

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 438, 7 July 2026

Events

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

Black Lives Matter/Anti-racism/Decolonisation

Homes lost, lives shattered: the Windrush housing scandal

Full report: <https://blackequityorg.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Windrush-V6.pdf>

Summary report: <https://blackequityorg.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/windrush-exec-summary.pdf>

(Source: email from Black Equity Organisation, 10 Jun 2026)

“The Home Office Windrush Scandal is one of the most serious failures of the British state – a systemic national injustice in which tens of thousands of people who had the legal right to call the United Kingdom home were wrongly classified as illegal immigrants. The impacts are far-reaching, and some victims have passed away before receiving justice.

This report examines the profound and lasting housing-related consequences of that failure. Without urgent action, Windrush survivors will continue to face displacement, instability and the erosion of the lives they built in Britain. The impact goes far beyond one generation: inaction entrenches intergenerational disadvantage – in an already unequal Britain – and signals that the state bears no obligation to remedy the harms it has caused.” [Full report, p6]

Climate emergency/the environment/sustainability – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Cool off in Culture”

<https://juliesbicycle.org/take-action/creative-climate-campaigns/cool-off-in-culture/campaign-hub/>

(Source: email from Joseph Kelly, The National Archives to archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk, 3 Jul 2026)

“As temperatures rise this summer, your cultural venue can become an essential community hub by offering people a refuge from the heat.

The Cool Off in Culture campaign is creating a map of cultural spaces – from museums and galleries to libraries and cinemas – where people can cool down during heatwaves.

Whether you offer air conditioning, free water refill points, or quiet, shaded seating – it all counts. By joining the campaign, you are:

- Establishing your venue as a vital community hub and a leader in climate resilience.
- Encouraging more visitors to your venue when they need it most.
- Uniting with the sector to prove culture is essential infrastructure for a climate just world.”

Climate emergency/the environment/sustainability – Other Agencies

“The cooling divide: how air conditioning is creating a new climate inequality”

https://theconversation.com/the-cooling-divide-how-air-conditioning-is-creating-a-new-climate-inequality-286592?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%206%202026%20-%203846139241&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%206%202026%20-%203846139241+CID_31829027b6f014ce37e514e2b43d541a&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=The%20cooling%20divide%20how%20air%20conditioning%20is%20creating%20a%20new%20climate%20inequality

(Source: *The Conversation*, 6 Jul 2026)

Timely and important article, drawing on research by the University of Reading:

“For decades, people in the UK tended to view air conditioning as something that belonged elsewhere. It was associated with office buildings, hotels and hotter countries rather than their own homes. But as summers become warmer and heatwaves more frequent, that picture is beginning to change.

Colleagues and I analysed data from the English Housing Survey, a nationally representative sample of about 16,000 households. This shows that air conditioning remains relatively uncommon, with just 4.3% of households using it in summer. That’s far below countries such as the US (nearly 90%) and Australia (around 75%).

Yet beneath this modest national average lies a far more revealing picture. Air conditioning is not spreading evenly across society. Instead, England is beginning to develop a cooling divide, one in which access to protection from extreme heat increasingly depends on where people live, how much they earn and the type of home they occupy.”

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

“Councils told to improve tracking of ‘phantom Neets’”

https://www.cypnow.co.uk/content/news/councils-told-to-improve-tracking-of-phantom-neets?utm_campaign=Weekly%20RoundUp%2003%2F07%2F26&utm_content=&utm_term=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2Fcontent%2Fnews%2Fcouncils-told-to-improve-tracking-of-phantom-neets&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now

(Source: email from Children & Young People Now, 3 Jul 2026)

“The Department for Education is offering councils support to identify and help teenagers at risk of becoming not in education, employment or training (Neet), after official data showed local authorities do not know the status of 32,100 16- and 17-year-olds.”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Research and Background: Libraries and Family Hubs”

<https://www.local.gov.uk/research-and-background-libraries-and-family-hubs>

(Source: LinkedIn)

New toolkit from the LGA:

“Exploring how libraries and Family Hubs can work together to create accessible, preventative and family-centred support systems, highlighting the unique role libraries play in improving outcomes for children, young people and families through trusted community-based services.”

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

“Digital poverty is holding university students back”

https://theconversation.com/digital-poverty-is-holding-university-students-back-285663?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%206%202026%20-%203846139241&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%206%202026%20-%203846139241+CID_31829027b6f014ce37e514e2b43d541a&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Digital%20poverty%20is%20holding%20university%20students%20back

(Source: *The Conversation*, 6 Jul 2026)

“Digital poverty describes a cluster of overlapping disadvantages: lack of access to devices, unreliable or unaffordable internet connectivity, and insufficient digital skills to make meaningful use of online resources even when access exists.

According to a 2023 report [see below], between 13 and 19 million people over the age of 16 in the UK are experiencing this in some form.

Researchers describe digital poverty as operating across three levels. These are poor access to digital technologies, poor digital literacy and skills, and a reduced ability to convert digital access into real-world benefits, such as securing a job, managing finances or navigating health systems. Each level compounds the next.

In higher education, all three levels matter.”

The 2023 report mentioned is:

Digital poverty in the UK: a socio-economic assessment of the implications of digital poverty in the UK, <https://digitalpovertyalliance.org/digital-poverty-in-the-uk-a-socio-economic-assessment-of-the-implications-of-digital-poverty-in-the-uk/>.

