



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 390, 9 January 2024

Events

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

Cost of living crisis/poverty – Other Agencies

“4 uncomfortable realities of food charity: Power, religion, race and cash”

https://www.transformingsociety.co.uk/2023/12/01/4-uncomfortable-realities-of-food-charity-power-religion-race-and-cash/?utm_source=Bristol+University+Press%2FPolicy+Press+sign+up+list&utm_campaign=289f009bde-Policy+Dec+23&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-289f009bde-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D

(Source: *New from Policy Press this month*, 18 Dec 2023)

Thought-provoking post about some of the structural issues behind food banks and poverty.

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“Attainment gap for older pupils highest on record, report finds”

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/attainment-gap-for-older-pupils-highest-on-record-report-finds>

(Source: *Children & Young People Now Update*, 18 Dec 2023)

“The Covid-19 pandemic has led to a wider attainment gap between poorer pupils and their more affluent peers, with 16- to 19-year-olds worst affected, a report from the Education Policy Institute (EPI) has found [...]

The gap for disadvantaged students at the end of 16 to 19 study is the widest its [sic] been since the EPI’s studies started in 2017, as disadvantaged pupils were 4.5 grades behind their more affluent peers. This gap also increased across all qualification types in 2022 compared with 2019, according to the report.

Attainment for disadvantaged pupils was found to be highest in London, with the gap growing across all education phases in England. In terms of the government’s flagship opportunity areas, only Oldham managed to narrow its disadvantage gap between 2016 and 2022.”

The full report (and a summary is also available):

Education Policy Institute. *Annual Report 2023*

<https://epi.org.uk/annual-report-2023/>

Campaign to End Loneliness: statement of closure

<https://www.campaigntoendloneliness.org/closure-statement-from-the-campaign-to-end-loneliness/>

(Source: *Later Life AGenda*, 18 Dec 2023)

Just in case you haven't seen this:

“It is with a heavy heart that we are announcing that the Campaign to End Loneliness will close in April 2024, along with the What Works Centre for Wellbeing who have generously hosted us since 2021 [...] It will come as no surprise to our many supporters and partners that these are tough times for not for profit organisations and many are struggling to raise the vital funds needed to deliver whilst costs are rising. Sadly we haven't been immune to these challenges and there is no possible way to secure the funds needed for independence or a future host at this time.”

“How a programme giving millions to residents to improve their neighbourhoods also risks entrenching inequality”

https://theconversation.com/how-a-programme-giving-millions-to-residents-to-improve-their-neighbourhoods-also-risks-entrenching-inequality-217327?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20December%2020%202023%20-%202831628701&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20December%2020%202023%20-%202831628701+CID_f2acd9a6b15441f9c65216d7e65818e7&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=How%20a%20programme%20giving%20millions%20to%20residents%20to%20improve%20their%20neighbourhoods%20also%20risks%20entrenching%20inequality

(Source: *The Conversation*, 20 Dec 2023)

Thoughtful look at power relationships and resources:

“Over the past quarter century, the idea has taken hold among politicians across the spectrum that one of the best ways to address inequality is to give local communities the resources to do the work themselves. Provide them with funding and they can spend it on the projects that their communities really need. But our research has shown that while many of these projects can be very positive, they can also entrench existing inequalities.”

Modelling essential skills needs across England

https://learningandwork.org.uk/resources/research-and-reports/modelling-essential-skills-needs-across-england/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=New+briefing%3A++Modelling+Essential+Skills+Needs+Across+England&utm_campaign=Essential+skills+modelling&vgo_ee=k9V%2BVVXIU4S%2FaSOAk5zbpiQMfCBi7r%2FD0IjE%2FYZan%2FfZXq%3D%3D%3A3o2Uo%2B1Ci7uZH4vJsIha6W8gEfjNhx

(Source: email from Learning and Work Institute, 3 Jan 2024)

“This briefing presents the results of an England-wide data modelling exercise to map the essential skills of adults aged 16 to 64, thought to be the first of its kind.

The modelling reveals disparities in essential skills levels within local areas which far exceed those between local and combined authorities across the country. This suggests that not only is there a need for an increased focus on and investment in essential skills as part of a national lifelong learning strategy, but that this must be coupled with a laser-like local focus on targeting provision where it is most needed.” [p1]

Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion – Other Agencies

“Feminist Periodicals Guide”

<https://liberatinghistories.org/resources/periodicals-guide/>

(Source: email from Heather Dawson, LSE, to archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk, 2 Jan 2024)

New on the “Liberating Histories” website:

“The pages of our Feminist Periodicals Guide provide detailed information on each of the feminist magazine titles below.

Information provided includes dates, prices and circulation figures as well as notes on the magazine’s aesthetics, historical contexts, editors and links to further reading resources.”

Human Rights – Other Agencies

Attitudes to human rights in Scotland

https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/2571/attitudes-to-human-rights-in-scotland.pdf?utm_source=Equally+Ours+Newsletter+2022&utm_campaign=97e753609b-Newsletter+December+1+2023&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_93cf2d2bcb-97e753609b-120687778

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 21 Dec 2023)

New report:

“The report updates insights from a study carried out for the Commission in 2017 to help us understand public attitudes towards human rights and specific issues in Scotland. It sets out the findings and give a more detailed picture of how views on human rights in Scotland have progressed over time.” [p2]

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

“House of Memories Cymru”

<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/house-of-memories/cymru/house-of-memories-cymru>

(*Newyddion CILIP Cymru Wales News*, Dec 2023)

“We are delighted to announce that our award-winning House of Memories dementia awareness programme has launched in Wales!

