



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 393, 7 February 2024

Events

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

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“Campaign to reduce risk of homelessness for young people”

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/campaign-to-reduce-risk-of-homelessness-for-young-people>

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Update*, 29 Jan 2024)

Short article introducing a new campaign:

“The #Planforthe136k campaign highlights Centrepoint figures which reveal that 135,800 16-to 25-year-olds presented at their local authority as homeless or at risk of homelessness in 2022/23.”

There is further info about the campaign at:

<https://www.planforthe136k.org.uk/learn-more>, and a policy briefing at: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6564abee83a8166949a8d324/t/658315da8eb4ae6700576bfa/1703089628144/Youth+Homelessness+Strategy_Policy+Briefing+-+v12.pdf.

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

“Hungry for Connection: Addressing Loneliness Through the Library”

https://www.libraryjournal.com/story/news/hungry-for-connection-addressing-loneliness-through-the-library?utm_campaign=LJXpress&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=293006682&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8ww4kjdquv8-onyDYKfh7wGjaVWy7YEuMMhBaAsY9q2ZH0VVTnJWMQW1MDUIgvyFwCpTXv6vgd6kbqGa-S_d2J6NrvOg&utm_content=293006682&utm_source=hs_email

(Source: *LJXpress* – *Library Journal*, 6 Feb 2024)

Article from US *Library Journal*, that looks at some recent initiatives to bring people together via libraries.

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

Reading for mental wellbeing: children and young people's voices in 2023

https://nlt.cdn.ngo/media/documents/Reading_for_mental_wellbeing_in_2023.pdf

(Source: National Literacy Trust *Literacy News*, 6 Feb 2024)

This short report came out in Nov 2023:

“[...] these findings indicate the powerful and ongoing role of reading – and nurturing reading environments – in supporting children and young people’s mental wellbeing.”

Key findings include:

- “3 in 5 (59.4%) children and young people told us that reading helped them relax
- Nearly 1 in 2 (46.0%) said reading made them feel happy
- 3 in 10 said reading made them feel more confident (29.8%) or helped them deal with problems (27.3%)” [both quotes taken from: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/research-services/research-reports/reading-for-mental-wellbeing-in-2023/>]

Books Unlocked: final report 2022/23

https://nlt.cdn.ngo/media/documents/Books_Unlocked_final_report_-_2022-23.pdf

(Source: National Literacy Trust *Literacy News*, 6 Feb 2024)

“Books Unlocked supports people in prisons and young offender institutions, as well as others in community settings such as schools and libraries, to read for enjoyment.” [taken from: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/programmes/books-unlocked/>]

This latest evaluation report assesses their impact.

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

“Ukrainian books in Irish libraries: solace and shelter for refugees amid wartime upheaval”

<https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/books/2024/01/27/ukrainian-books-in-irish-libraries-solace-and-shelter-for-refugees-amid-wartime-upheaval/>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 28 Jan 2024)

Important, positive piece about Ukrainian books in Irish libraries.

Migration issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations: Libraries of Sanctuary

A toolkit for co-created community engagement projects

https://www.migrationmuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Migration-Museum-Peoples-Tool-Kit_compressed.pdf

(Source: City of Sanctuary *Newsletter*, 31 Jan 2024)

“In 2022, the People’s Panel and People’s Network were established to co-produce the Migration Museum’s core community engagement values.

By building a community engagement strategy from the ground up, our members have shaped the museum’s values, objectives and influenced the activities that will shape our programme moving forward.

Our ultimate goal is to mainstream community engagement and consultation into every aspect of the museum.

