

# The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 420, 1 July 2025

## 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

**“The Spending Review ignored digital inclusion - here's why that's a huge mistake”**

<https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/discover/digital-inclusion-insights/digital-inclusion-insights-2025/spending-review-digital-inclusion>

(Source: *Good News from Good Things Foundation*, Jun 2025)

Good Things Foundation argues that:

“It is a potentially fatal risk to invest heavily in a digital future – with billions of investment into Artificial Intelligence and the NHS App – yet neglect the steps needed to ensure every single person can participate in it. We cannot have a modern, prosperous Britain if millions are still locked out of the online world, unable to access essential services, participate in the modern economy, or connect with their communities.”

**“Confidence at every level: Revisiting the role confidence plays in digital inclusion”**

<https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/discover/digital-inclusion-insights/digital-inclusion-insights-2025/confidence-and-role-in-digital-inclusion>

(Source: *Good News from Good Things Foundation*, Jun 2025)

“In this long read, we consider what role confidence – and related concepts of belief and trust – play in shaping people’s engagement with the online world, and the barriers they may face to being digitally included.”

## Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

**Press release: “The Reading Agency Launches Reading Well for Families Booklist, Addressing Critical Rise in Perinatal Health Needs”**

<https://readingagency.org.uk/the-reading-agency-launches-reading-well-for-families-booklist-addressing-critical-rise-in-perinatal-health-needs/>

(Source: *The Reading Agency Adult Reading News*, 25 Jun 2025)

“The Reading Agency, in partnership with Libraries Connected and Society of Chief Librarians (SCL) Cymru, is proud to announce the launch of Reading Well for families, a new booklist available across public libraries in England and Wales from today. The scheme recommends helpful reading to support the mental health and wellbeing of families during pregnancy and the early years (from conception to age two).”

The lists – and further info – are at: <https://readingagency.org.uk/get-reading/our-programmes-and-campaigns/reading-well/reading-well-for-families/>.

### **“Charities urge rethink of mental health and language services”**

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/content/news/charities-urge-rethink-of-mental-health-and-language-services>

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Update*, 26 Jun 2025)

News article, highlighting a new report:

“A record two million children in the UK now face significant struggles with talking and understanding words, say the campaigners, adding: ‘The crisis is particularly acute in disadvantaged areas, where up to 50% of children started school behind in communication and language even before the pandemic and cost-of-living crisis.’”

The report, *A perfect storm: mental health and speech and language challenges* is at: [https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/230625\\_MHReport\\_DigitalPDF\\_V7.pdf#:~:text=News%20%7C%20Press-,Shocking%20double%20disadvantage%3A%20Two%20million%20UK%20children%20with%20speech%20and,by%20Speech%20and%20Language%20UK](https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/230625_MHReport_DigitalPDF_V7.pdf#:~:text=News%20%7C%20Press-,Shocking%20double%20disadvantage%3A%20Two%20million%20UK%20children%20with%20speech%20and,by%20Speech%20and%20Language%20UK).

### **“There is no loneliness epidemic – so why do we keep talking as if there is?”**

[https://theconversation.com/there-is-no-loneliness-epidemic-so-why-do-we-keep-talking-as-if-there-is-259072?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2026%202025%20-%203429134935&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2026%202025%20-%203429134935+CID\\_d1aebaa39d788f812be7808f07270c0f&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_uk&utm\\_term=There%20is%20no%20loneliness%20epidemic%20%20so%20why%20do%20we%20keep%20talking%20as%20if%20there%20is](https://theconversation.com/there-is-no-loneliness-epidemic-so-why-do-we-keep-talking-as-if-there-is-259072?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2026%202025%20-%203429134935&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2026%202025%20-%203429134935+CID_d1aebaa39d788f812be7808f07270c0f&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=There%20is%20no%20loneliness%20epidemic%20%20so%20why%20do%20we%20keep%20talking%20as%20if%20there%20is)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 27 Jun 2025)

Interesting article:

“Most people experience periods of loneliness, isolation or solitude in their lives. But these are different things, and the proportion of people feeling lonely is stable over time. So why do we keep talking about an epidemic of loneliness? [...]

Loneliness is a problem, even if it is not an epidemic. Social connection is important for physical and mental health [...]

But the idea that loneliness is an ‘epidemic’ is misleading and it draws us away from sustainable solutions, rather than towards them. It suggests that loneliness is a new problem (it is not), that it is increasing (it is not), that it is beyond our control (it is not), and that the only appropriate reaction is an emergency one (it is not).”

