

# The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 421, 18 July 2025

## Events

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

## Ukraine

### **“Ukraine-focused decolonisation guide launched for museum professionals”**

[https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2025/07/ukraine-focused-decolonisation-guide-launched-for-museum-professionals/#msdynmkt\\_trackingcontext=632be8f6-c62a-46a4-8749-776fb12d0300](https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2025/07/ukraine-focused-decolonisation-guide-launched-for-museum-professionals/#msdynmkt_trackingcontext=632be8f6-c62a-46a4-8749-776fb12d0300)

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 8 Jul 2025)

News release 7 Jul 2025:

“A new museum guide focused on Ukraine is being released today through an international partnership project initiated by the Ukrainian Institute in collaboration with Icom UK, Icom Ukraine (the United Kingdom and Ukraine national committees of the International Council of Museums) and the Museums Association, with support from the British Council.

The English version of the guide is now available to download for free, and a Ukrainian translation will be issued shortly.”

The Guide is available at:

[https://media.museumsassociation.org/app/uploads/2025/07/07104533/decolonisation-in-museums\\_part-1-1.pdf](https://media.museumsassociation.org/app/uploads/2025/07/07104533/decolonisation-in-museums_part-1-1.pdf).

It’s accompanied by a set of Essays: “The essays are the work of individual authors based on independent research and do not necessarily represent the views of the partner organisations.” [Guide, p2]:

[https://media.museumsassociation.org/app/uploads/2025/07/07104652/decolonisation-in-museums\\_part-2-1.pdf](https://media.museumsassociation.org/app/uploads/2025/07/07104652/decolonisation-in-museums_part-2-1.pdf)

## COVID-19

### **“The pandemic is still disrupting young people’s careers”**

[https://theconversation.com/the-pandemic-is-still-disrupting-young-peoples-careers-258768?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%203%202025%20-%203437935026&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%203%202025%20-%203437935026+CID\\_f6aeaaaf009a2a1bdb47550ebffa3b31&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_uk&utm\\_term=The%20pandemic%20is%20still%20disrupting%20young%20peoples%20careers](https://theconversation.com/the-pandemic-is-still-disrupting-young-peoples-careers-258768?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%203%202025%20-%203437935026&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%203%202025%20-%203437935026+CID_f6aeaaaf009a2a1bdb47550ebffa3b31&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=The%20pandemic%20is%20still%20disrupting%20young%20peoples%20careers)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 4 Jul 2025)

Interesting article which concludes:

“The pandemic inflicted a profound psychological burden on young people. The loss of expected life passages, social and professional connections and routines fostered feelings of isolation, stagnation and diminished control. This distress was amplified by relentless uncertainty surrounding disrupted education, altered qualifications and a volatile job market.

A ‘COVID echo’ continues to resonate for young people. Graduates from the pandemic period may still feel that they lag behind in their careers.

The early disruptions it caused through lost entry-level job opportunities, fewer chances to build networks and hindered skill development continue to cast a shadow over the further career prospects of these young people.

Enduring negative consequences like this are termed ‘scarring’, threatening to affect employment and earning potential for years.

Addressing these potential long-term scars requires an overhaul of the youth labour market. This means tackling precarious work, enhancing training and re-skilling, and strengthening social safety nets. Robust support, as well as listening to what young people have to say about their futures, will be vital in empowering this generation to overcome the crisis and reach their full potential.”

### **Tackling social and digital exclusion – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government**

**Press release: “Government revives family services, supporting 500,000 more kids”**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-revives-family-services-supporting-500000-more-kids>

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Early Years and Education Bulletin*, 8 Jul 2025)

“Parents across the country will benefit from greater support to make family life easier on their doorstep, as the government rolls out ‘Best Start Family Hubs’ across every local authority – relieving pressure on parents and giving half a million more children the very best start in life.

Postcodes shouldn’t dictate the support available, but one in four families with children under five cannot access local children’s centres or Family Hubs, rising to one in three lower income families. This means thousands of parents cut off from vital community support networks and specialist services – left to navigate the challenges of parenthood alone – as well as a devastating impact on children’s life chances, with early development, wellbeing and future attainment all in jeopardy.

Best Start Family Hubs will act as a one stop shop for parents seeking a range of support, including on difficulty breastfeeding, housing issues or children’s early development and language, reassuring families that they

have convenient access to support in their local area or can be efficiently connected to specialist local services.