We now want to share our learnings far and wide, and encourage others to undertake processes of coproduction in community engagement work.” [p4]

Our impact 2023: City of Sanctuary UK

<https://cdn.cityofsanctuary.org/uploads/2024/01/2023-Impact-Report.pdf>

(Source: email from City of Sanctuary, 6 Feb 2024)

City of Sanctuary UK’s latest impact report which includes info about the different streams, eg:

“There are now 126 local groups across the UK, from large cities like Sheffield and Manchester to small rural locations like East Hoathly and Halland Village of Sanctuary. 8 new groups started in 2023 [...]” [p8]

“A total of 56 local councils are now formally within the Local Authority network, and overall we are engaged with 158, including an incredible 28 out of 32 London Boroughs.” [p10]

“Across the UK there are now over 60 universities who either have the University of Sanctuary award or are working towards it.” [p11]

“There are now 417 awarded schools, with another 393 working towards recognition.” [p12]

“There are now 22 awarded Library Services of Sanctuary – in total that’s almost 400 libraries around the UK who are recognised by the award. 7 of these awards were given in 2023 [...]” [p15]

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“The silent serial killer: 391 deaths in 25 years at the UK border”

https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/beyond-trafficking-and-slavery/the-silent-serial-killer-391-deaths-in-25-years-at-the-uk-border/?utm_source=All%20UK%20Contacts%20in%20Daily%20Email%20List&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The%20silent%20serial%20killer&_kx=1_8D1xQSf81SrwgQ7oVGBK2bIBk82Fazlk5OMY7463I%3D.YiCYwm

(Source: openDemocracy *Daily Newsletter*, 6 Feb 2024)

“Between 1 January 1999 and 1 January 2024, 391 migrants died on the border between the UK, France and Belgium [...]”

The vast majority of migrants who have died around Calais come from the Global South, particularly from Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. Sudanese, Iraqis, Vietnamese, and Chinese account for over a third of victims. Most have left countries classified as ‘authoritarian regimes’, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit’s Democracy Index.”

There is further info about the “Democracy Index” at:
<https://www.eiu.com/n/campaigns/democracy-index-2022/>.

Student migration to the UK

<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/MigObs-Briefing-Student-migration-to-the-UK-2024.pdf>

The latest Migration Observatory “Briefing”:

“This briefing examines international students in the UK. It presents statistics on their numbers, characteristics, economic impact, what they do after their studies, and how many settle in the UK.” [p2]

Humanitarian visas in a hostile environment: historical legacies, geopolitical ties and everyday experiences

https://www.migzen.net/site/assets/files/5156/2024_new_humanitarian_visas_in_a_hostile_environment-1.pdf

(Source: *The Conversation*, 31 Jan 2024)

“The report sheds light on the thoughts of Hong Kongers and Ukrainians living in the UK about these schemes. It uncovers how geopolitical factors, historical context and individual circumstances intertwine to influence the decision-making process of those who have relocated to the UK as beneficiaries of these visas.

The findings reveal the distance between the government’s rhetoric on the humanitarian visas – often portrayed as flagship schemes of the UK’s post-Brexit migration regime and evidence of its continuous commitment to international protection – and the experiences and challenges faced by those entering the UK via these provisions.” [p2]

Surviving in poverty: a report documenting life on asylum support

<https://asylumatters.org/app/uploads/2023/12/Asylum-Matters-Surviving-in-Poverty-Report-A4-SINGLES-Dec-2023.pdf>

(Source: *City of Sanctuary Newsletter*, 31 Jan 2024)

Important new report from Asylum Matters:

“Our survey results show the devastating situation of living on asylum support, unable to work to improve your circumstances.

When asked about their ability to cover basic living expenses, like food, medication, toiletries, cleaning supplies, clothing, transport and internet data, an overwhelming majority of people revealed a distressing truth. People either couldn’t afford these essentials or could only do so occasionally. For any of these basics, only a small minority of people, often barely 10%, expressed confidence in their ability to consistently meet their vital needs.

