Global report on children with developmental disabilities: from the margins to the mainstream

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240080232>

“Using findings from research and practice and guided by the tenets of international human rights conventions, this WHO-UNICEF *Global Report on children with developmental disabilities* provides principles and approaches to intentionally include the needs and aspirations of children and young people with developmental disabilities in policy, programming and public health monitoring. It makes the case for greater accountability and proposes 10 priority actions to accelerate changes towards inclusive environments and responsive multisectoral care systems for children with developmental disabilities.” [website]

Amongst the report’s recommendations are:

- “promoting a culture in which diversity, inclusion and respect are valued, social connectedness is promoted and hostile and/or discriminatory behaviour is not accepted;
- adopting and supporting communication strategies to promote the expression and comprehension of children with various speech, language and communication abilities and preferences;
- monitoring and managing the physical and sensory environment to facilitate participation;
- promoting access to health information in formats that are accessible to children and young people with developmental delays and disabilities, and to caregivers with various levels of literacy;
- promoting access to education and opportunities for learning across the life-course, with allocation of adequate financial and human resources;

- promoting access to a range of assistance, assistive devices and support services for children and caregivers, and supporting transitions to independent living for young people with developmental disabilities; and
- enhancing or redesigning the development of human resource capacity to ensure competent care and positive attitudes in health-care workers and other professionals.” [p87]

Migration issues – News

“Elton John calls for ‘compassion’ for LGBTQ+ refugees after ‘disturbing’ Suella Braverman speech”

https://www.thepinknews.com/2023/09/27/elton-john-suella-braverman-lgbtq-refugees/?utm_source=piano&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=myspinknews&pnespid=uLg_BT1EJPsEx6DG.D2uGZjQ5Q3wCsp9MPbn3ewxsAVmab19_5F.E9fUWnOGrfWNtbMO9HI6sA

(Source: *PinkNews*, 27 Sep 2023)

“Braverman faced a backlash after The Times leaked details ahead of a speech she delivered in Washington DC on Tuesday (26 September), in which she argued that a fear of discrimination should not be a good enough reason to be granted asylum in the UK.”

A statement from the Elton John Aids Foundation said:

““Nearly a third of all nations class LGBTQ+ people as criminals, and homosexuality is still punishable by death in 11 countries. Dismissing the very real danger LGBTQ+ communities face risks further legitimising hate and violence against them.”

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

“Language, England and Wales: Census 2021”

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/language/bulletins/languageenglandandwales/census2021#main-languages-in-england-and-wales>

(Source: ESOL-Research@JISCMAIL.ac.uk, 27 Sep 2023)

Useful reminder:

- “The most common main languages, other than English (English or Welsh in Wales), were: Polish (1.1%, 612,000), Romanian (0.8%, 472,000), Panjabi (0.5%, 291,000), and Urdu (0.5%, 270,000).
- The largest increase was for people who specified Romanian as a main language, who accounted for over 0.8% of usual residents in 2021 (472,000 people), up from 0.1% (68,000) in 2011.”

There is also a useful listing of “The top ten main languages spoken in England and Wales, excluding English (English or Welsh in Wales)”.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

"Why thousands of Ukrainian refugees in the UK are now homeless"

https://theconversation.com/why-thousands-of-ukrainian-refugees-in-the-uk-are-now-homeless-210234?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2024%202023%20-%202717127459&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2024%202023%20-%202717127459+CID_19aaa500ca0e0c561d444903d58e074b&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Why%20thousands%20of%20Ukrainian%20refugees%20in%20the%20UK%20are%20now%20homeless

(Source: *The Conversation*, 24 Aug 2023)

"When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, thousands of people were forced to leave their homes in search of safety. A year and a half later, many of those Ukrainian refugees who reached the UK are again finding themselves homeless."

This article explores what's happened and looks at the need for long-term change.

"Suella Braverman is wrong about the UN refugee convention being 'not fit for purpose' – here's why"

https://theconversation.com/suella-braverman-is-wrong-about-the-un-refugee-convention-being-not-fit-for-purpose-heres-why-214505?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%202753527832&utm_content=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%202753527832+CID_a5eef0464a172bf569de3f64163aceb7&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Suella%20Braverman%20is%20wrong%20about%20the%20UN%20refugee%20convention%20being%20not%20fit%20for%20purpose%20-%20heres%20why

(Source: *The Conversation*, 30 Sep 2023)

Following the Home Secretary's speech to an US thinktank, this article looks at whom the UN refugee convention covers, the reality of the numbers of people likely to come to the UK, and refutes the argument that North America and Europe are currently witnessing record numbers of refugees.

