

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 415, 31 March 2025

Events

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

Funding & Opportunities

“Health and Wellbeing in Museums Fund”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/funding/health-and-wellbeing/#msdyntrid=20Far5pB_PBCppBe77frSNNFkaZJWVtCns_q-CUObI4

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 21 Mar 2025)

“We’re launching a programme of grant-making, networking and learning dissemination for health and wellbeing programmes in museums, funded by the Julia Rausing Trust. Grants will enable the development and continuation of groundbreaking health and wellbeing programmes in UK museums during a time of financial crisis and increasing demand for services.

For the first round of funding, the fund will open for applications on 28 April with a deadline for final submissions by 26 June 2025. There will be a second round in 2026.

We’ll make around 10 grants of £50,000 to £75,000 per round.

Check this page on 28 April to find an eligibility quiz, application guidance and access to MA support to make your application.”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“Britain has almost 1 million young people not in work or education – here’s what evidence shows can change that”

https://theconversation.com/britain-has-almost-1-million-young-people-not-in-work-or-education-heres-what-evidence-shows-can-change-that-252222?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20March%2020%202025%20-%203305433748&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20or%20March%2020%202025%20-%203305433748+CID_71ee1f6c1074a70ad0ee57ecee70f251&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Britain%20has%20almost%201%20million%20young%20people%20not%20in%20work%20or%20education%20%20heres%20what%20evidence%20shows%20can%20change%20that

(Source: *The Conversation*, 21 Mar 2025)

Interesting exploration of the reasons for the growth in the number of young people who are Neet and what can be done about it:

“The government is concerned about the rising number of young people aged 16 to 24 who are Neet, which in the quarter to December 2024 was estimated at 987,000 in the UK. This is 13.4% of all young people in this age group. The increase, from around 11% in the period prior to the start

of the pandemic, is linked to long-term illness among the economically inactive [...]

The government's programme for change is evidence-based and they are to be commended in recognising and beginning to tackle long-standing issues of Neet among young people. The announcements on welfare will help, but we still need to tackle the root causes of high Neet rates in the UK.

Youth transitions need to be better managed by all agencies of government, especially for those who have mental health challenges. There also need to be better jobs available for young people who become disillusioned with the education system.

Growing the economy, together with the package of measures announced, will go some way to help. But some support needs to start even earlier. Young people who do not perform well in school have few education or employment options – this is the real tragedy of lost generations.”

Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion – Other Agencies

“Wikipedia has a huge gender equality problem – here’s why it matters”

https://theconversation.com/wikipedia-has-a-huge-gender-equality-problem-heres-why-it-matters-251675?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20March%2013%202025&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20March%2013%202025+CID_ea13d0227aed488b2d69def731748766&utm_source=campaign_monitor_europe&utm_term=Wikipedia%20has%20a%20huge%20gender%20equality%20problem%20%20heres%20why%20it%20matters

(Source: *The Conversation*, 13 Mar 2025)

Important article:

“While its mission is to be the ‘sum of all human knowledge’, my research shows that only 19% of its biographies feature women, and just 10-15% of its editors are female. This disparity distorts the historical record and reinforces the invisibility of women’s contributions across fields such as science, politics, literature, and activism.”

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

Blogpost: “The importance of public libraries for older adults: supporting wellbeing later in life”

https://www.cilips.org.uk/public-libraries-older-adults?utm_campaign=1571332_January%202025&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals&dm_i=6WFS,XOG4,9VBO9,49I3A,1

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 2 Feb 2025)

Brief post which highlights the essential role of public libraries in supporting the wellbeing of older adults.

“Wigan and Leigh: Reminiscence workshops”

<https://www.local.gov.uk/case-studies/wigan-and-leigh-remembrance-workshops>

(Source: email from Jospeh Kelly, The National Archives to archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk, 7 Mar 2025)

LGA case study:

“In 2023, Archives: Wigan & Leigh initiated a series of Reminiscence Workshops in local care homes. They aspired to use their collections - which cover 800 years of history) - to reach new audiences and improve the health and wellbeing of local people living with dementia.”

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

“Buckinghamshire archives: A huge milestone for Paralympic heritage”

<https://www.local.gov.uk/case-studies/buckinghamshire-archives-huge-milestone-paralympic-heritage>

(Source: email from Jospeh Kelly, The National Archives to archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk, 7 Mar 2025)

LGA case study:

“Buckinghamshire Archives worked with the National Paralympic Heritage Trust (NPHT) to make their internationally important archival collections relating to disability sports more accessible. Following a Wellcome Trust funded project called Spinal2Sport, which aimed to widen access to these collections, 463 boxes of unlisted archive records remained. To make these accessible, the Archives Service recruited 41 volunteers, who gave 5,000 hours of their time, to catalogue 35,000 records. These records can now be searched online for the first time.”

“How libraries can support blind and partially sighted communities”

<https://readingagency.org.uk/how-libraries-can-support-blind-and-partially-sighted-communities/>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 30 Mar 2025)

New post from The Reading Agency about their piece of work “with Vision Norfolk to run co-production groups with blind and partially sighted participants to support Reading Friends – our reading connection programme. These sessions gave us valuable insights on their experiences with reading and libraries. Here’s what we learned – and different ways libraries might apply these insights as part of Reading Friends group activities and more widely.”

Full report at: https://tra-resources.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/entries/document/11357/RF_Ulverscroft_Co-production_Key_findings_and_learnings.pdf.