This situation and the harsh reality of trying to live on asylum support underscores an urgent need to reform asylum support and the asylum

system, including the right to work, so people have the chance to rebuild their lives in the UK.” [p16]

“Even many critics of the Rwanda deportation policy are missing the point of why it’s wrong”

https://theconversation.com/even-many-critics-of-the-rwanda-deportation-policy-are-missing-the-point-of-why-its-wrong-221425?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%205%202024%20-%202868729099&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%205%202024%20-%202868729099+CID_a50cf7d265a31b61069810c618819bd4&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Even%20many%20critics%20of%20the%20Rwanda%20deportation%20policy%20are%20missing%20the%20point%20of%20why%20its%20wrong

(Source: *The Conversation*, 5 Feb 2024)

Very interesting article:

“This should be a discussion not only about how (and how not to) treat refugees in general, but also about the value we place on the humanity of the specific refugees that will most likely be affected by the policy. Instead, we have been left with a debate on the government’s own, self-serving terms.

I would argue that what is wrong with the government’s policy has almost nothing to do with the destination of deportations, and everything to do with who is being sent there.”

“Morecambe Bay cockling tragedy: 20 years on, remembering the victims and their impact on modern slavery law”

https://theconversation.com/morecambe-bay-cockling-tragedy-20-years-on-remembering-the-victims-and-their-impact-on-modern-slavery-law-222631?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%206%202024%20-%202870329126&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%206%202024%20-%202870329126+CID_c2214f96b62a701a55acbda85a1aac13&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Morecambe%20Bay%20cockling%20tragedy%2020%20years%20on%20remembering%20the%20victims%20and%20their%20impact%20on%20modern%20slavery%20law

(Source: *The Conversation*, 6 Feb 2024)

Timely article:

“On February 5 2004, 23 people drowned while picking cockles on the beach of Morecambe Bay in Lancashire. The victims were illegally smuggled Chinese immigrants, brought via Liverpool by criminal gangmasters, and forced to work in highly dangerous conditions, scavenging for shellfish [...]

If the cocklers had been given even basic information about the treacherous tides or been supervised, they could have survived. This wholly avoidable tragedy served as a dramatic wake-up call to the extent

and dangers of modern slavery, which still affects an estimated 130,000 people in the UK today and 50 million globally.”

Broader issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

“Sexism permeates every layer of the music industry – new report echoes what research has been saying for years”

https://theconversation.com/sexism-permeates-every-layer-of-the-music-industry-new-report-echoes-what-research-has-been-saying-for-years-222645?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%205%202024%20-%202868729099&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%205%202024%20-%202868729099+CID_a50cf7d265a31b61069810c618819bd4&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Sexism%20permeates%20every%20layer%20of%20the%20music%20industry%20new%20report%20echoes%20what%20research%20has%20been%20saying%20for%20years

(Source: *The Conversation*, 5 Feb 2024)

Interesting article that introduces a new Government report, *Misogyny in music* – the full report and a summary are at:

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5804/cmselect/cmwomeq/129/summary.html#:~:text=Women%20working%20in%20the%20music,employment%20and%20gendered%20power%20imbalances..>

Broader issues – Other Agencies

“‘Looksmaxxing’ is the disturbing TikTok trend turning young men into incels”

https://theconversation.com/looksmaxxing-is-the-disturbing-tiktok-trend-turning-young-men-into-incels-221724?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%202%202024%20-%202866929084&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%202%202024%20-%202866929084+CID_d9fd628d574e8dc70dc8432f879d1828&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Looksmaxxing%20is%20the%20disturbing%20TikTok%20trend%20turning%20young%20men%20into%20incels

(Source: *The Conversation*, 2 Feb 2024)

Interesting – and worrying – article that looks at a new TikTok trend:

“A new trend taking over TikTok is targeting vulnerable young men. The ‘looksmaxxing’ phenomenon – to maximise one’s looks – is aimed at young men and boys who want to change their appearance to become more attractive and gain social acceptance [...]

Looksmaxxing may appear harmless, encouraging self-care, exercise and healthy eating. But at its core it has ties to violence, suicide and incels (involuntary celibates) – men who blame women for their struggles with establishing romantic or sexual relationships.”