Rolling out in every local authority by April 2026, Hubs will offer interventions and courses which work for parents – such as stay and play groups which help parents connect or sessions which help manage children’s emotional needs – while providing a single point of access for services across health, education, and wellbeing.”

However, as a recent article in *The Conversation* noted:

“The significant impact that poverty has on children’s educational attainment, health and future lives will be difficult for the benefits that the Best Start programme may provide to negate.”

See: “England’s family hubs plan aims to build on Sure Start’s success – but may struggle to overcome today’s child poverty levels”,  
[https://theconversation.com/englands-family-hubs-plan-aims-to-build-on-sure-starts-success-but-may-struggle-to-overcome-todays-child-poverty-levels-260630?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2010%202025%20-%203447835119&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2010%202025%20-%203447835119+CID\\_6f49fa1205408fb11af227bbc11a2d67&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_uk&utm\\_term=Englands%20family%20hubs%20plan%20aims%20to%20build%20on%20Sure%20Starts%20success%20%20but%20may%20struggle%20to%20overcome%20todays%20child%20poverty%20levels](https://theconversation.com/englands-family-hubs-plan-aims-to-build-on-sure-starts-success-but-may-struggle-to-overcome-todays-child-poverty-levels-260630?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2010%202025%20-%203447835119&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2010%202025%20-%203447835119+CID_6f49fa1205408fb11af227bbc11a2d67&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Englands%20family%20hubs%20plan%20aims%20to%20build%20on%20Sure%20Starts%20success%20%20but%20may%20struggle%20to%20overcome%20todays%20child%20poverty%20levels)

### **Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies**

#### **“‘Family breakdown’ behind 25% rise in young rough sleepers”**

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/content/news/family-breakdown-behind-25-rise-in-young-rough-sleepers>

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Update*, 30 Jun 2025)

Brief coverage of this important news story:

“The number of young people sleeping rough in London has soared by 25% in the last year and by nearly 70% in five years, according to official data [...]

Some 1,411 young people aged 25 or under were seen rough sleeping by outreach workers in the capital during 2024/25, compared with 1,139 in 2023/24, and with 858 in 2019/20.

According to homeless charity New Horizon Youth Centre, family breakdown is the main driver of escalating youth homelessness, exacerbated by the cost of living crisis.”

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

**“I visited a dementia reading group and it's changed how I think about the illness we're all scared of”**

<https://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/health/visited-dementia-reading-group-its-31995575>

(Source: *Later Life AGenda*, 7 Jul 2025)

Brief, positive story:

“For me, watching loved ones with the condition has made it something incredibly scary. But, not to downplay the devastating consequences it can have, my visit to a reading for dementia group at Newcastle City Library has forced me to re-evaluate.”

**“Bolton Library to stage free dementia friendly film screenings”**

<https://www.theboltonnews.co.uk/news/25282880.bolton-library-stage-free-dementia-friendly-film-screenings/>

(Source: *Later Life AGenda*, 8 Jul 2025)

“The films are open to everyone but specifically tailored to people living with dementia.

The idea is to enjoy classic films and musicals in a safe and welcoming environment.

The lighting will be dimmed rather than turned off, and the audience is welcome to talk, move around, and sing along.”

## Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

**“Older northerners struggle with ‘alarming’ inequalities compared to people from the South”**

News item: <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/about/news/older-northerners-struggle-with-alarming-inequalities-compared-to-people-from-the-south/>

Full report: <https://www.thenhsa.co.uk/app/uploads/2025/06/AGEING-IN-THE-NORTH-REPORT-EM.pdf>

(Source: *Later Life AGenda*, 23 Jun 2025)

“Older people in the North of England are more likely to be poorer, less healthy, physically inactive, lonely and in poor housing – resulting in millions of pounds of avoidable NHS costs.

In a new report from the Northern Health Science Alliance, partly based on research by University of Manchester experts entitled ‘Ageing in the North’, researchers have catalogued an ‘alarming’ range of disadvantages faced by older people living in the North, in areas such as health, life expectancy, housing, nutrition, employment, and social isolation.

