



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 386, 7 November 2023

Events

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

Cost of living crisis – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Inside UK’s ‘vital’ libraries providing ‘warm banks’ as cost of living bites and households struggle”

https://www.bigissue.com/news/social-justice/uk-library-warm-bank-libraries-connected-cost-of-living/?dm_i=6WFS,JTYO,9VBO9,2JGO6,1&utm_campaign=925296_Fortnightly%20newsletter%201%20November%202023%20-%20MEMBER&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals

(Source: *News from CILIP*, 1 Nov 2023)

Positive short article in *Big Issue*:

“Some 93% of public libraries polled by Libraries Connected plan to offer free, heated spaces in the colder months”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

“Record number of young people seeking homelessness support”

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/record-number-of-young-people-seeking-homelessness-support>

(Source: *Children & Young People Now Update*, 6 Nov 2023)

“A record number of 16- to 24-year-olds approached their local authority for support with homelessness last year, Centrepoin has warned.”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“Digital Inclusion: Time for Action Not Words”

https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/what-we-do/news/digital-inclusion-time-for-action-not-words/?utm_source=Good+Things+Foundation+Newsletter&utm_campaign=3cf1c43a41-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_04_05_08_12_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_874c1dbcc0-3cf1c43a41-110066901

(Source: *Good News from Good Things Foundation*, Oct 2023)

Good Things Foundation’s comments on the Government’s response on digital inclusion:

“The House of Lord's digital exclusion inquiry rang alarm bells - but the Government's response fell flat. Our Group CEO, Helen Milner OBE, writes about our disappointment at the lack of promised action.”

Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion – Other Agencies

“An Open Letter to the Government about EDI in Science (October 2023)”

https://katharinehubbard.wordpress.com/2023/10/05/an-open-letter-to-the-government-about-edi-in-science-october-2023/?mc_cid=49132934c1&mc_eid=e91604b40f

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

An interesting challenge to claims about EDI and ‘woke’ science, especially issues around sex and gender.

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

Loneliness inequalities evidence review

<https://www.wcpp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/WCPP-REPORT-Loneliness-Inequalities-Evidence-Review.pdf>

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

New from the Wales Centre for Public Policy:

“This review summarises evidence on inequalities in loneliness – differences between social groups in the extent to which individuals experience loneliness – and the interpersonal and structural factors that underpin these. The review both contributes to identifying loneliness inequalities and maps out possible mechanisms for their emergence, to point to how they can be addressed by policy changes.

There is evidence for inequalities in loneliness across a range of groups. Migrants, members of ethnic and racially minoritised groups, sexual minorities, transgender and gender non-conforming individuals, disabled people, those in poor physical or mental health, carers, individuals with low socio-economic status, and unemployed people, all disproportionately experience loneliness.

Some identities work together to increase the odds that people experience loneliness, with particularly strong effects when the identities intersecting are stigmatised by society (e.g., older migrants in poor health). Overall, inequalities in loneliness overlap with a range of other social inequalities, increasing the marginalisation of specific social groups.

At the interpersonal level, the evidence shows that everyday social experiences of minoritised groups typically differ from the experiences of the majority or dominant group. Loneliness inequalities are caused by mechanisms of marginalisation, such as interpersonal rejection, bullying, and discrimination.

In addition to these interpersonal exclusion processes, mere difference from dominant society (e.g., neurodivergence, cultural minority status) can also facilitate loneliness in the absence of direct exclusion, due to clashes in social norms creating challenges in social interactions.” [pp4-5]

“Islamophobia and mental health: a guide for young people”

https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/islamophobia-and-mental-health/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=november_23

Very useful resource from YoungMinds, including advice and tips (“We spoke with young Muslims to find out about their experiences of Islamophobia and the things that helped them to get through it.”)

It also links into Islamophobia Awareness Month – see:

<https://www.islamophobia-awareness.org/>.

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

“Refugee Employability Programme”

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/refugee-employability-programme?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=4bfcc35-8b1a-4a40-9fec-a8e69d9df1fa&utm_content=weekly

(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Bi-Monthly Newsflash*, Aug/Sep/Oct 2023)

The Government has launched this new programme which offers employment support; English language support; and integration support.

There are specific eligibility criteria – see the website.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“Is the asylum backlog ‘falling rapidly’?”

https://fullfact.org/immigration/asylum-backlog-figures/?mc_cid=90eab82632&mc_eid=7d8713d645

(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 30 Oct 2023)

A “Full Fact” clarification of figures given out earlier this month.

The Government claim was that “the backlog in asylum cases is now falling rapidly”.

However:

“Mr Jenrick was likely referring to the ‘legacy backlog’, which has fallen by almost 37,000 since the end of November 2022. The overall number of outstanding asylum cases has increased over the same period, though it has fallen slightly since reaching a near-record high in June.”

