

# The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 436, 2 June 2026

## Events

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

## Congratulations!

### Museums + Heritage Awards 2026

<https://awards.museumsandheritage.com/2026-winners/>

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 15 May 2026)

The winners of the 2026 Museums + Heritage Awards have just been announced.

## Funding & Opportunities

### “Sites of Memory”

<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/arts-and-culture/diversity-public-realm/memorial-victims-transatlantic-slavery/sites-memory>

(Source: email from Joseph Kelly, The National Archives to [archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk), 28 May 2026)

“A new funding opportunity is now open designed to support community-led projects that explore, preserve and share the histories and legacies of transatlantic slavery.

The programme is part of a wider commitment to remembrance, reflection and public engagement. It forms part of the Mayor of London’s commitment to deliver the capital’s first permanent memorial to honour enslaved Africans who were trafficked as part of the transatlantic slave trade.

Find out more: <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/arts-and-culture/diversity-public-realm/memorial-victims-transatlantic-slavery/sites-memory>

A wide range of organisations are encouraged to apply, including those who may not have previous experience of public funding.

Submit an Expression of Interest by Friday 3 July.” [taken from email]

## Cost of living crisis/poverty/NEET – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

### *Young people and work: interim report*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/young-people-and-work-interim-report/young-people-and-work-interim-report>

Alan Milburn’s review of current youth (un)employment was published on 28 May.

Some key points from the Foreword:

“Shockingly, 6 in 10 young people who are NEET today have never had a job, up from 4 in 10 in 2005.”

And:

“Other countries prove what is possible. A decade ago, our NEET rate was closer to the average of European Union countries. Today, Britain is an outlier. By 2025, only Romania recorded a higher youth NEET rate. While we have tumbled down the league table, other countries have improved. That should also tell us that this problem can be solved. But only if we change course.

To do so we have to understand what is causing the UK’s chronic NEET problem to worsen in the first place. That is what this diagnostic report seeks to do. There is no singular explanation. But there is one stand-out change. Over the past decade, the proportion who say they are NEET due to a work-limiting health condition has increased by 70%. The proportion of disabled NEETs citing mental health as their primary condition has almost doubled to more than four in ten. Among disabled NEET young people, anxiety, depression, neurodevelopmental conditions and other forms of distress are no longer peripheral factors. They are among its defining features.”

There was an interesting round-up of responses to the report at: **“Youth inactivity review – key sector organisations react to Milburn's interim findings”**, [https://www.cypnow.co.uk/content/analysis/youth-inactivity-review-key-sector-organisations-react-to-milburns-interim-findings?utm\\_campaign=Weekly%20RoundUp%2029%2F05%2F26&utm\\_content=&utm\\_term=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2Fcontent%2Fanalysis%2Fyouth-inactivity-review-key-sector-organisations-react-to-milburns-interim-findings&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now](https://www.cypnow.co.uk/content/analysis/youth-inactivity-review-key-sector-organisations-react-to-milburns-interim-findings?utm_campaign=Weekly%20RoundUp%2029%2F05%2F26&utm_content=&utm_term=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2Fcontent%2Fanalysis%2Fyouth-inactivity-review-key-sector-organisations-react-to-milburns-interim-findings&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now).

### **Tackling social and digital exclusion – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government “Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2026”**

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-the-taoiseach/speeches/speech-by-taoiseach-miche%C3%A1l-martin-at-the-launch-of-the-roadmap-for-social-inclusion-20262030-aviva-stadium-dublin-27-may-2026/>

On 27 May, the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, gave a speech to launch the new Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2026–2030. The speech includes some important points:

“The ambition at the heart of this Roadmap is very clear: to reduce consistent poverty to 2% or less by 2030, and to make Ireland one of the most socially inclusive countries in the world.

That ambition reflects our values as a society—but also our responsibility to act in the interests of all of our futures.

Poverty and exclusion undermine dignity.

They limit opportunity, weaken community resilience, and reduce social cohesion. They also hold back our wider economic and social progress.

We know that when people are supported to realise their potential – through secure income, access to services, education, and meaningful participation – everyone benefits.

Communities become stronger, the economy more resilient, and society more cohesive.”

There is further coverage of the launch at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-social-protection/press-releases/government-launches-new-national-strategy-to-reduce-poverty-and-improve-social-inclusion/>, and the Roadmap itself is at: [https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/5d2f5151/20260526\\_26.05.25\\_Department\\_of\\_Social\\_Protection\\_-\\_Roadmap\\_for\\_Social\\_Inclusion\\_2026-2030.pdf](https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/5d2f5151/20260526_26.05.25_Department_of_Social_Protection_-_Roadmap_for_Social_Inclusion_2026-2030.pdf).

