



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 400, 28 June 2024

Events

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

Black Lives Matter/Anti-racism

Public harms: racism and misogyny in policing, education, and mental health services

<https://blackequityorg.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Public-Harms.pdf>

(Source: mail from the Black Equity Organisation, 13 Jun 2024)

Important new report from the Black Equity Organisation and the Fawcett Society, which “[...] explores racism and misogyny (collectively termed as misogynoir), in the public institutions of policing, education and mental health services. It discusses the findings of two separate exercises.” [p6]

The report has a series of key recommendations, and it is also worth quoting the Conclusions at some length here:

“Underpinning each of these themes is a central thread: the operation of power – including its abuse – in women’s lives, within and without public services. This is not abstract but seen in the concrete lived experiences of women. By remaining insensitive to race and gender, and opting for a “one size fits all” approach, public services recreate and propagate the abuse of power occurring elsewhere in women’s lives.

Importantly, these problems are not isolated incidents but are instead indicative of a systemic issue which arises in similar patterns across different public institutions. Thus, to make meaningful change, we must fundamentally re-evaluate these dynamics, listen to women’s voices, and work to actively resist and dismantle the racism and misogyny embedded within public services.

We urgently need to recognise that public institutions are causing harm to women, and Black women specifically. This harms everyone in society, and needs to change, urgently. All those committed to public service delivery and reform need to prioritise improving the experience for Black women, recognising how the themes above impact on service experience.” [p47]

Congratulations!

“Libraries Connected Awards 2024 winners revealed”

<https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/news/libraries-connected-awards-2024-winners-revealed>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 9 Jun 2024)

Just in case you haven't seen the announcement:

“The library workers behind a scheme to help refugees connect with loved ones, a tech hub for blind and partially sighted people, and a flexible safe space for teenagers are among this year's winners of our third annual Awards.”

Cost of living crisis/poverty – Other Agencies

“Charity to offer books at food banks across the UK”

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/article/2024/jun/11/charity-to-offer-books-at-food-banks-across-the-uk>

(Source: email from Helen Carpenter, 13 Jun 2024)

Just in case you didn't see this article:

“Schemes established in London and Norfolk will give away books alongside food, with a programme of author events also planned”

More info at: <https://www.bookbanks.co.uk/>.

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

Museums Change Lives Awards 2024

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/campaigns/museums-change-lives/awards-2024/>

(Source: Museums Association update, 13 Jun 2024)

“You can now nominate eligible organisations and individuals for our 2024 awards.

The deadline for entries is **5.30pm on 19 August 2024.**”

“‘If there's nowhere else to go, this is where they come': how Britain's libraries provide much more than books”

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/article/2024/jun/25/how-britains-libraries-provide-more-than-books>

Just in case you haven't seen this brilliant *Guardian* “Long Read” article which outlines some of the huge range of provision that public libraries make:

“The average public library is not only a provider of the latest Anne Enright or Julia Donaldson: it is now an informal citizens advice bureau, a business development centre, a community centre and a mental health provider. It is an unofficial Sure Start centre, a homelessness shelter, a literacy and foreign language-learning centre, a calm space where tutors can help struggling kids, an asylum support provider, a citizenship and driving theory test centre, and a place to sit still all day and stare at the

wall, if that is what you need to do, without anyone expecting you to buy anything.”

Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“How could the Library and Information Studies curriculum better prepare graduates to address equity, diversity and inclusion issues in their workplace?”

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/01655515241245960>

(Source: News from CILIP, 12 Jun 2024)

Interesting article, although, disappointingly, it hardly mentions work in public libraries ...

Disability issues – Other Agencies

“How to become more deaf-aware”

https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/blog/how-to-become-more-deaf-aware/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=may_2024&utm_content=025

(Source: *YoungMinds Monthly Newsletter*, May 2024)

Important brief and practical advice:

“Deafness is one of the most common disabilities and it affects all D/deaf people in a variety of ways. By becoming more deaf-aware, you can make a significant difference in removing barriers to our health and wellbeing.”

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

“Library support for the refugee community: Welcome”

<https://lancaster.libguides.com/c.php?g=709216&p=5115963>

(Source: email from Lesley English, 10 May 2024)

Really useful intro:

“This guide is for use by the refugee/asylum seeker community. Lancaster University and University of Cumbria have joined together to create this guide which highlights resources and facilities that can be used by the community at either of our campuses.”

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“A new generation of Vietnamese migrants is protesting against their home government”

https://theconversation.com/a-new-generation-of-vietnamese-migrants-is-protesting-against-their-home-government-222658?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20May%2010%202024%20-%202964530148&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20May%2010%202024%20-%202964530148+CID_e2d64c0252ab7f5ad8c612e90e17224e&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=A%20new%20generation%20of%20Vietnames

[e%20migrants%20is%20protesting%20against%20their%20home%20government](#)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 10 May 2024)

Interesting background info.