The authors stress that this inequality is mainly driven by economic and social factors, and is ‘totally reversible’ – as long as policymakers are bold enough to act.” [Taken from news item]

The figures are stark, eg:

- “Older people living in the North East and North West are 1.61 and 1.33 times, respectively, more likely to be frail, 1.16 and 1.06 times more likely to have a fall that requires hospital treatment, and 1.14 and 1.12 times more likely to have a hip fracture compared to older people living in the South East” [also taken from new item]

### Disability issues – Other Agencies

**“Dyspraxia: why children with developmental coordination disorder in the UK are still being failed”**

[https://theconversation.com/dyspraxia-why-children-with-developmental-coordination-disorder-in-the-uk-are-still-being-failed-260853?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2010%202025%20-%203447835119&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2010%202025%20-%203447835119+CID\\_6f49fa1205408fb11af227bbc11a2d67&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_uk&utm\\_term=Dyspraxia%20why%20children%20with%20developmental%20coordination%20disorder%20in%20the%20UK%20are%20still%20being%20failed](https://theconversation.com/dyspraxia-why-children-with-developmental-coordination-disorder-in-the-uk-are-still-being-failed-260853?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2010%202025%20-%203447835119&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2010%202025%20-%203447835119+CID_6f49fa1205408fb11af227bbc11a2d67&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Dyspraxia%20why%20children%20with%20developmental%20coordination%20disorder%20in%20the%20UK%20are%20still%20being%20failed)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 11 Jul 2025)

Very useful article:

“When a child struggles to tie their shoelaces, write legibly or stay upright during PE, it can be dismissed as clumsiness or lack of effort. But for around 5% of UK children, these challenges stem from a neurodevelopmental condition known as developmental coordination disorder (DCD), also known as dyspraxia. And new findings reveal how deeply it’s impacting their lives – at home, in school and in their future [...]

Despite affecting around 5% of children – making it as common as ADHD – DCD remains underdiagnosed, misunderstood and insufficiently supported. Families reported an average wait of nearly three years for a diagnosis, with almost one in five children showing clear signs of DCD but not yet having begun the diagnostic process [...]

Children with DCD face daily physical struggles with eating, dressing, cutting with scissors and handwriting. These aren’t just inconveniences. They translate into fatigue, frustration and often social exclusion. Compared to national averages, children in this survey were less active, with only 36% meeting recommended physical activity levels. Many parents worry that early disengagement from sport is cultivating lifelong habits that will undermine their children’s health.

The emotional impact is just as severe. A staggering 90% of parents expressed concern about their child’s mental health. Anxiety, low self-

esteem and feelings of isolation are common. Children with DCD are significantly more likely than their peers to show signs of emotional and peer-related difficulties.”

### Migration issues – Other Agencies

**“Comics and graphic novels can empower refugees to tell their stories on their own terms”**

[https://theconversation.com/comics-and-graphic-novels-can-empower-refugees-to-tell-their-stories-on-their-own-terms-258943?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%202%202025%20-%203436235003&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%202%202025%20-%203436235003+CID\\_16c647c935a09b7b9b2e6a0c919bc735&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_uk&utm\\_term=Comics%20and%20graphic%20novels%20can%20empower%20refugees%20to%20tell%20their%20stories%20on%20their%20own%20terms](https://theconversation.com/comics-and-graphic-novels-can-empower-refugees-to-tell-their-stories-on-their-own-terms-258943?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%202%202025%20-%203436235003&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%202%202025%20-%203436235003+CID_16c647c935a09b7b9b2e6a0c919bc735&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Comics%20and%20graphic%20novels%20can%20empower%20refugees%20to%20tell%20their%20stories%20on%20their%20own%20terms)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 3 Jul 2025)

Interesting article – in part, a promotion for the authors’ new book – which argues that visual media “makes refugees an easy target by denying them the means of telling their own stories on their own terms.”

In the new book, the authors:

“[...] show how a growing genre of ‘refugee comics’ is challenging this visual culture through a range of storytelling strategies and innovations in illustration. Comprised of multiple images arranged into sequences and interspersed with speech bubbles and caption boxes, refugee comics disrupt a media landscape that tends to reduce migrants to either threats or victims.”

The book mentioned is:

Dominic Davies and Candida Rifkind. *Graphic refuge: visibility and mobility in refugee comics* – see: <https://www.wlupress.wlu.ca/Books/G/Graphic-Refuge>. [charged-for publication]

**“Thousands of Brit-born children with migrant parents face destitution: ‘Don’t deny children their rights’”**

<https://www.bigissue.com/news/politics/migrant-child-poverty-destitution-nrpf-strategy/>

(Source: email from Praxis, 8 Jul 2025)

“Nearly half of the children in the UK who have migrant parents are living in poverty – that’s an estimated 1.5 million children”

Article in the *Big Issue*, which includes info from Praxis:

“While migrant families face the same socio-economic challenges that all families in the UK face, including low-paid, insecure work and a rising

cost of living, they also face the constraint of a blanket ban on access to the welfare safety net – even when they pay into the system – sky high visa fees, and restrictions on access to childcare costs.”

