

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 423, 20 August 2025

Events

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

Funding & Opportunities

Digital Inclusion Innovation Fund

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/digital-inclusion-innovation-fund>

(Source: *Public Sector News*, 20 Aug 2025)

“The Digital Inclusion Innovation Fund is one of the First 5 actions from the *Digital Inclusion Action Plan: First Steps* to support digitally excluded people. The fund aims to support:

- innovative interventions to produce new knowledge on ‘what works’, building the evidence base on effective digital inclusion interventions
- best practice with the ambition to scale and replicate successful activities across England to increase digital participation

Grants of £25,000 to £500,000 are available to fund projects of different sizes.”

In terms of what the funding could include:

“Applicants are encouraged to consider a range of topics relevant to digital inclusion, including but not limited to:

- **community engagement** – how can digital inclusion support greater social cohesion and strengthen local communities?
- **financial services** – are there ways to improve access to financial services and economic empowerment through digital inclusion interventions?
- **employment** – how can expanding engagement with digital society help people to access and pursue employment opportunities?
- **education and skills** – how can increasing digital inclusion support greater access to education and skills including media literacy?
- **safety and security** – what interventions can support greater understanding of how to be safe and secure in a digital society?
- **health and wellbeing** – what are the opportunities to support greater understanding of and control over personal health and wellbeing through digital inclusion?”

Further info about applying etc on the webpage.

Climate emergency/the environment – Other Agencies

“Why modern masculinity is a climate issue”

https://theconversation.com/why-modern-masculinity-is-a-climate-issue-260868?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for

<https://www.baltic.art/news-and-media/birds-bikes-bees-trees/>
(Source: *The Conversation*, 30 Jul 2025)

This is really interesting – it argues that we don't recognise the role that many young, working-class men play:

“In listening to the young men at the project launch of Birds, Bees, Bikes and Trees [see: <https://baltic.art/news-and-media/birds-bikes-bees-trees/>] I learned that they live their lives locally. They do not go on holidays abroad. They visit local shops and the vast majority do not own a car – they walk, cycle or take public transport.

But they are not commended for their green citizenship. Instead, they are often marked by poverty and deprivation. This view, which sees them as lacking, consigns their demographic to marginalisation. They are seen as without education and without opportunity. It also helps explain why private car ownership is seen as aspirational.”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“A Fair Future? How Equality Will Define Europe's Next Chapter”

<https://www.socialeurope.eu/a-fair-future-how-equality-will-define-europes-next-chapter>

(Source: *Social Europe Newsletter*, 28 Jul 2025)

Important article by Kate Pickett (co-author of *The spirit level*), which concludes:

“[...] but, please, let's all put tackling inequality at the centre of our political agendas and act to address the interconnected crises we face – from climate change to social care to the epidemic of mental ill health and the democracy deficit – and create a resilient, fair, and sustainable Europe. Addressing inequality must be at the heart of our political agenda. Otherwise, we face a future where the far right gains even more ground, and society spirals into division and discord.”

“Age UK: ‘2.4 million digitally excluded older people at risk of being left behind’”

<https://theageactionalliance.org/2025/07/30/age-uk-2-4-million-digitally-excluded-older-people-at-risk-of-being-left-behind/>

(Source: *Later Life AGEnda*, 30 Jul 2025)

“New analysis for Age UK has found that 2.4 million (19%, nearly one in five) older people have limited use of the internet – using it less than once a month or not at all [...]

Findings for Age UK found that limited internet use is more common among older people in some groups, rising to 32% for older Black and 26% for older Asian people, 30% for older people who live alone and 22% for older women and those struggling financially.”

Community cohesion – Other Agencies

The state of us: community strength and cohesion in the UK

<https://www.britishfuture.org/state-of-us-report-news-story/>

(Source: LinkedIn)

As the report's sub-heading says: "A foundational report by British Future and the Belong Network to the Independent Commission on Community and Cohesion".

This important report forms part of the foundation of the work of the new Independent Commission on Community & Cohesion,

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

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

Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

"How the UK could reform the European convention on human rights"

https://theconversation.com/how-the-uk-could-reform-the-european-convention-on-human-rights-259466?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2028%202025%20-%203467035311&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2028%202025%20-%203467035311+CID_12be89cca94b5388188a010db15f27d8&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=How%20the%20UK%20could%20reform%20the%20European%20convention%20on%20human%20rights

(Source: *The Conversation*, 29 Jul 2025)

Helpful explainer, looking at what the ECHR actually includes – and at ways in which the UK could work towards improving it (rather than pulling out).

Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion – Other Agencies

"England's new free speech law comes into force – what it means for universities"

https://theconversation.com/englands-new-free-speech-law-comes-into-force-what-it-means-for-universities-262080?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2031%202025%20-%203471835353&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2031%202025%20-%203471835353+CID_9b6c9892a643ca79dc3116fb6048524a&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Englands%20new%20free%20speech%20law%20comes%20into%20force%20%20what%20it%20means%20for%20universities

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

Useful summary of what the changes to the law mean ...

Migration issues – Other Agencies

"EU citizens living in the UK"

<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/projects/eu-nationals-living-in-the-uk/>

(Source: *Migration Observations: the newsletter from the University of Oxford's Migration Observatory*, Jul 2025)

Set of useful Briefings:

“This project provides an in-depth analysis of EU nationals living in the United Kingdom. It examines the characteristics of the EU population, the role of EU migrants in several key areas of British society like the labour market, important changes to policy since Brexit in areas such as voting, and the distribution of EU migrants at a local level.”

“People crossing the English Channel in small boats”

<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/people-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats/>

(Source: *Migration Observations: the newsletter from the University of Oxford's Migration Observatory*, Jul 2025)

“Briefing” updated to mid-July.

“Exclusive: Inside the Diss hotel – a refugee’s view of the anti-refugee crowd outside”

<https://eastangliabylines.co.uk/immigration/exclusive-inside-the-diss-hotel-a-refugees-view-of-the-anti-refugee-crowd-outside/>

(Source: email from Asylum Matters, 1 Aug 2025)

“What would it feel like to shelter in a hotel while a hostile crowd chants outside, demanding your removal? This is the lived experience of an asylum seeker housed at the Park Hotel in Diss, Norfolk, where last week, far-right protesters gathered outside, targeting the families inside. Here, our writer offers a personal and moving account of what it felt like from the other side of the window.”

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

“Our response to the EHRC Code of Practice consultation”

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/campaigns/uncategorized/our-response-to-the-ehrc-code-of-practice-consultation/>

“The Museums Association has responded to the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Code of practice for services, public functions and associations: consultation 2025 [...]

In our response we:

- Expressed our commitment to equality, diversity, inclusion and the belief that museums should be safe and inclusive spaces for all, including trans staff and audiences
- Raised concerns that the EHRC Code of Practice focuses on exclusion rather than inclusion and asked for the Code of Practice to provide examples of how trans people can still be included in services and spaces in the context of the ruling
- Highlighted how museums are informing and enriching people’s understanding of identity and belonging through the stories they tell
- Raised that it would be inappropriate, unethical and impractical for museums to ask staff, volunteers or visitors about birth sex and gatekeep who can access services, events and toilets.”