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

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

#### **“Building aspiration with young people experiencing homelessness”**

[https://www.cypnow.co.uk/content/research/building-aspiration-with-young-people-experiencing-homelessness?utm\\_campaign=Update%20bulletin%2013%2F05%2F26&utm\\_content=&utm\\_term=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2Fcontent%2Fresearch%2Fbuilding-aspiration-with-young-people-experiencing-homelessness&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now](https://www.cypnow.co.uk/content/research/building-aspiration-with-young-people-experiencing-homelessness?utm_campaign=Update%20bulletin%2013%2F05%2F26&utm_content=&utm_term=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2Fcontent%2Fresearch%2Fbuilding-aspiration-with-young-people-experiencing-homelessness&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now)

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Update*, 13 May 2026)

Important, positive article:

“Many young people experiencing homelessness arrive in services with low aspiration. They’ve been told – directly or indirectly – that they won’t amount to much. They’ve experienced instability, trauma, disrupted education, and a lack of supportive adults. In that context, thinking about the future feels risky, pointless, or impossible.”

I particularly like the conclusion:

“Aspiration-building isn’t about telling young people they can ‘be anything’. It’s about helping them see that they can be *something* - something meaningful, achievable, and worth working toward.”  
[emphasis theirs]

#### ***Strengthening a place-based approach to digital inclusion: a What Works? Co Lab Report from Good Things Foundation***

[https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/policy-and-research/research-and-evidence/research-2026/strengthening-place-based-digital-inclusion?utm\\_source=la+dsit&utm\\_medium=press+release&utm\\_campaign=report+and+tool+launch#summary](https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/policy-and-research/research-and-evidence/research-2026/strengthening-place-based-digital-inclusion?utm_source=la+dsit&utm_medium=press+release&utm_campaign=report+and+tool+launch#summary)

(Source: *Good Things Foundation Newsletter*, May 2026)

“Digital exclusion touches nearly every aspect of residents' lives, including employment, education, health services, and social connection. Yet no single public service is responsible for digital inclusion. Locally, this means that local authorities are often best placed to lead and coordinate partners in ways that are strategic, embed digital inclusion in local strategies and services, and foster cross-sector collaboration, especially with the voluntary and community sector.

Funded by the Digital Inclusion Innovation Fund, this 6 month project explored how to strengthen approaches in three areas.”

Key lessons include:

- Local authorities are well-placed to foster a collaborative approach
- Strategic planning should be anchored in lived experience
- Engage the VCSE [Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise] sector as vital partners.

There is more info about Good Things Foundation’s Digital Inclusion Partnerships Pathway tool at: [https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/discover/digital-inclusion-resources/partnership-tools/digital-inclusion-partnership-pathway?utm\\_source=la+dsit&utm\\_medium=press+release&utm\\_campaign=report+and+tool+launch](https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/discover/digital-inclusion-resources/partnership-tools/digital-inclusion-partnership-pathway?utm_source=la+dsit&utm_medium=press+release&utm_campaign=report+and+tool+launch).

### **Diversity in books and other materials for children & young people**

#### **“Diversity in children and young peoples’ reading”**

<https://www.thebelongingeffect.co.uk/diversity-in-children-and-young-peoples-reading/>

(Source: Belonging Effect *Newsletter*, 67, May 2026)

Interesting new blogpost:

“For some time, following the events of 2020, schools, libraries and the publishing industry were making positive headway in diversifying the representation in books made available to children and young people. But in the last 12 months that has changed. The political landscape and divisive political narratives have had a tangible effect on the proportion of children’s books written by and featuring diverse characters [...]

It is ironic that, in this national year of reading, I (and others) should have to make a case for considering and championing of diverse representation in texts. In this blog I will invite you to consider the role that diverse representation in texts can play in bringing us together and the benefits of diversity of representation in the texts read by all pupils.”

### ***From reluctant to rapt: how inclusive books impacted reading across 12 schools***

<https://eu-west-2.graphassets.com/AHVLtDGMdTOS19nGbHqO0z/cmpdg26p39vq007mp3hrqylaj>

(Source: email from Inclusive Books for Children, 20 May 2026)

“This collaborative case study between the English Association (EA) and Inclusive Books for Children (IBC) explores what happened when curated packs of 10 high-quality inclusive children’s books were provided to 12 participants – headteachers, class teachers and school librarians – across diverse school settings in England [...]

 [p2]

### **Migration issues – Other Agencies**

#### ***Net migration to the UK***

Web version: [https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/long-term-international-migration-flows-to-and-from-the-uk/?mc\\_cid=98e06112c2&mc\\_eid=5bedccdc31](https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/long-term-international-migration-flows-to-and-from-the-uk/?mc_cid=98e06112c2&mc_eid=5bedccdc31)

Downloaded as pdf: <https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/2026-Briefing-Net-Migration-to-the-UK.pdf>

(Source: *Migration Observations: the newsletter from the University of Oxford's Migration Observatory*, May 2026)

New very useful background “Briefing” from The Migration Observatory:

“This briefing covers the scale of immigration and net migration in the UK since the early 2000s and under the post-Brexit immigration system.”