“It opens eyes’: How one UK school has welcomed and learned from refugees”

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/article/2024/jun/23/uk-primary-school-birchanger-refugees-teaching-training-irc>

Very interesting article about how one school welcomed refugees – and changed – with support from the International Rescue Committee healing classrooms programme:

“When a hotel in the village of Birchanger started hosting refugees in 2022, a group of the fathers turned up at the local school one day and asked: ‘Can our children join?’ [...]

The intake of children from Kurdistan, Iran, Colombia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Ukraine and Afghanistan increased the school’s population by 12%, shifting it away from a monoculture, with new dietary and religious requirements to factor in.”

For more info about the IRC programme, see: <https://www.rescue.org/uk/irc-uks-healing-classrooms>:

“The Healing Classrooms programme aims to support schools and educators to develop inclusive and nurturing learning spaces where refugee and asylum-seeking students can gain the necessary academic, social and emotional skills to develop their full potential.

We offer free training sessions and resources to educators and schools supporting refugee and asylum-seeking students in the UK.”

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

“We’ve researched trans inclusion for nearly a decade – how we do our work has changed”

https://theconversation.com/weve-researched-trans-inclusion-for-nearly-a-decade-how-we-do-our-work-has-changed-228161?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=UK%202024%20spring%20donations%20campaign%20launch%20-%20May%208&utm_content=UK%202024%20spring%20donations%20campaign%20launch%20-%20May%208+CID_c62da08395623a7b81b059c5ed1ef1d6&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Weve%20researched%20trans%20inclusion%20for%20nearly%20a%20decade%20%20how%20we%20do%20our%20work%20has%20changed

(Source: *The Conversation*, 8 May 2024)

Interesting (if grim) summary of where we are:

“We’ve researched the experiences of transgender and non-binary people, particularly in the workplace, for much of the last ten years. Our original motivations remain: generate robust evidence.

However, the environment is unrecognisable from when we started. Politicised media stories and polarised views are now ubiquitous. Researchers can contribute evidence and tools which could help.”

“Map shows UK hotspots for homophobic hate crimes”

<https://metro.co.uk/2024/06/10/map-shows-uk-hotspots-sexual-orientation-transgender-hate-crimes-20977346/>

(Source: Peter Tatchell Foundation *Weekly*, #306, 20 Jun 2024)

This is horrendous:

“The UK, which once used to be one of Europe’s most welcoming places to be gay, has seen a 462% increase in sexual orientation hate crime reports since 2012.”

LGBT+ parents report

<https://www.justlikeus.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/LGBT-parents-report-2024-by-Just-Like-Us.pdf>

(Source: LinkedIn)

Important new research which concludes:

“This report has shown that children of LGBT+ families, whether they themselves identify as part of the community or not, also face discrimination simply because of who their parents are.

Anti-LGBT+ attitudes among school communities are having a hugely detrimental impact on LGBT+ families abilities to engage in mainstream education, leaving parents anxious and children hurt and isolated.” [p13]

It has a list of recommendations, including:

“Add LGBT+ inclusive books to your school library. If budgets are an issue, Just Like Us has free videos of authors reading LGBT+ stories and reading lists for EYFS through to KS5. Sign up for School Diversity Week to get access.” [p17]

School Diversity Week – see: <https://www.justlikeus.org/join-us/>.

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

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

“Trust Libraries: our ten pledges to the incoming Government”

https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/election24?utm_campaign=1184657_Fortnightly%20newsletter%2012%20June%202024%20-%20MEMBER&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Chartered%20Institut

[e%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals&dm_i=6WFS,PE35,9VBO9,3DHUT,1](#)

Just in case you haven't seen this which "[...] sets out how CILIP, and the profession we represent, will keep libraries and their place in society as a trusted and essential service at the top of the new Government's agenda."

The 10 pledges are:

1. "To deliver trustworthy information and access to culture
2. To inform better decisions (including in business, health and government)
3. To offer a warm welcome and a safe place for all
4. To champion the right to read and intellectual freedom
5. To enable learning at the heart of communities and institutions (from high streets, online, and in prisons, to schools, colleges and universities)
6. To open a world of opportunities, inspiration and ideas
7. To fuel the future green economy with data and skills
8. To support diverse and resilient start-ups
9. To help unlock new research and innovation
10. To be ethical partners committed to social justice"

Broader issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

"Half of councils could be bankrupt within five years, think-tank warns"

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/half-of-councils-could-be-bankrupt-within-five-years-think-tank-warns>

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Update*, 19 Jun 2024)

Just in case you haven't seen this:

"All political parties are underestimating the financial crisis in local government with half of councils bracing themselves for bankruptcy within five years, according to think-tank the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU)."