

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 439, 17 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

Black heritage voices: the importance of Black archives in preserving historical memory

<https://www.serendipity-uk.com/shop/new-and-coming-soon/black-heritage-voices-the-importance-of-black-archives-in-preserving-historical-memory/>

(Source: email from Serendipity Heritage to archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk, 9 Jul 2026)

“We are delighted to announce the publication of Black Heritage Voices: The Importance of Black Archives in Preserving Historical Memory, a new volume emerging from the highly successful Black Heritage Voices Conference, held in November 2025.

This important publication brings together the key themes, discussions and contributions from the conference, capturing the expertise and experiences of archivists, researchers, audience engagement specialists, community artists and activists, heritage programmers, and sector leaders working with, or interested in, Black archives.

The Black Heritage Voices Conference was established to create a space for dialogue, collaboration and critical reflection on the role of Black archives in preserving historical memory. The 2025 gathering explored creativity, digital innovation and the reframing of narratives, challenging traditional interpretations of history and broadening perspectives across the heritage sector.

Featuring international voices with expertise in digital archives, interpretation, curation, research and the visual arts, the publication showcases innovative approaches to preserving, sharing and amplifying Black histories. It serves as a lasting resource for heritage professionals, researchers, students and communities committed to documenting and celebrating Black experiences and contributions.” [Taken from email]

NB charged-for publication.

Funding & Opportunities

“A new approach to place targeting across DCMS programmes”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dcms-place-targeting/a-new-approach-to-place-targeting-across-dcms-programmes>

Just in case you haven't seen this new Policy paper:

“The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is committed to making a difference in the places that need it the most, through investing to build social and community cohesion and to enhance opportunity where outcomes are poorest.

Evidence points clearly to economic and social outcomes being systematically worse in places where both deprivation and community need is highest; places experiencing ‘double disadvantage’ [...] For this reason, across our programmes that aim to improve social and community outcomes, we will look to implement a tailored focus on targeting these ‘double disadvantage’ places – to ensure that our funding is concentrated in the communities where we can make the biggest difference.”

Climate emergency/the environment/sustainability – Other Agencies

“Heatwaves: how to close the UK’s cooling divide”

https://theconversation.com/heatwaves-how-to-close-the-uks-cooling-divide-287337?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=How%20did%20Botticellis%20Venus%20really%20die%20-%203864639357&utm_content=How%20did%20Botticellis%20Venus%20really%20die%20-%203864639357+CID_9a83bf602eccedd3e833564a6c13c48e&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Heatwaves%20how%20to%20close%20the%20UKs%20cooling%20divide

(Source: *The Conversation*, 14 Jul 2026)

This article looks broadly at how we cope with increasing temperatures – and includes a strong argument for the importance of keeping (and developing) libraries and other public facilities:

“Cool spaces and accessible facilities such as water stations, libraries, swimming pools, green spaces, public libraries, leisure centres, street furniture and shading enable people to cope with heat. In Leeds, UK, this summer, 39 community hubs, libraries and leisure centres across the city have been designated as cool spaces.

However, across the UK, erosion of these everyday infrastructures has reduced public access – often within communities that would benefit the most. England has lost 500 public pools as a result of austerity. More than 125 libraries closed in England between 2016 and 2023, with another 100 handed over to community groups.

This deepens existing inequalities, meaning that the communities most at risk of heat are least likely to have access to cooling infrastructures. Stronger local investment into everyday infrastructures can make cooling more accessible for more people. That include extending the hours of operation of these public cooling spaces.”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“Our Digital Nation”

https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/policy-and-research/research-and-evidence/research-2024/digital-nation?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=22623478783&qbraid=0AAAAAqUqZ8n02xDA5nFwB6tJYazkWuOtZ&gclid=Cj0KCQjw39zSBhDhARIsANammDvYV_i

[lwB08DhB9KObIbL5UtQkN8_Ko7Kpb3uTPRPP1VS1EoHGVvaAaAiTGEALw_wcB](#)

(Source: LinkedIn)

Important resource:

“The latest update of our Digital Nation infographic was launched in July 2026. It brings together recent data on digital exclusion and the impact of digital inclusion support from a range of sources, including Lloyds’ UK Consumer Digital Index and Essential Digital Skills reports (2025), Ofcom’s Communications Affordability Tracker (April 2026), and Good Things Foundation’s internal monitoring and evaluation impact reporting.”

Learning Disability issues – Other Agencies

“Over half of adults with learning disabilities do not live past 65, report says”

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cnv949z75jmo>

(Source: LinkedIn)

“More than half of adults with learning disabilities in England die before the age of 65, an annual report into mortality suggests.

For the general population, that figure is 15%, according to the Learning Disabilities Mortality Review, which is known as the LeDeR and was commissioned by NHS England.

It looked at deaths recorded between 2021 and 2024 and found those with a learning disability died, on average, 19 years younger than the general population.

A government spokesperson said ‘significant action’ was already underway to improve care, adding that ministers would ‘do all we can for people with a learning disability and autistic people.’

In a written ministerial statement, the government said the LeDeR findings were ‘stark’, while learning disability group Staying Alive and Well said ‘far too many people with a learning disability are still dying too young’ and that it should be ‘headline news’.

There is more info about LeDeR at: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/learning-disabilities/improving-health/learning-from-lives-and-deaths/>.

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

The effects of recent changes to UK Immigration, Asylum and Refugee Policy on poverty and inequality: a joint follow-up inquiry by the APPG on Migration and the APPG on Poverty and Inequality

https://appgmigration.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/MigrationandPoverty_FollowUpEnquiry_V2.pdf

(Source: email from The Equality Trust, 12 Jul 2026)

Important new report which makes some notable criticisms of what is currently happening and being proposed. It's worth quoting the recommendations in full:

“The inquiry found little evidence that the key drivers of poverty among migrant households identified in the APPGs’ 2024 report have been addressed. The Government should therefore consider the following measures to ensure that the proposed reforms do not deepen poverty and inequality.

- Removing the retrospective application of proposed earned settlement reforms to individuals already on an existing route to settlement;
- Reconsidering the proposed extension of the standard route to settlement, in line with our 2024 recommendation that no route to settlement should exceed five years;
- Publishing the full evidence base underpinning the Government’s projected £10 billion in fiscal savings, so that this estimate can be properly scrutinised before further reforms are pursued;
- Reducing immigration and nationality fees, including the Immigration Health Surcharge, for lower-income households already resident in the UK, with fees reduced to cost price for children and young people on a path to settlement and citizenship;
- Ensuring that NRPF conditions are strictly time-limited, and that nobody on a path to settlement is subject to these conditions for more than five years, or at any point after settlement has been granted;
- Removing child-focused benefits, including Child Benefit and the Healthy Start scheme, from the definition of ‘public funds’ for the purposes of NRPF restrictions,
- Ensuring that the refugee move-on period reflects the time genuinely available in practice, including by ensuring all relevant documentation is issued at the same time as an immigration decision;
- Reaffirming, and where necessary reforming policy, so that all services for children and young people, including early years provision and post-16 Further Education, should be available regardless of immigration status;
- Simplifying and widening free access to English language provision, recognising that raising requirements without investing in the means to meet them risks harming rather than supporting integration ;and
- Publishing full impact assessments for the proposed reforms, including Child Rights Impact Assessments and Equality Impact Assessments where appropriate, before the measures are implemented.” [p4]