

# The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 440, 4 August 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

**“Why Britain needs an anti-racism strategy right now”**

<https://www.bigissue.com/opinion/anti-racism-runnymede-trust/>

(Source: email from the Runnymede Trust, 3 Aug 2026)

Important, brief article by the head of policy at the Runnymede Trust, which concludes:

“This is not just what communities of colour deserve and should expect, but the entire nation. An anti-racism strategy would benefit everyone – addressing racism effectively means confronting the deeper structures within British politics that have for centuries served a privileged and powerful few. We hope the new prime minister can recognise that, when societies are more equal and when our institutions are fairer, our communities are stronger and we build the ability for everyone to prosper.”

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

**“Green Libraries Scotland Grant Recipients 2026-27 Announced”**

[https://www.cilips.org.uk/glsqf-](https://www.cilips.org.uk/glsqf-announcement/?utm_campaign=7366060_August%202026&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals&dm_i=6WFS,4DVOS,9VBO9,BJG9V,1,0,0,0)

[announcement/?utm\\_campaign=7366060\\_August%202026&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals&dm\\_i=6WFS,4DVOS,9VBO9,BJG9V,1,0,0,0](https://www.cilips.org.uk/glsqf-announcement/?utm_campaign=7366060_August%202026&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals&dm_i=6WFS,4DVOS,9VBO9,BJG9V,1,0,0,0)

(Source: *CILIP Scotland Newsletter*, Aug 2026)

Just in case you haven't seen this. The new recipients are:

- Inverclyde Libraries and their project: “Through the Weeds – Citizen science to combat climate confusion”

“This project will reinforce the library’s role as a trusted, accessible space for climate literacy, lifelong learning, and informed civic participation, making available a new collection of Citizen Science Kits for loan across Inverclyde Libraries: empowering residents of all ages to become active investigators as they gather, analyse and interpret local environmental data.”

- South Ayrshire Libraries AND their project: “Stories for a Sustainable Future”

“[...] Stories for a Sustainable Future will aid the development of a Climate Information Section at Carnegie Library providing up-to-date, accessible and trustworthy climate resources, including mythbusting materials and QR-linked fact-checking tools.”

## Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

### **State of the Nation: identifying vulnerable children and young people and supporting them to thrive**

[https://media.cfyl.org.uk/6a632bba366c808025df6c37\\_state-of-the-nation-2026.pdf](https://media.cfyl.org.uk/6a632bba366c808025df6c37_state-of-the-nation-2026.pdf)

(Source: email from Children & Young People Now, 31 Jul 2026)

New report from the Centre for Young Lives:

“This year’s report highlights three interconnected trends. First, more children are growing up in difficult circumstances, with rising poverty and housing insecurity increasing levels of vulnerability. Second, these challenges are increasingly shaping children’s experiences, contributing to educational disengagement, poor mental and physical health, growing safeguarding concerns and rising risks of exploitation. Third, the systems designed to support vulnerable children are under sustained pressure, with growing demand outstripping capacity across many services. For some children, the combination of these trends is creating a perfect storm.” [p6]

### **“‘I feel quite unsettled and unsafe’: Young people, belonging, and the broken promise of childhood”**

[https://www.ippr.org/articles/i-feel-quite-unsettled?mc\\_cid=f612a3e76c&mc\\_eid=fbc917e5f6](https://www.ippr.org/articles/i-feel-quite-unsettled?mc_cid=f612a3e76c&mc_eid=fbc917e5f6)

(Source: IPPR *The Progressive Insider*, 31 Jul 2026)

Important new blogpost from IPPR:

“Young people in England feel less secure, supported and connected than a decade ago. Based on nearly 200 conversations, this blog explores why childhood feels more stressful and less joyful.

‘It doesn’t feel like anybody’s helping you, or leading you,’ one young person told us in a workshop earlier this summer. They are not alone in feeling that way.

This is what many young people have told us recently. Growing up in England today means feeling less secure and less like you belong than young people did just a decade ago. Life feels increasingly high stakes, the people and spaces young people once turned to for support are disappearing, and, crucially, childhood itself has stopped being much fun.

