

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 413, 26 February 2025

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

Racial disproportionality in violence affecting children and young people

https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/YEF_Racial_Disproportionality_FINAL.pdf

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Update*, 19 Feb 2025)

New report from the Youth Endowment Fund.

The ‘headlines’ are:

- “Children from certain ethnic groups – especially Black children and young people – are disproportionately likely to be victims of violence. Relative to their share of the population, Black children and young people are six times as likely to be victims of homicide.
- Children from certain ethnic groups are disproportionately likely to be represented in the criminal justice system and to become involved in violence, including as victims. For example, while Black children aged 10–17 make up 6% of the population, in 2023/24, they represented 10% of arrests, 15% of stop and searches and 24% of the monthly youth custody population. They are also five times more likely to be sentenced to custody for homicide, and are more likely to self-report being involved in assault both as victims and perpetrators.” [Taken from news release at: <https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/reports/racial-disproportionality/>]

Funding & Opportunities

Press release: “Major investment to boost growth and cement Britain’s place as cultural powerhouse”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-investment-to-boost-growth-and-cement-britains-place-as-cultural-powerhouse>

Quick mention of this – there will be further info shortly.

“Over £270 million Arts Everywhere Fund for arts venues, museums, libraries and the heritage sector in major boost for growth”

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

“Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham visits a Warm Welcome Space”

<https://www.warmwelcome.uk/blog/greater-manchester-mayor-andy-burnham-visits-a-warm-welcome-space>

(Source: Warm Welcome Spaces *E-News*, 19 Feb 2025)

Positive article about the Library’s Warm Welcome:

“Longsight Library is a heavily used library where the visitor base strongly matches the demographics of the local community. Lots of organisations use the library to deliver services to the local community, including Olympus Music Foundation and Citizens Advice Manchester.”

Blog: “Libraries are a vital support for people on low incomes”

https://www.povertyalliance.org/blog-libraries-are-a-vital-support-for-people-on-low-incomes/?utm_campaign=2059247_Fortnightly%20newsletter%2026%20February%202025%20MEMBER&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals&dm_i=6WFS,184XB,9VBO9,4QUXV,1

(Source: *News from CILIP*, 26 Feb 2025)

“As part of the Taking Action on Rural Poverty project, the Poverty Alliance have been working alongside Aberdeenshire residents who live on a low income in rural parts of the shire to form a citizens panel of people who want to feed into the Council’s decision-making process. The panel is particularly keen to feed into the plans to close 13 libraries across Aberdeenshire, many of them in rural areas.

The panel came together to discuss the importance of libraries for people on low incomes and those living in rural areas. They were concerned that the importance of these community hubs in places that have very poor access to services is not understood, and that by closing libraries, this would be ‘the very opposite of challenging loneliness and isolation’, and would make council services ‘even more inaccessible’.

Many examples were given of what risks being lost with these closures, and how libraries are used beyond accessing books [...]”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“New Independent Commission on Community and Cohesion”

<https://www.britishfuture.org/new-independent-commission-on-community-and-cohesion/>

(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Bi-Monthly Newflash*, Dec 2024/Jan 2025)

“British Future is supporting a new, Independent Commission on Community and Cohesion this spring, which seeks to understand the challenges to cohesion in our society and how we can rebuild community connection.”

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

“Libraries across Australia are safe havens for vulnerable people – so some are hiring social workers to help”

https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/feb/16/libraries-across-australia-are-safe-havens-for-vulnerable-people-so-some-are-hiring-social-workers-to-help?utm_campaign=2059247_Fortnightly%20newsletter%2026%20February%202025

[2025%20MEMBER&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals&dm_i=6WFS,184XB,9VBO9,4QUXW,1](https://www.cilip.org.uk/news/2025/02/26/australia-public-libraries-offer-much-more-than-books)

(Source: *News from CILIP*, 26 Feb 2025)

“Australia’s 1,700-odd public libraries offer much more than books. Inside, people find refuge, connections (both human and internet), and a free space open to everyone.

But, increasingly, those open doors are also letting in the woes of the world, Dr Jane Garner says, particularly because of the cost-of-living crisis.

‘Whatever challenges exist in the community – poverty, mental health struggles, addiction, homelessness – will inevitably be present in the library as well,’ says Garner, an associate professor at Charles Sturt University, and an expert on the relationship between vulnerable people and public libraries [...]

Many government services, post offices and banks have closed their shopfronts and shifted their operations online. This has left people with fewer opportunities for face-to-face interaction and support.

Places like Centrelink will tell people that the library will help them fill out their forms, while banks will send people in for help with their passwords, Garner says.

Then there are people with mental illness, those experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable people for whom there isn’t enough support.

It’s cost shifting, Garner says, and council libraries are stepping in where people have fallen through the gaps. That puts pressure on library staff, who need better workplace support, she says.”

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

The museum accessibility spectrum: re-imagining access and inclusion

<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/oa-edit/10.4324/9781003382713/museum-accessibility-spectrum-alison-eardley-vanessa-jones>

Source: email from Nicky McIntosh to GEM@JISCMAIL.AC.UK, 14 Feb 2025)

This new book argues that: “[...] what is impairing the progress of museums towards inclusion is the current ableist model of access.”

Chapters are free to download from this website.