## **Disability issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government**

### **News release: “APPG Publishes Report on the Disproportionate Impact of Poverty and Inequality on Disabled People”**

<https://appgpovetyinequality.org.uk/home-page/appg-publishes-report-on-the-disproportionate-impact-of-poverty-and-inequality-on-disabled-people/>

(Source: UK Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) Network *Network Bulletin*, 19 Jun 2025)

“Our report brings together information from over 70 submissions to the APPG’s call for evidence. 26 submissions came from people speaking directly from their own lived experience [...]

Our report found that disabled households face additional barriers and costs, including higher spending on food, heating, transport and medical support, which can amount to additional costs of over £1,000 per month. These costs, combined with inaccessible public services and a punitive social security system, already push many disabled people to the brink.”

The full report is available at: <https://appgpovetyinequality.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/APPGDisabilityGreenPaper-1-1.pdf>

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

### **“It’s not quite what I had in mind entering my eighth decade’: the London librarian of Lesbos”**

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2025/jun/16/mavrovouni-refugee-camp-lesbos-library>

Interesting article about Ruth Miller, the librarian of Mavrovouni camp:

“She volunteers for the NGO Eurorelief and was the driver behind converting a shed covered in metal cladding, a former bike repair workshop, into an oasis of books in 15 different languages.”

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

### **“Glasgow Women’s Library awarded sanctuary status”**

[https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2025/06/glasgow-womens-library-awarded-sanctuary-status/#msdynmkt\\_trackingcontext=fb93ead5-da0e-4ce6-a75d-8c4018420200](https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2025/06/glasgow-womens-library-awarded-sanctuary-status/#msdynmkt_trackingcontext=fb93ead5-da0e-4ce6-a75d-8c4018420200)

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 24 Jun 2025)

Further to the article mentioned in the previous issue, the MA has also written a brief piece about GWL’s award.

## **Migration issues – Other Agencies**

### **“What is the difference between refugee status and humanitarian protection?”**

<https://freemovement.org.uk/what-is-the-difference-between-refugee-status-and-humanitarian-protection/#Conclusion>

(Source: *Free Movement Refugee and Asylum Update*, 18 Jun 2025)

Helpful updated briefing from Free Movement.

**“Should refugees claim asylum in the first safe country they reach?”**

<https://freemovement.org.uk/are-refugees-obliged-to-claim-asylum-in-the-first-safe-country-they-reach/>

(Source: *Free Movement Refugee and Asylum Update*, 19 Jun 2025)

Very useful background paper which also makes some important points and concludes:

“So, to sum up, there is no obligation on refugees to claim asylum in the first safe country they reach, although many in fact do. The United Kingdom receives a tiny number of refugees compared to other countries in the EU and beyond. There are multiple reasons why refugees might want to move on from refugee camps or travel to find family members or better prospects. If they do so, and would face a well founded fear of being persecuted in their home country, they are still refugees.

There is a system within the EU called the Dublin system under which refugees can be sent back to their point of entry to the EU to have their asylum claims processed there. But the United Kingdom lost access to that system due to Brexit and has not been able to come up with a functioning replacement.”

**“Refugee and Migrant Support at Arden”**

<https://arden.ac.uk/about-us/refugee-and-migrant-support-hub>

Arden University have created a Refugee and Migrant Resource Hub:

“The Hub covers a wealth of information about being either a migrant or refugee and asylum seeker, explores the impactful work of the UNHCR, and provides you with an array of helpful resources, including films, books, articles, and podcasts. You can gain clarity with our glossary of often misused terms, and find out how to access support as a refugee or asylum seeker in the UK. For students, we offer crucial insights about being a refugee in higher education. You can also visit our Q&A page to learn more about common myths and misconceptions related to refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers.”

[Arden University ran a webinar which I attended recently, “Teaching with Hope: Trauma-Informed Approaches for Refugee Students”]

**“Ukrainians who fled to UK being refused asylum on grounds it is ‘safe to return’”**

[https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jun/27/ukrainians-who-fled-to-uk-being-refused-asylum-on-grounds-it-is-safe-to-return?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=Mon+30+Jun+2025&utm\\_campaign=Free+Movement+Weekly+Newsletter](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jun/27/ukrainians-who-fled-to-uk-being-refused-asylum-on-grounds-it-is-safe-to-return?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=Mon+30+Jun+2025&utm_campaign=Free+Movement+Weekly+Newsletter)

(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 30 Jun 2025)

Just in case you didn't see this news item:

“Ukrainians who fled to the UK after the Russian invasion are being refused asylum by the Home Office on the grounds it is safe to return to Ukraine.

