

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 424, 1 September 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

“Young people in coastal towns are getting left behind – here’s what could help”

https://theconversation.com/young-people-in-coastal-towns-are-getting-left-behind-heres-what-could-help-262771?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2027%202025%20-%203498535641&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2027%202025%20-%203498535641+CID_bfdd353a92865230ce22bf39a058fd52&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Young%20people%20in%20coastal%20towns%20are%20getting%20left%20behind%20%20heres%20what%20could%20help

(Source: *The Conversation*, 28 Aug 2025)

Interesting article that identifies some possible steps to take to help the situation improve, including:

- Investing in safe spaces and leisure activities that are available outside of the short summer season
- Investing in and rebuilding youth services
- Improving youth mental health services.

Disability issues – Other Agencies

“Let us have our health information in a way we can read, say patients with sight loss”

<https://www.rnib.org.uk/news/let-us-have-our-health-information-in-a-way-we-can-read-say-patients-with-sight-loss/>

(Source: *Reading Sight Newsletter*, 364, Sep 2025)

Important post:

“Blind and partially sighted people will continue to face serious risks to their safety because information received about their health isn’t accessible, unless the updated NHS England Accessible Information Standard is fully implemented, leading sight loss charity Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) has warned.”

Neurodiversity issues – Other Agencies

“Social connections matter for the well-being of neurodivergent workers – adjustments to office settings and routines aren’t enough”

https://theconversation.com/social-connections-matter-for-the-well-being-of-neurodivergent-workers-adjustments-to-office-settings-and-routines-arent-enough-263449?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2028%202025&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2028%202025+CID_3a1790afc45c0227410e44d788d424a8&utm_source=campaign_monitor_europe&utm_term=Social%20connections%20matter%20for%20the%20well-

[being%20of%20neurodivergent%20workers%20%20adjustments%20to%20office%20settings%20and%20routines%20arent%20enough](#)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 28 Aug 2025)

Interesting article that raises some key issues:

“Think about the last time you chatted with a colleague by the coffee machine, grabbed lunch with a colleague, or reached out to someone to praise their performance. These casual work connections, often taken for granted, can become pathways to new opportunities, valuable information, and a sense of belonging that make our professional lives meaningful.

For the estimated 15-20% of people who are neurodivergent, navigating these connections often involves unique challenges.”

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

“Darlington Libraries launch SEND book bags”

<https://www.darlington.gov.uk/news/darlington-libraries-launch-send-book-bags>

(Source: LinkedIn)

“Staff at Darlington Libraries have carefully chosen a selection of books to include in the new SEND bags, with the aim of supporting those with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Each bag contains five books that either explore feelings and emotions, offer tactile sensory experiences, or come highly recommended for neurodivergent children. Alongside the books, families will also find helpful information and links to further support.”

SEND issues – Other Agencies

“The IPPR Inclusion Taskforce”

https://www.ippr.org/the-ippr-inclusion-taskforce?mc_cid=e1a449a666&mc_eid=fbc917e5f6

(Source: IPPR *The Progressive Insider*, 1 Sep 2025)

IPPR has recently established an Inclusion Taskforce:

“With six children in every classroom now identified as having additional needs, and the number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) doubling in the last decade, urgent reform is essential. The taskforce will gather evidence from across the country — from children, parents, schools, colleges, local authorities, and support professionals — to identify practical solutions to persistent challenges, from assessment delays to patchy provision and poor outcomes.

Our work will culminate in a set of robust principles for reform, offering an ambitious yet achievable vision for an inclusive education system that works for every child. Findings will be published in autumn 2025, providing independent insights to help shape the government’s forthcoming SEND reforms.”

Its terms of reference are available at: <https://ippr-org.files.svdcn.com/production/Downloads/IPPR-Inclusion-Taskforce-terms-of-reference.pdf?dm=1753868612>.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“Why personal finance is harder when you’re a migrant”

https://theconversation.com/why-personal-finance-is-harder-when-youre-a-migrant-262976?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2027%202025%20-%203498535641&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2027%202025%20-%203498535641+CID_bfdd353a92865230ce22bf39a058fd52&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Why%20personal%20finance%20is%20harder%20when%20youre%20a%20migrant

(Source: *The Conversation*, 28 Aug 2025)

Useful article highlighting the need for more financial support, including information, to be available.

“I told them the truth”: an update on the criminalisation of people arriving to the UK on ‘small boats’ February 2024 to April 2025

https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/inline-files/I%20told%20them%20the%20truth_final_02_06_0.pdf

(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Bi-Monthly Newflash*, May/Jun/Jul 2025)

New report from Border Criminologies and the Centre for Criminology at the University of Oxford. (Border Criminologies is an international network of researchers, practitioners, and those who have experienced border control.)

“[It] shows that hundreds of people seeking safety in the UK have been imprisoned for arriving to the UK on a ‘small boat’ since 2022. Among those imprisoned are refugees, victims of trafficking and torture, and children prosecuted as adults. This practice breaches international law, and causes significant harm to people seeking safety in the UK [...]

There is no evidence, from the UK or other jurisdiction, that prison sentences for ‘illegal arrival’ deter people from making irregular journeys to seek asylum. Our evidence shows that criminal offences justified as targeting only the ‘most egregious’ cases of irregular arrival, in fact target a broad range of people seeking safety in the UK.”