See BBC coverage at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66919416>.

"UK-EU Couples after Brexit"

<https://brexitcouples.ac.uk/>

(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 2 Oct 2023)

New research project looking at "[the] impact of Brexit on couples when the EU (EEA/Swiss) partner must apply for leave as a spouse or partner under British immigration law."

“What is the difference between refugee status and humanitarian protection?”

https://freemovement.org.uk/what-is-the-difference-between-refugee-status-and-humanitarian-protection/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=what-is-the-difference-between-refugee-status-and-humanitarian-protection&mc_cid=25b6953a8f&mc_eid=7d8713d645

(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 2 Oct 2023)

Very useful summary (and also includes a short reminder of the rules around claiming refugee status in the UK).

“Come with me to a Home Office centre for disabled asylum seekers. See Britain’s hidden shame”

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/oct/01/home-office-centre-for-disabled-asylum-seekers-care-home?mc_cid=25b6953a8f&mc_eid=7d8713d645

(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 2 Oct 2023)

Shocking article, exposing the terrible conditions in one centre:

“[...] the 55 residents housed in this processing centre run by a private company have severe or life-limiting disabilities. Some have lost limbs, others are deaf or blind. Half a dozen are paraplegic. Some have been disabled since birth; others were maimed in the war zones they’re now fleeing from.

Ask an official, and they’ll likely describe the site as a “former care home”, but you’d be hard-pressed to find much care. There are no grab rails in the property. No changing beds for incontinent residents or commodes for those who can’t make it to the toilet. Bathrooms don’t have shower chairs to enable people to wash.”

Routes to safety: a new approach to people crossing the Channel

Full report:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c2531f131d4dfb9bfbfd68af/t/651bcd785542557b9e2f774a/1696320943829/Routes+to+Safety+Report.pdf>

Executive summary:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c2531f131d4dfb9bfbfd68af/t/651acab5d3369513f498c1c5/1696254648113/Routes+to+Safety+Executive+Summary.pdf>

(Source: email from Safe Passage, 3 Oct 2023)

Important new report:

“People fleeing war and persecution have a right under international law to seek asylum, but currently face life-threatening journeys to safety in the UK. With travel options blocked, refugees are forced into the hands of ruthless smugglers who exploit the UK’s lack of safe passage, cramming men, women and children into dangerous small boats to cross the Channel.” [taken from: <https://www.safepassage.org.uk/news/routes-to-safety-a-new-approach-to-people-crossing-the-channel-report>]

The report recommends three priorities:

1. “Ruin smugglers deadly trade by establishing safe routes for those seeking safety in the UK.
2. Renew Britain's commitment to international cooperation.
3. Restore the right to seek asylum and rebuild our asylum system.” [also taken from: <https://www.safepassage.org.uk/news/routes-to-safety-a-new-approach-to-people-crossing-the-channel-report>]

LGBTQ+ issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Our Rainbow Past: LGBTQ+ objects from Edinburgh”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2023/08/digital-project-showcases-edinburghs-lgbtq-heritage/#msdynttrid=uaHTqPLZgS44bQVTvj_TvcjxiowEsoBjy460tD_kCc

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 22 Aug 2023)

This digital exhibition has recently launched on the “Our Town Stories” platform.

“It is a partnership project between Museums & Galleries Edinburgh and Rowan Rush-Morgan, a PhD candidate at the University of Edinburgh, to make digital object records more accessible for audiences and to share key objects in a digital exhibition.”

The exhibition is at: <https://www.ourtownstories.co.uk/story/4116-our-rainbow-past-lgbtq-objects-from-edinburgh>.

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

“Queer leaders: LGBTQI+ people still overwhelmingly absent from corporate boards”

https://theconversation.com/queer-leaders-lgbtqi-people-still-overwhelmingly-absent-from-corporate-boards-211952?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TC%20Europe%2048%20September%2028%202023&utm_content=TC%20Europe%2048%20September%2028%202023+CID_15f40fed354dace65c3507bcf0a1fd42&utm_source=campaign_monitor_europe&utm_term=Queer%20leaders%20LGBTQI%20people%20still%20overwhelmingly%20absent%20from%20corporate%20boards

(Source: *The Conversation*, 27 Sep 2023)

Very interesting insight:

“Over the past decade, I have followed the debate over LGBTQI+ inclusion as a practitioner and more recently as a researcher studying the role businesses play in the political sphere, including on social issues such as LGBTQI+ rights. And I can testify that diverse corporate boards are a long shot from becoming reality.”