Funded by the Welsh Government, House of Memories Cymru is a dual-language dementia awareness programme. It includes a dual-language app, My House of Memories [see:

<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/house-of-memories/cymru/download-app>], as well as a range of training,

workshops, and activities. Our aim is to enable families and caregivers to support people living with dementia through person-centred care.

Fourteen museum partners across the country have worked together to create our app, populated with digital objects chosen by our museum partners for their significance to Welsh heritage as well as their potential to stimulate memories and conversation.”

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

“UK Anti-Loneliness Scheme Fails to Impact Elderly”

<https://www.miragenews.com/uk-anti-loneliness-scheme-fails-to-impact-1146062/>

(Source: *Later Life AGenda*, 19 Dec 2023)

Interesting article which argues that the recent campaigns are having limited effect and identifies three possible reasons:

- “[...] the intensity and level of investment in anti-loneliness activities may be too low in most local authorities and insufficient to generate change.
- Second, a public campaign might operate through a complex chain of effects that involve increasing awareness and identification, followed by adoption of concrete strategies by local authorities. These changes will need to be sustained over time in order to generate impact and as a result, the UK anti-loneliness campaign might require long periods of exposure to generate measurable changes.
- Third, the ‘structural’ causes of loneliness remain and may not be altered through a public loneliness campaign, as it may relate to long-standing living arrangements, patterns of social interaction and changes in family composition, which may be difficult to change through a local authority campaign.”

“[...] Mirage.News is a non-Murdoch, non-aligned, independent, real-time media platform operating out of Wollongong NSW.” [Taken from:

<https://www.miragenews.com/about-us/>]

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

“Deaf Perspectives: Past and Present”

<https://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/deaf-perspectives/>

Project summary report: <https://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Deaf-Perspectives-Past-and-Present-%E2%80%93-93-project-summary.pdf>

(Source: email from Hannah Salisbury (Suffolk Archives) to archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk, 18 Dec 2023)

“This project was inspired by the life and photographs of Walton Burrell (1863-1944). Walton was profoundly deaf from birth, as were three of his 13 siblings. He learned the art of photography in his late teens and estimated he took over 20,000 photos in his lifetime. About 3,000 of those photographs are today looked after by Suffolk Archives.

Walton spent his whole life in the Bury St Edmunds area, but travelled all over the world including trips to Egypt, Australia, North and South America, and Japan.

The project took Walton's story as a starting point for creative activities with d/Deaf children and young people at Westgate Community Primary School and King Edward VI School in Bury St Edmunds. Both schools have Deaf Resource Bases which provide support for their d/Deaf and hard of hearing students."

Migration issues – Other Agencies

"Being an immigrant doesn't entitle you to get more money from the state than a pensioner"

<https://fullfact.org/immigration/immigrants-pensioners-money-to-live-on/>

(Source: *Later Life AGEnda*, 18 Dec 2023)

A very useful "Full Fact" post. It includes:

"This is missing context. Some migrants may be paid benefits on the same basis as UK nationals and get more than the state pension, but not because of their immigration status. Many can't claim benefits at all. Cash support given to asylum seekers is much less than the state pension, though they may also be given temporary accommodation."

"No, Brexit didn't help UK 'take back control' – it made immigration rise. Here's how"

https://www.bigissue.com/opinion/brexit-net-migration-rishi-sunak-uk-immigration/?mc_cid=e3e1fd3279&mc_eid=7d8713d645

(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 18 Dec 2023)

Very interesting article:

"One of the key ideas behind Brexit was to 'take back control' of immigration. Back in 2010, David Cameron pledged to bring net migration to under 100,000 a year, but the promise was never met. Brexit was widely thought to "get the job done" by stopping unlimited inflows from EU citizens.

However, in the post-Brexit years, immigration has soared to unprecedented levels. Net immigration, which hovered around 200,000 in pre-Brexit years skyrocketed to an all-time high of 745,000 in 2022. Paradoxically, this hike in immigration occurred not despite of, but rather because of Brexit. This is because Brexit had a number of knock-on effects that paradoxically led to more, instead of less, net immigration.

So, how could Brexit have possibly led to more immigration? A big part of the answer is that while Brexit successfully curtailed free inflows of EU workers, it did not eliminate labour shortages that had been driving increasing migration to the UK ever since the 1990s."

Making strides: refugees' employment trajectories in Yorkshire and the Humber

<https://www.ippr.org/files/2023-12/making-strides-december-2023.pdf>

(Source: IPPR *The Progressive Insider*, 21 Dec 2023)

New report:

“This report presents the findings of a research study looking at the employment experiences of refugees and people with humanitarian leave living in Yorkshire and the Humber [...]

People arriving in the UK on different schemes and routes have a variety of rights and entitlements that shape their access to the labour market and the employment support they might receive. For this reason, this study looked at four groups, on different routes, as case studies to understand better how the route through which people enter and are permitted to remain in the UK impacts on their employment and job progression experiences. The groups were:

- Ukrainians who arrived via the Homes for Ukraine scheme and the Ukraine Family Scheme
- Hongkongers who arrived via the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) route
- Afghans who arrived via the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) resettlement programme
- ‘asylum route’ refugees granted leave to remain following a positive decision on their asylum claim.” [pp4-5]

There is an accompanying video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XwRttYQrLMw&t=1s>.

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