### ***The impact of migration on UK population growth***

Web version: [https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/the-impact-of-migration-on-uk-population-growth/?mc\\_cid=98e06112c2&mc\\_eid=5bedccdc31](https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/the-impact-of-migration-on-uk-population-growth/?mc_cid=98e06112c2&mc_eid=5bedccdc31)

Downloaded as pdf: <https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/2026-Briefing-The-impact-of-migration-on-UK-population-growth.pdf>

(Source: *Migration Observations: the newsletter from the University of Oxford's Migration Observatory*, May 2026)

Another useful “Briefing”:

“More than half (68%) of the increase in the UK population between 2005 and 2024 was due to the direct contribution of net migration. Since 2020, almost all of the growth in the population has come from net migration [...]

Each nation would experience population decline without future net migration, particularly Scotland and Wales, while the fall would be more modest in Northern Ireland.” [pdf version, p2]

### ***Migrants in the UK labour market: an overview***

Web version: [https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/migrants-in-the-uk-labour-market-an-overview/?mc\\_cid=98e06112c2&mc\\_eid=5bedccdc31](https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/migrants-in-the-uk-labour-market-an-overview/?mc_cid=98e06112c2&mc_eid=5bedccdc31)

Downloaded as pdf: <https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2026-Briefing-Migrants-in-the-UK-labour-market-an-overview.pdf>

(Source: *Migration Observations: the newsletter from the University of Oxford's Migration Observatory*, May 2026)

Some key points include:

“In December 2025, 19% (or 5.9 million) of UK employees were adult migrants.

Men born outside the UK were more likely to be employed than UK-born men, but among women, migrants were less likely to be in employment. Unemployment rates have been higher among migrants than the UK-born over the past two decades.

In December 2025, 13% of individuals in receipt of a Universal Credit payment were neither UK nor Irish nationals, marginally lower than their share in the wider population.

Non-EU-born migrants who moved to the UK seeking asylum were less likely to be employed than those who moved for employment, family or study reasons.

Migrants are overrepresented in the administrative services, hospitality, and health and care sectors.” [pdf version, p2]

### **“Asylum accommodation in the UK”**

[https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/asylum-accommodation-in-the-uk/?mc\\_cid=98e06112c2&mc\\_eid=5bedccdc31](https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/asylum-accommodation-in-the-uk/?mc_cid=98e06112c2&mc_eid=5bedccdc31)

(Source: *Migration Observations: the newsletter from the University of Oxford's Migration Observatory*, May 2026)

“This briefing examines asylum accommodation in the UK. It provides statistics on the number of asylum seekers in each type of accommodation, and where they are accommodated across the UK.”

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

#### **“Small presses take big swing on trans titles”**

<https://www.thebookseller.com/comment/small-presses-take-big-swing-on-trans-titles> [you may need to register on the site to continue reading ...]

Very interesting article, arguing that:

“While transgender publishing seems to have taken a step backwards in recent years, the indie sector is keeping the flame alive”

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

#### **“Experts set out how to tackle the UK's literacy crisis”**

[https://www.cypnow.co.uk/content/analysis/experts-set-out-how-to-tackle-the-uks-literacy-crisis?utm\\_campaign=Update%20bulletin%2020%2F05%2F26&utm\\_content=&utm\\_term=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2Fcontent%2Fanalysis%2Fexperts-set-out-how-to-tackle-the-uks-literacy-crisis&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now](https://www.cypnow.co.uk/content/analysis/experts-set-out-how-to-tackle-the-uks-literacy-crisis?utm_campaign=Update%20bulletin%2020%2F05%2F26&utm_content=&utm_term=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2Fcontent%2Fanalysis%2Fexperts-set-out-how-to-tackle-the-uks-literacy-crisis&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now)

(Source: *Children & Young People Now Update*, 20 May 2026)

“As part of its Reading for Pleasure inquiry, MPs heard evidence from charity chiefs, academics and school leaders on the factors affecting children's literacy levels and what action policymakers can take to reverse declining standards.”

Includes evidence from Victoria Dilly (SLA).

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

#### **“Stop asking communities what they think – and start sharing power in policymaking”**

[https://www.youngfoundation.org/stop-asking-communities-what-they-think-and-start-sharing-power-in-policymaking/?utm\\_source=spring-nl-start-share-power-button&utm\\_medium=spring-nl-start-share-power-button&utm\\_campaign=spring-nl-start-share-power-button](https://www.youngfoundation.org/stop-asking-communities-what-they-think-and-start-sharing-power-in-policymaking/?utm_source=spring-nl-start-share-power-button&utm_medium=spring-nl-start-share-power-button&utm_campaign=spring-nl-start-share-power-button)

(Source: *The Young Foundation Spring Newsletter*, 13 May 2026)

Interesting blog post that argues that, despite all the talk of engagement and evidence-informed policy, something is missing:

“Communities remain in the margins, asked what they think through consultations and light-touch engagement, only for processes (more often than not) to then carry on exactly as before. If we are serious about deepening trust in politics, and creating lasting policies, community participation must move from tokenism to real influence.”