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme

(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Bi-Monthly Newslash*, Dec 2024/Jan 2025)

“For Ukrainian individuals who have been given permission to be in the UK under one of the Ukraine Schemes, they are now able to apply under the Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme for a further 18 months permission to stay. The scheme opened to applications on 04 February 2025, when the previous Ukraine Extension Scheme closed.”
[Taken from the *Newsflash*]

There is further info about the Scheme at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-visa-under-the-ukraine-sponsorship-scheme?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=0b665a22-547b-43f1-8579-29fd7bbb6987&utm_content=immediately

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“Immigration myths are everywhere”

https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/politics/policy/immigration/69229/immigration-myths-are-everywhere?mc_cid=4186eb0f63&mc_eid=7d8713d645

(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 17 Feb 2025)

Short but important article, arguing that “The media is flooded with outright lies and misleading statistics.”

Deaths in the Channel – what needs to change

<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Deaths-in-the-Channel-Refugee-Council-report-January-2025.pdf>

(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Bi-Monthly Newsflash*, Dec 2024/Jan 2025)

New “Briefing Paper” from the Refugee Council.

UK public opinion toward immigration: overall attitudes and level of concern

<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2025-Briefing-UK-Public-Opinion-toward-Immigration-Overall-Attitudes-and-Level-of-Concern.pdf>

(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Bi-Monthly Newsflash*, Dec 2024/Jan 2025)

New “Briefing” from The Migration Observatory.

I suppose the most significant point is:

“Existing evidence shows that public opinion is divided when it comes to migration. However, the level of opposition is remarkably different depending on whether we ask respondents if they think that immigration is a good or a bad thing for Britain compared to when they are asked whether the migration inflows to the UK should be increased, reduced or remain the same. In April 2023, 32% thought immigration was a very bad or a bad thing, while 52% thought their numbers should be reduced (a little or a lot) [...] These differences likely reflect the fact that people are thinking about different phenomena (current immigration inflows vs. overall impact of immigration) for each of the two questions.” [p2]

Unauthorised migration in the UK

<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2025-Briefing-Unauthorised-migration-in-the-UK.pdf>

(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Bi-Monthly Newsflash*, Dec 2024/Jan 2025)

New “Briefing” from The Migration Observatory.

“This briefing examines unauthorised migration – also called ‘illegal immigration’ or ‘irregular migration’ – in the UK, including the difficulties in defining and measuring it, and evidence on its nature and scale.” [p1]

“UK immigration policy is stuck in a race to the bottom – with human traffickers the only winners”

https://www.bigissue.com/opinion/government-woefully-failing-protect-migrants-labour-exploitation/?mc_cid=4687d17ecf&mc_eid=7d8713d645

(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 24 Feb 2025)

Important, brief “Opinion” piece which highlights the cycle of legislation and the effects on new arrivals.

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

Building inclusive queer spaces: a community toolkit

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/627b6f7de7fcf62ea76e61ca/t/679cfad87f36b1100aa90965/1738341133208/JOIN+Community+Toolkit+-+PDF>

“Over 100 migrant and homeless LGBTQ+ people have contributed to an innovative new research project tackling social exclusion. Entitled *Building Inclusive Queer Spaces: A Community Toolkit*, the free publication reveals striking insights into the challenges faced by some of the most marginalised members of society.

Spearheaded by Friends of the Joiners Arms, The Join Project was led by Irish researcher Dr Siobhán McGuirk. She gathered input from people across London, to develop a range of concrete actions to help organisations and businesses become more inclusive.

Contributors reported experiencing several challenges, including asylum seekers’ government IDs not being accepted when entering venues, frequent and unexpected relocations due to Home Office or council decisions, being housed in locations with poor transport connections, limited finances resulting in reduced work and social opportunities, as well as general lack of awareness of accessibility.

The toolkit contains practical advice and concrete steps to achieve solutions, informed by LGBTQ+ migrant and homeless people. It is being distributed to over 60 charities, service providers and queer venues across the English capital in a bid to end exclusion.” [Taken from an article in *Gay Community News*: <https://gcn.ie/lgbtq-migrants-homeless-people-social-exclusion-toolkit/>]

This is an important, practical guide.

“New poll shows anti-trans sentiment is steadily growing in UK”

<https://www.attitude.co.uk/news/new-data-shows-anti-trans-sentiment-479586/>

(Source: Peter Tatchell Foundation *Weekly*, #338, 20 Feb 2025)

Grim news report from *Attitude* magazine:

“The research revealed even in sectors that usually lean more progressive, like women and young people, attitudes have worsened”

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

“Emotional demands of some types of museum work are ‘growing in intensity’”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2025/02/emotional-demands-of-some-types-of-museum-work-are-growing-in-intensity/#msdyntrid=tyibltAQ46jikyKaHtB7bZ1X7VZKtu6L_4_xCc9ydGE

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 14 Feb 2025)

Brief article that reports on new research which explores how UK museum professionals articulate, experience and utilise emotions.

Broader issues – Other Agencies

“The big lesson progressives need to learn to counter right wing populism”

https://neweconomics.org/2025/01/the-big-lesson-progressives-need-to-learn-to-counter-right-wing-populism?link_id=38&can_id=30e439a67211f81f4bbace156600453a&source=email-news-from-nef-fighting-airport-expansion&email_referrer=email_2601885&email_subject=news-from-nef-fighting-airport-expansion

(Source: New Economics Foundation *News from NEF*, 31 Jan 2025)

Interesting blogpost from the New Economics Foundation that argues that “ [...] we need to be focusing on building power in communities.”

It concludes:

“In a period in which people feel a deep cynicism about politicians and politics, there is an urgent need to reconnect people with democracy. This demands a long term investment in growing the political leadership of everyday people at the forefront of making change in Britain.

The truth is building relational power is the only way to counter the isolation, anxiety and fear we feel through neoliberalism. If we are serious about defeating the far right, community organising is not optional — it is essential. It is the only way to address our sense of powerlessness and to replace the power of the billionaires with a society rooted in justice, equality, and yes, love.”