### ***Guardians of Tomorrow comic***

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/2025-05/Guardians%20of%20Tomorrow%20Comic%20book.pdf>

(Source: email from Rosie Burrell, Mental Health Foundation, 10 Jul 2025)

New publication from the Mental Health Foundation written by six volunteers about their experience of the asylum process; in it they share their advice for looking after your mental health while going through the system:

“We are six refugees and asylum seekers who have come together through the Mental Health Foundation's Weaving Threads for Wellbeing programme. Together, we have created the Guardians of Tomorrow, through which we tell our Tales of Survival. We hope that this comic book will give advice and inspiration to other people in the asylum process.”  
[p16]

To request free physical copies for your library or workplace, please contact Rosie Burrell at [rburrell@mentalhealth.org.uk](mailto:rburrell@mentalhealth.org.uk). Please include your postal address and the number of copies you require.

An Arabic version of the *Guardians of Tomorrow* is also currently in development. If you would like to receive updates when it becomes available – either in digital or print format – please let Rosie know so she can keep you informed.

### **“Fact check: Tory claims ‘Channel migrants’ 24 times more likely to go to prison than British citizens are inaccurate and misleading”**

[https://leftfootforward.org/2025/07/fact-check-tory-claims-channel-migrants-24-times-more-likely-to-go-to-prison-than-british-citizens-are-inaccurate-and-misleading/?mc\\_cid=f50d3b14ef&mc\\_eid=e91604b40f](https://leftfootforward.org/2025/07/fact-check-tory-claims-channel-migrants-24-times-more-likely-to-go-to-prison-than-british-citizens-are-inaccurate-and-misleading/?mc_cid=f50d3b14ef&mc_eid=e91604b40f)

(Source: *Left Foot Forward*, 10 Jul 2025)

Useful article showing how misleading information gets spread ...

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

#### **“Starting LGBTQIA+ Conversations at the Library”**

<https://www.popnolly.com/post/starting-lgbtqia-conversations-at-the-library>

(Source: LinkedIn)

Interesting & important article:

“Books have always been a part of my identity. They have allowed me to explore my queer identity as an adult, and I have fond memories of reading during the school holidays and visiting the library as a kid. Now I’m a library assistant. I’m surrounded by books all day and, unlike when I was younger, I get to be out and proud about who I am. Here I want to



tell you how, with help from Pop'n'Oilly, I've been working to make our library welcoming to LGBTQIA+ kids and families."

### **LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies**

#### **Stonewall's new strategy for 2025-2028**

<https://www.stonewall.org.uk/about-us/strategy>

(Source: Stonewall *Newsletter*, 5 Jul 2025)

Stonewall have just launched their strategy for 2025-2028; their headline strategic objectives are:

- "Provide leadership to navigate turbulence for LGBTQ+ issues and; work in coalition to protect and improve LGBTQ+ rights across the four UK nations and beyond.
- Shape a policy and legislative agenda, through working in partnerships, that is focused on improving LGBTQ+ lives day in, day out using data and evidence.
- Support the development of safe and inclusive places where everyone can play and succeed throughout their lives."

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

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

#### **National Year of Reading 2026**

<https://www.nationalyearofreading.org.uk/>

Just in case you haven't seen this ...

"The National Year of Reading 2026 is a campaign that will engage new audiences in reading, encourage reading for pleasure and change the nation's reading culture for good."

See Government press release at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/news/parents-urged-to-read-more-to-boost-childrens-life-chances?utm\\_campaign=2147275\\_Literacy%20news%20NYR%20JULY%202025\\_HL&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The%20National%20Literacy%20Trust&dm\\_i=7RFL,1A0UJ,3IMFBW,31FKK,1](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/parents-urged-to-read-more-to-boost-childrens-life-chances?utm_campaign=2147275_Literacy%20news%20NYR%20JULY%202025_HL&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20National%20Literacy%20Trust&dm_i=7RFL,1A0UJ,3IMFBW,31FKK,1)