Older people and ageism issues – Other Agencies

State of ageing summary 2025

<https://ageing-better.org.uk/sites/default/files/2025-03/The-State-of-Ageing-2025-interactive-summary.pdf>

(Source: *Later Life AGEnda*, 28 Mar 2025)

Important new report:

“All of us deserve the best possible lives as we grow older, and our whole society reaps the rewards when people can age well. Our new analysis of the state of ageing in England in 2025 reveals millions more of us are living into our seventies, eighties, nineties and beyond, in good health, working for longer and supporting our communities through volunteering and caring.

But this report also highlights that this rosy, positive picture of ageing is unobtainable for many, such as those who are living in poor housing, in poverty and poor health, and who are isolated from their communities and society. The report shows the impact of regional inequalities that determine the quality of people’s later life. Quite simply, where you are born in England determines how you live and how well you age.” [p2]

Migration issues – Other Agencies

Lost childhoods: the consequences of flawed age assessments at the UK border

https://helenbamber.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/RMCC%20Lost%20Childhoods%20March%202025_0.pdf

(Source: email from The Separated Child Foundation, 21 Mar 2025)

New report from The Refugee and Migrant Children's Consortium, which draws together a number of pieces of work to show “the devastating consequences for separated children who are being wrongly assessed as adults.” [taken from email]

“Denying refugees British citizenship is a shameful step backwards”

https://www.bmj.com/content/388/bmj.r569?mc_cid=24e9d16c90&mc_eid=7d8713d645

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

Opinion piece in *The BMJ*, in which the authors argue that: “Refugees deserve the opportunity to become citizens, but the UK government’s new guidance will exclude and further marginalise them [...]”

“It’s helping me build my future’: empowering migrant and refugee families in a London borough of sanctuary”

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/mar/18/its-helping-me-build-my-future-empowering-migrant-and-refugee-families-in-a-london-borough-of-sanctuary?mc_cid=24e9d16c90&mc_eid=7d8713d645

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

Just in case you didn’t see this article:

“In Islington, a panel of people with migrant and refugee backgrounds is allocating £500,000 in grants to directly help new arrivals who are where they once were”

“A day in the life of an asylum hotel: inside the UK’s most controversial accommodation”

https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/mar/18/a-day-in-the-life-of-an-asylum-hotel-inside-the-uks-most-controversial-accommodation?mc_cid=24e9d16c90&mc_eid=7d8713d645

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

... or this one:

“The media often stigmatises asylum hotels – and they are sometimes physically attacked too. But behind closed doors are people who dream of work, wheels, security and the simple freedom to choose what they eat”

“They wanted help, we gave them a prison boat”

https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/bibby-stockholm-profits-conservative-government-hostile-environment/?utm_source=oD%20Daily%20SEGMENT&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=%E2%80%98They%20wanted%20help%2C%20we%20gave%20them%20a%20prison%20boat%E2%80%99&_kx=1_8D1xQSf81SrwgQ7oVGBK2bIBk82Fazlk5OMY7463I.YiCYwm

(Source: *openDemocracy Weekly Newsletter*, 26 Mar 2025)

“As the migrant barge left Dorset, openDemocracy explored life on board the Bibby – and the failed policy that cost millions”

Hidden hardships: the immigration system and child poverty

https://ippr-org.files.svdcdn.com/production/Downloads/Migration_and_poverty_Mar25.pdf?dm=1741626347

(Source: IPPR *The Progressive Insider*, 28 Mar 2025)

New report from IPPR, which shows:

- “There are around 1.5 million children in families with migrant parents in poverty more than a third of the total number of children in relative poverty.
- Children in families with migrant parents are more likely to be in very deep poverty (under 40 per cent of median income): 21 per cent, compared to 8 per cent of other children.

These figures underline the severe and systemic disadvantages migrant families face. Potential factors which exacerbate this disadvantage include the ‘no recourse to public funds’ (NRPF) condition, high visa fees, and limited access to affordable childcare. Families in the asylum system face additional intersecting challenges, receiving only £49.18 per person in their household, with up to £9.50 more if someone is pregnant or if they have a child under three.” [p4]

“Ukrainians lose out on jobs and homes over visa uncertainty”

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd0n8d5ynxko?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=Mon+31+Mar+2025&utm_campaign=Free+Movement+Weekly+Newsletter+-+correct+version

(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 31 Mar 2025)

BBC News report:

“Ukrainians in the UK are losing out on job opportunities and homes because of uncertainty over how long they will be allowed to stay in the country.

They were initially given the right to live and work in the UK for three years and can apply for an 18-month extension 28 days before their original visa expires. The government said this provided ‘certainty and security’.

But some Ukrainians have told the BBC that employers are reluctant to hire them or landlords will not rent to them because their visa is due to expire.

One survey of 1,133 Ukrainians in Britain, external suggested 41% had lost a new job opportunity because of visa uncertainty, while 26% said their tenancy was not renewed.

Researchers from the University of Birmingham also found 22% of respondents said a job contract was not renewed, while 24% said they could not sign a new tenancy.”

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

“New research reveals alarming scale of conversion practices in Great Britain”

https://www.stonewall.org.uk/news/new-research-reveals-alarming-scale-of-conversion-practices-in-great-britain?utm_source=Supporter+Comms&utm_campaign=254542f0a8-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2024_07_08_Kicker_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-bbc41a1784-213466874

(Source: *Stonewall Newsletter*, 28 Mar 2025)

“Our new research reveals the pernicious impact of conversion practices on LGBTQ+ people in Great Britain. The data, which covers reports of physical assault, pseudo-scientific counselling, prayer as a form of healing, ‘corrective rape’, exorcism, community exclusion and more, indicates that these practices remain widespread.

In total, nearly a third (31 per cent) of LGBTQ+ people in the Great Britain-wide survey report that they’d experienced one or more [...] attempts to change/alter their gender identity or sexual orientation [...].”