“Resources for children and young people”

(Source: *Digital Unite Newsletter*, Jul 2026)

The latest *Newsletter* includes (with good timing, in the current climate):

“[...] practical digital inclusion support for children and young people — from free iPads for 11-19 year olds, to creative learning websites, to grants that help 18–24 year olds get online and build confidence. These resources give families and organisations simple, meaningful ways to help young people access the tools, skills and opportunities they deserve.”

These include:

- “Best... free websites for learning and creating with children”, <https://www.digitalunite.com/technology-guides/hobbies-interests/reading-learning/best-free-websites-learning-and-creating>
- Family Fund “Your Opportunity (18 to 24 year olds)”: “Your Opportunity is a dedicated grant programme which aims to enhance the life of disabled or seriously ill young adults, aged 18 to 24 years old, living at home. Young people cannot apply on their own but applications should come from parents or carers.” <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/grants/schemes/your-opportunity/>.
- Tech4 Take Off: “Free laptops, connectivity, and digital skills support for young people aged 11–19”, <https://digitalpovertyalliance.org/tech4takeoff/>.

Disability Pride Month

“Disability Pride Month”

(Source: *Digital Unite Newsletter*, Jul 2026)

This is a really useful checklist of things we could all do:

“This Disability Pride Month, organisations might want to take on some challenges around digital inclusion.

- Run an accessibility check in on your website or digital services.
- Offer a digital confidence session specifically for disabled residents or service users.
- Share stories from disabled people about how digital access has helped them — or where it still falls short.
- Encourage staff and volunteers to learn about assistive technology and inclusive communication.
- Review your digital pathways: are they simple, welcoming and barrier free?”

Migration issues – City of Sanctuary

“Sinister calls and threats against schools: how a migrant charity was targeted by the right”

https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/stories/2026-07-06/sinister-calls-and-threats-against-schools-how-a-migrant-charity-was-targeted-by-the-far-right?fbclid=IwY2xjawS5135leHRuA2FibQIxMABicmlkETFvWFhoRVd6TGJFWmRhRmY2c3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHohSNW2wzggolatBtk-KvjwK-2pzrlQ96nV19xRJNra1c0vZyT6cThGWpHXC_aem_BIYZISgKs-HJ4tluVk7LxQ

(Source: Facebook)

The Bureau of Investigative Journalism has looked into and reported on the targeting of City of Sanctuary last summer – it makes a scary and depressing read, as you see how stories are manufactured and then whipped up by rightwing bloggers and other activists with the support of parts of the news/print media.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“Falling migration is bad for economies – here’s how some countries are responding”

https://theconversation.com/falling-migration-is-bad-for-economies-heres-how-some-countries-are-responding-284218?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%202%202026%20-%203840039195&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%202%202026%20-%203840039195+CID_3ccd72a7a9bb1b00feb7df96130c9f26&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Falling%20migration%20is%20bad%20for%20economies%20%20heres%20how%20some%20countries%20are%20responding

(Source: *The Conversation*, 2 Jul 2026)

Interesting article:

“Falling migration may be a political win in a world where both the right and left see it as a top national concern and promise tough measures to ‘secure borders’. But it also has implications for the economy, including worsening existing labour shortages and constraining future growth.”

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

“Rainbow Migration’s Book List: Queerness & Colonialism”

<https://www.rainbowmigration.org.uk/news/book-list-queerness-colonialism/>

(Source: email from Rainbow Migration, 30 Jun 2026)

“For Pride 2026 we have collated this book list on ‘Queerness & Colonialism’.

Our Refugee Advisory Panel, LGBTQI+ people going through the asylum system, and staff team have recommended titles for this digital list – which you can also find in person at The People’s Letters Bookshop and through Lewisham Libraries (at Deptford Lounge, Sydenham Library, and an [online ebook collection](#)).”

“Trans kids are being hit by waves of hostile policymaking – they need our help”

<https://www.wearequeer.af.com/trans-kids-are-being-hit-by-waves-of-hostile-policymaking-they-need-our-help/>

(Source: email from Queer AF, 4 Jul 2026)

Just in case you haven't seen this grim round-up of the current state of policy-making.

Broader issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

“Government to build UK’s first permanent mobile museum to bring art to communities everywhere”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-build-uks-first-permanent-mobile-museum-to-bring-art-to-communities-everywhere>

(Source: *Heritage Update*, 571, 25 Jun 2026)

“The UK’s first permanent mobile museum will hit the road next year, bringing world class art to the doors of people all across the country.

A total of £1.6 million, formed of £800,000 from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and £800,000 matched by arts access charity Art Explora, will be used to build a state-of-the-art vehicle and tour three national collections per year, including the Government Art Collection (GAC). Designed by renowned British architect Ab Rogers, this colourful new vehicle will be the first dedicated mobile museum in the country and is part of the Culture Secretary’s plan to ensure arts are available everywhere for everyone.

From 2027, Art Explora will tour the new mobile museum with three 12-week exhibitions each year. GAC artworks will feature in one exhibition annually, with national and regional partners including the National Portrait Gallery, Leeds Art Gallery, Birmingham Museums Trust and National Museums Liverpool among other national museums delivering the remaining programme to ensure the widest possible reach across the UK.”