“Over half the people seeking asylum are now unable to access a legal aid lawyer”

https://freemovement.org.uk/over-half-the-people-seeking-asylum-are-now-unable-to-access-a-legal-aid-lawyer/?mc_cid=90eab82632&mc_eid=7d8713d645

(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 30 Oct 2023)

New post:

“At least 51% of asylum applicants in England and Wales – 37,450 people – are now unable to find a legal aid lawyer.

That is the deficit between the number of new legal aid cases opened (‘matters’) and the number of new applications for asylum. This analysis comes from Freedom of Information data on immigration legal aid matter starts for the contract year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023.”

“Israel-Palestine: Avoiding Antisemitic and Islamophobic Hate Speech”

<https://solutionsnotsides.co.uk/blog/2021/avoiding-antisemitic-islamophobic-hate-speech>

(Source: email from Laura Lay, 2 Nov 2023)

Very useful guidance – and reminders – from Solutions Not Sides.

“Solutions Not Sides is an education programme that exists to provide humanising encounters, diverse narratives and critical-thinking tools in order to empower young people with the knowledge, empathy and skills to promote dialogue and conflict resolution, and to challenge prejudice in the UK.” [Taken from: <https://solutionsnotsides.co.uk/what-we-do/mission-values>]

“Third Sector Statement for Local Authorities on the Illegal Migration Act 2023”

<https://www.kidsinneedofdefense.org.uk/2023/10/illegal-migration-act-third-sector-statement-local-authorities/>

(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Bi-Monthly Newsflash*, Aug/Sep/Oct 2023)

Joint statement on the new Act:

“The signatories to this statement are charitable organisations that assist migrants and children of migrant backgrounds, including children in need, children in care, and care leavers. Many of our organisations regularly collaborate with and/or provide services for local authorities, such as training and advice on immigration and nationality issues, and delivering commissioned housing and advice services. We are concerned that the Act will lead to a large (and steadily growing) number of people living in limbo in the UK – not being able to return to their countries, not having their asylum claims heard and not being removed to third countries. The Refugee Council has estimated that this could affect as many as 250,000 people in the first three years – including 40-45,000 children [...] The implementation of the Act will likely lead to many thousands of people living in our communities without the opportunity to regularise their immigration status, potentially for many years. They will likely be reliant

on minimal support from the Home Office and/or local authorities, and the risk of homelessness, destitution, exploitation and deteriorating health is profound.”

The statement goes on to outline the likely impact on local authorities and recommends actions that local authorities can take to challenge, prepare for, and mitigate the impact.

“Great British Welcome” [photo series]

<https://www.unhcr.org/uk/news-and-stories/special-features/great-british-welcome>

(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Bi-Monthly Newsflash*, Aug/Sep/Oct 2023)

“Whether singing in Greenwich, bouldering in Liverpool, cooking in Cardiff, or in many other ordinary and extraordinary ways, A Great British Welcome reveals how British communities and the refugees and asylum-seekers they host can thrive together.”

“Where Are All the Climate Migrants? Explaining Immobility amid Environmental Change”

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/climate-change-trapped-populations>

(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Bi-Monthly Newsflash*, Aug/Sep/Oct 2023)

Interesting new article:

“Millions of people migrate each year because of the impacts of climate change and other extreme environmental events. While people can and do cross international borders, typically this movement is within their own country. In 2022 alone, disasters drove some 32.6 million recorded internal displacements – the highest figure in more than a decade. This includes people forced to flee floods, monsoons, and other shock events; an additional unknown number moved in response to gradually deteriorating environmental conditions such as sea-level rise, coastal erosion, extreme heat, and climatic variability.

Yet, as worrying as these statistics are, the vast majority of people living in places highly vulnerable to climate change do not migrate. If migration or displacement was the inevitable response to environmental change, the world would be in the midst of a much more dramatic upheaval. The fact that it is not could be interpreted as a good thing, since being settled is often seen as normal and even desirable and, therefore, unproblematic.

However, the reality is both more complicated and more concerning.”

“New report urges stronger protections for UK’s seasonal workers”

https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/stories/2023-11-06/new-report-urges-stronger-protections-for-uks-seasonal-workers?mc_cid=9d9b4d96cc&mc_eid=7d8713d645

(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 6 Nov 2023)

Coverage by The Bureau of Investigative Journalism of a new report from the HOL Horticultural Sector Committee, which “[...] demands clampdown on abuse, poor living conditions and illegal fees.”

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

“REVEAL: Reinforcing Ethics and Values for Effective Advocacy for Libraries”

<https://www.cilips.org.uk/reveal/>

The REVEAL Project, funded via the CILIP Scotland Research Fund, was led by David McMenemy from the University of Glasgow. It:

“[...] sought to consider effective advocacy for library and information services through the lens of the ethics and values of the profession and what the practising of these values on a day-to-day basis across the profession contributes to society.”

The project outputs include a paper which explores key concepts, and a series of ten videos with supporting infographics.

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