We know this because we’ve spent the past few months travelling the country, from the south coast to the North East, speaking to nearly 200 young people and their families to build a picture of what it is really like to be young in England in 2026. Last month we wrote about Britain’s broken social contract and about how young people have lost faith in their future. This blog looks beyond that loss of faith at the daily experiences that help understand it.

What we found is a generation in need of change. While young people today are still dreaming as big as ever, they are less confident that they are going to be successful, that support will be there for them when they need it, and that they will get second chances should they need those too. They no longer feel they belong – at home, at school, in their communities, online.”

## **Migration issues – Other Agencies**

### ***Unauthorised migration in the UK***

<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2026-Briefing-Unauthorised-migration-in-the-UK.pdf>

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

Updated “Briefing”.

Key points include:

- “There are four main ways for someone to become an unauthorised migrant – enter the UK legally on a visa and overstay, enter without authorisation, remain in the UK after asylum applications and any appeals are exhausted, or be born in the UK to parents who are unauthorised migrants.
- The number of people detected arriving in the UK without authorisation increased in recent years, with the large majority crossing the English Channel in small boats.
- Refused asylum seekers contribute to the UK’s unauthorised migrant population, though the number who remain in the country is uncertain.
- The government does not know exactly how many visa overstayers there are in the UK.
- Returns of people without a legal right to be in the UK have recovered in recent years, after a period of decline.
- People who migrate without authorisation are typically aware of the risks and benefits of doing so but have limited information and can overestimate their chances of success.
- Unauthorised migrants are not permitted to access jobs, housing, benefits, and most free public services in the UK.
- It is not known exactly how many unauthorised migrants have gone on to obtain legal status in the UK, such as through long residence or human rights routes. Data suggest the number of those granted status under human rights rules in 2025 may be in the low tens of thousands.” [p2]

### ***Hong Kong BNOs living in the UK***

<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/2026-Briefing-Hong-Kong-BNOs-living-in-the-UK.pdf>

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

Another updated “Briefing” from The Migration Observatory:

“This briefing examines the migration of people with Hong Kong British National Overseas (BNO) status to the UK. It presents statistics on BNOs’ characteristics, their economic outcomes, and their satisfaction with life in the UK.” [p2]

**“Locals Only”: migrants and their supporters targeted in Northern Ireland**

<https://cdn.sanity.io/files/1e7vpawz/production/d94f181adbb7a1fb633cfa8c8b0fef1546d9e890.pdf>

(Source: UK Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) Network *Network Bulletin*, 30 Jul 2026)

New report from Human Rights First:

“In June 2026, Human Rights First visited Northern Ireland and spoke with dozens of activists, immigration service providers, community workers, and lawyers who reported attacks and threats against them and the migrant communities they support.” [Taken from: <https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/library/locals-only-migrants-and-their-supporters-targeted-in-northern-ireland>]

**LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies**

**“Coloring into Existence: Queer of Color Worldmaking in Children’s Literature”**

<https://notchesblog.com/2026/07/30/coloring-into-existence-queer-of-color-worldmaking-in-childrens-literature/>

(Source: email from NOTCHES, <http://notchesblog.com/>, 30 Jul 2026)

Interesting post that looks at the work of three key publishers of LGBTQ+ children’s literature:

- Flamingo Rampant Press (Canada), <https://www.flamingorampant.com/>
- Reflection Press (US)
- Ediciones Patlatonalli (Mexico).

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

**“Chatsworth House pilots ‘community membership’ free entry scheme”**

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2026/jul/13/chatsworth-house-free-entry-derbyshire-libraries-scheme-access-britain-country-houses>

(Source: *Heritage Update*, 573, 24 Jul 2026)

Just in case you didn’t see about the launch of this interesting initiative:

“The initiative, launched by Chatsworth House Trust with Derbyshire Libraries, allows groups of up to eight people to visit the house, gardens and grounds at no cost. The pilot comes amid the growing cost of living crisis that forces families to prioritise basic necessities, putting many cultural experiences beyond their reach.”