Families are trying to obtain a route to settlement, which would enable them to build a life in the UK, commit their children to a British education and improve their prospects for jobs and housing. Some feel they have nothing to return to as they are from areas razed by conflict.

One told the Guardian they had been refused asylum on grounds they could relocate elsewhere in Ukraine, despite their home town being a war zone.”

### **“How the UK became dependent on asylum hotels”**

[https://theconversation.com/how-the-uk-became-dependent-on-asylum-hotels-258767?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2030%202025%20-%203432634970&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2030%202025%20-%203432634970+CID\\_f20cceb22ba814939decd3de5c38f53c&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_uk&utm\\_term=How%20the%20UK%20became%20dependent%20on%20asylum%20hotels](https://theconversation.com/how-the-uk-became-dependent-on-asylum-hotels-258767?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2030%202025%20-%203432634970&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2030%202025%20-%203432634970+CID_f20cceb22ba814939decd3de5c38f53c&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=How%20the%20UK%20became%20dependent%20on%20asylum%20hotels)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 1 Jul 2025)

Useful background article which reports:

“In May 2025, the three providers contracted by the government to deliver housing were reported to have made £380 million in profit from their accommodation contracts. The Britannia Hotels chain alone reportedly made over £150 million in profit since first accommodating asylum seekers in 2014.”

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

#### **“The Partnership Between Salford Libraries and Salford Jobcentres”**

<https://dcmslibraries.blog.gov.uk/2025/06/13/the-partnership-between-salford-libraries-and-salford-jobcentres/>

New DCMS blogpost:

“In today’s interconnected world, local partnerships are more important than ever in helping individuals navigate the path to employment and personal development. One inspiring example of this is the collaboration between Salford Libraries and Salford Jobcentres – a partnership that’s making a real difference in the lives of jobseekers across the city [...]

At the heart of this partnership is a shared commitment to empowering individuals through accessible, community-based support. By combining resources and expertise, Salford Libraries and Jobcentres are creating a more connected and supportive environment for those seeking work or looking to improve their skills.”

### **Broader issues – Other Agencies**

#### **“Universities Under Siege: A Global Reckoning for Higher Education”**

<https://www.socialeurope.eu/universities-under-siege-a-global-reckoning-for-higher-education>

(Source: Social Europe *Newsletter*, 18 Jun 2025)

Useful article that puts the current UK HE crisis into a worldwide context.

#### **“How Britain’s new political divide delivers voters to Reform and the Greens”**

[https://theconversation.com/how-britains-new-political-divide-delivers-voters-to-reform-and-the-greens-](https://theconversation.com/how-britains-new-political-divide-delivers-voters-to-reform-and-the-greens-259613?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2024%202025%20-%203426634915&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2024%202025%20-%203426634915+CID_b89582de99d259acf902612adf8f54ea&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=How%20Britains%20new%20political%20divide%20delivers%20voters%20to%20Reform%20and%20the%20Greens)

[259613?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2024%202025%20-%203426634915&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2024%202025%20-%203426634915+CID\\_b89582de99d259acf902612adf8f54ea&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_uk&utm\\_term=How%20Britains%20new%20political%20divide%20delivers%20voters%20to%20Reform%20and%20the%20Greens](https://theconversation.com/how-britains-new-political-divide-delivers-voters-to-reform-and-the-greens-259613?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2024%202025%20-%203426634915&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2024%202025%20-%203426634915+CID_b89582de99d259acf902612adf8f54ea&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=How%20Britains%20new%20political%20divide%20delivers%20voters%20to%20Reform%20and%20the%20Greens)

[259613?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2024%202025%20-%203426634915&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2024%202025%20-%203426634915+CID\\_b89582de99d259acf902612adf8f54ea&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_uk&utm\\_term=How%20Britains%20new%20political%20divide%20delivers%20voters%20to%20Reform%20and%20the%20Greens](https://theconversation.com/how-britains-new-political-divide-delivers-voters-to-reform-and-the-greens-259613?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2024%202025%20-%203426634915&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2024%202025%20-%203426634915+CID_b89582de99d259acf902612adf8f54ea&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=How%20Britains%20new%20political%20divide%20delivers%20voters%20to%20Reform%20and%20the%20Greens)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 25 Jun 2025)

Interesting explainer – which argues that what we’re now seeing is:

“[...] a battle between social liberals and social conservatives – between those who value living in a diverse society and those who believe that too much diversity undermines social cohesion.”