“Refugee charities install safe rooms and relocate amid rise in far-right threats”

https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/aug/21/refugee-charities-install-safe-rooms-and-relocate-amid-rise-in-far-right-threats?fbclid=IwY2xjawMeuLtleHRuA2FlbQlXMQABHrb91WzD_G5VMPXtX0VTqbQhQeVacTBPC0ds8WQQMolbPYTQtvoYTHGmML4A_aem_XhfBrNgRDMWH8yFBBC3olA

Just in case you haven’t seen this *Guardian* article which also reports on threats to City of Sanctuary:

“One example of the recent hostility targeted at organisations is provided by City of Sanctuary UK, which was falsely accused of grooming schoolchildren for the benefit of adult male asylum seekers. Schools

supportive of the organisation carried out an annual arts activity where children make cards to send to refugees around Valentine's Day with the message: 'showing your heart for refugees'.

The event was part of a broader refugees welcome campaign that is symbolised by orange hearts. The children did not sign their names on their cards and the anonymous messages were then passed on to refugees the children will never meet as a generic message of welcome.

The former Conservative education secretary Gavin Williamson has made a complaint to the Charity Commission about the activity, claiming that it is politicised. Far-right activists have accused City of Sanctuary of grooming children for the benefit of adult male asylum seekers.

A spokesperson for City of Sanctuary UK said: 'Our work has been deliberately misrepresented by a dangerous campaign built on false and inflammatory claims. These attacks not only put our staff and the school communities we support at risk, but are part of a wider strategy: to sow division and fuel hostility towards people seeking sanctuary. This is not just an attack on us – it is an attack on the values of compassion, safety and solidarity.'

A Charity Commission spokesperson said: 'Concerns have been raised with us about alleged political activity linked to City of Sanctuary. We are currently assessing the information available to determine if there is a regulatory role for us.'

"Think Rylan is right about asylum-seekers? So does Tommy Robinson..."

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/rylan-clark-asylum-immigration-tommy-robinson-b2815781.html?ref=wearequeer.af.com>

(Source: email from Queer AF, 30 Aug 2025)

You may have missed the media fuss about Rylan's comments about the alleged welcome that new arrivals receive, but this *Independent* article helpfully takes apart his allegations:

"Here's the hotel..."? Asylum seekers who land on beaches in Kent are quickly taken to temporary accommodation with no choice as to where they stay.

"Here's the phones..."? Asylum seekers are not routinely provided with phones by the Home Office, although sometimes charities give out reconditioned handsets to those who need to communicate with people back home, lawyers or refugee charities. But at no point is taxpayers' money used to pay for phones.

"Here's an iPad..."? Asylum seekers are not given iPads.

“Here’s the NHS in the reception of your hotel...”? Healthcare in Britain is free at the point of use and given to anyone who needs it. In that regard, asylum seekers are no different from the rest of us. We all have access to NHS healthcare and, like us, they will sit for hours in a waiting room before being seen and offered treatment. It is untrue to imply there are dedicated NHS services set up in the receptions of asylum hotels.

And surely the issue here isn’t that refugees have access to free healthcare, it’s that the NHS is underfunded. We need to stop blaming asylum-seekers for this.’

Asylum accommodation in the UK

<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2025-b-Briefing-Asylum-accommodation-in-the-UK.pdf>

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

New “Briefing” which explains the background to the housing of people seeking asylum in hotels. Key points include:

“While asylum accommodation policy has traditionally aimed to house asylum seekers in long-term private rental accommodation, after 2020 there has been a much larger reliance on hotels, a trend driven by the large backlog of asylum applications, and a shortage of long-term housing options.

While hotel use declined across much of the UK between 2023 and 2024, it continued to rise in London.

From 2018 to 2024, an increasing number of asylum seekers were housed in London, the South East, and the East of England — a shift away from the original dispersal policy.

Regions housing a growing share of asylum seekers are also those with higher reliance on hotel accommodation.” [p2]

“Who migrates to the UK and why?”

<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/who-migrates-to-the-uk-and-why/>

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

Another helpful “Briefing”.

‘Headlines’ include:

- More than eight in ten people who moved to the UK between 2021 and 2024 were non-EU citizens
- Indian was the most common nationality of people migrating to the UK since 2005, and Indians accounted for a quarter of all non-EU arrivals since 2021: “While work was generally the main reason for Indians to

migrate to the UK in the past, migration for study increased substantially since 2021.”

Family migration to the UK

<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/2025-Briefing-Family-migration-to-the-UK.pdf>

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

“This briefing examines the migration of family members to the UK. This includes people who come to join British or settled residents in the UK (family unification), families of refugees, as well as people joining or accompanying migrants on temporary visas, such as for work or study.”
[p2]

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

“Rediscovering libraries: new insights on engaging non-users”

<https://dcmslibraries.blog.gov.uk/2025/07/16/rediscovering-libraries-new-insights-on-engaging-non-users/>

New DCMS blogpost highlighting the findings of recent research by Ipsos UK.

To be frank, I'm not sure it's anything we don't know already – but it's good that there is some focus on libraries, especially as it points towards the need for more funding.

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

Broader issues – Other Agencies

“World Kit Lit Month”

<https://worldkidlit.org/what-is-world-kid-lit-month/>

(Source: *CILIP Scotland Newsletter*, Sep 2025)

“Every September is World Kid Lit Month, the time to explore international literature for children and young adults.”

It's organised by World Kit Lit:

“World Kid Lit is a non-profit that aims to bring diverse, inclusive, global literature into the hands and onto the bookshelves of young people.

We believe in the power of reading to foster anti-racism, inclusivity and empathy. We believe in the power of world kid lit (world literature for young people) to broaden horizons and promote greater understanding between cultures [...]

Our community brings together literature and literacy advocates, librarians and educators, translators and children's publishing professionals from every continent of the globe!” [Taken from:
<https://worldkidlit.org/what-is-world-kid-lit/>]