

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 442, 9 September 2026

Events

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

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

“Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), UK: August 2026”

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peoplenotinwork/unemployment/bulletins/youngpeoplenotineducationemploymentortrainingneet/august2026>

The ONS has just produced the latest figures.

‘Headlines’ include:

- “There were an estimated 981,000 young people aged 16 to 24 years in the UK who were NEET in April to June 2026; this number increased by 30,000 when compared with April to June 2025 but was down by 30,000 on January to March 2026.
- The percentage of all young people in the UK who were NEET in April to June 2026 was 13.0%; this proportion was up by 0.2 percentage points from April to June 2025, but down by 0.5 percentage points from January to March 2026.”

Further discussion of this at: “Neet total falls back below one million but remains ‘stubbornly high’”, https://www.cypnow.co.uk/content/news/neet-total-falls-back-below-one-million-but-remains-stubbornly-high?utm_campaign=Weekly%20RoundUp%2004%2F09%2F26&utm_content=&utm_term=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2Fcontent%2Fnews%2Fneet-total-falls-back-below-one-million-but-remains-stubbornly-high&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now.

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

“Social prescribing may help young people awaiting mental health care”

<https://sbbresearch.org/social-prescribing-may-help-young-people-awaiting-mental-health-care/>

(Source: Social Biobehavioural Research Group *Newsletter*, Sep 2026)

New from the Social Behavioural Research Group:

“Social prescribing, which connects people to arts and exercise activities and other sources of support, may help adolescents waiting for specialist mental health services, suggests a new study led by our Research Group [...]

We found that young people who received social prescribing reported **improvements in behaviour** (including reductions in conduct

difficulties), **enhanced relationships** with others, and **increased resilience**, including greater confidence in solving problems and higher self-esteem.” [emphases theirs]

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

“Q&A | ‘The disability rights movement is presumed to have been small and niche, but it was huge’”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/people/2026/08/the-disability-rights-movement-is-presumed-to-have-been-small-and-niche-but-it-was-huge/#msdynmkt_trackingcontext=4fb99334-b381-4120-9e96-476390120300

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 25 Aug 2026)

Interview with David Hevey, CEO of the disability-led arts organisation Shape Arts, about the new National Disability Movement Archive and Collection (see: <https://ndmac.org/>).

“Lynne Mackie CILIP Accessibility Award”

https://www.cilip.org.uk/community-events/diversity-networks/disability-network/?utm_campaign=7470440_Fortnightly%209%20September%20-Member&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20Information%20Professionals&dm_i=6WFS,4G488,9VBO9,BRUP7,1,0,0,0

(Source: *News from CILIP*, 9 Sep 2026)

“The CILIP Disability Network offers an annual award to highlight good practice and innovation in the support of disabilities for library, information and knowledge management professionals and end users.

The award can be for a person or a team [...]

Guidelines: Unless otherwise indicated, applicants for the CILIP Disability Network Award do not have to be CILIP members, but must work within the library, information or knowledge management sector.”

Online application form at:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=YUjnBmwgPECZrlyCcRjEGdN3j8cEpHNpgrAKU6SAcstUQkILQIRPSjZEUEVLWjJaTDJHOVBDWkhaVC4u&route=shorturl>

Closing date for nominations: **Sunday 8 November 2026.**

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“Citizenship applications hit new record while asylum applications fall”

https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/press/citizenship-applications-hit-new-record-while-asylum-applications-fall/?mc_cid=96eba9970b&mc_eid=5bedccdc31

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

The Migration Observatory comments on the latest Home Office figures, saying, for example, that:

“New Home Office statistics released yesterday show a record number of citizenship applications in the year ending June 2026, up 17% in just one year. This was driven by an increase in non-EU and EU applicants,

although the rise (40%) was steeper for EU citizens.” [Taken from the *Newsletter*]

The briefing quotes Nuni Jorgensen, researcher at The Migration Observatory as saying:

“The higher number of people applying for citizenship partly reflects rising non-EU migration even before Brexit, as well as a gradual increase in the share of non-EU migrants choosing to become citizens since 2021. Among EU citizens, the increase is particularly sharp and suggests a more sudden change in people’s desire to become British.

The data do not tell us why, although it is possible that government and opposition party debates about restricting rights or removing people without citizenship may have played a role. Research suggests that uncertainty can encourage migrants to secure their status by applying for citizenship.”

Migrants and crime in the UK

<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/2026-Briefing-Migrants-and-Crime-in-the-UK.pdf>

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

This latest “Briefing” from The Migration Observatory makes some interesting points, particularly around the dearth of research and information and the lack of data.

“Q&A: Why have small boat arrivals declined in 2026?”

https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/commentaries/qa-why-have-small-boat-arrivals-declined-in-2026/?mc_cid=96eba9970b&mc_eid=5bedccdc31

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

Useful commentary:

“Small boat arrivals declined significantly in the first seven months of 2026. This commentary analyses the numbers and explains what we can and cannot know about the reasons for the decline. While both government policy and other factors are likely to have played a role, it remains impossible to disentangle their effects. Evidence suggests some recent policies could have reduced crossings, though other changes may have also contributed, such as fewer unauthorised arrivals into the EU.”

“How many foreign nationals live in England and Wales?”

https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/commentaries/how-many-foreign-nationals-live-in-england-and-wales/?mc_cid=96eba9970b&mc_eid=5bedccdc31

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

This is also a very useful commentary, as much as anything for showing that there are still large gaps in the data:

“There are no official estimates of the size of the foreign national population (i.e., people with a non-UK passport) in England and Wales since the 2021 Census. The Annual Population Survey (APS), the source of official population estimates until 2021, is the best measure for more recent years, but it is likely to undercount the size of the non-citizen population, for two main reasons. First, response rates are lower among recent arrivals, and the UK experienced unusually high levels of net migration between 2021 and 2024. Second, the ONS does not interview people living in communal establishments for the survey, such as asylum hotels and prisons.

The lack of reliable population estimates makes it harder to interpret other figures on migration in the UK. One example of this difficulty is trying to judge whether foreign nationals are more or less likely than the British population to be convicted of a crime. Comparing the number of convictions given to British and foreign nationals tells us little—these figures need to be compared to the size of the wider British and foreign populations, and this is where we lack up-to-date and reliable figures. Another example of where it would be useful to have a robust denominator (i.e., total number) for these populations would be to compare uptake rates of Universal Credit.

To get a rough indication of the likely size of the non-citizen population from 2022 to 2025, we rolled forward population figures from the 2021 Census of England and Wales using ONS estimates of the components of population change—see below for a brief overview of our method. This estimate is highly uncertain because it draws on multiple data sources and relies on various assumptions. In future, ONS may provide estimates that would supersede our own.

Our estimates indicate that roughly 13.5% of people aged 16 or over in the England and Wales population were foreign citizens in 2025, higher than the figure produced by the Annual Population Survey (12%).”

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

“US public libraries at ‘breaking point’ amid ideological attacks, report finds”

https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/sep/01/us-public-libraries-report?utm_term=Autofeed&CMP=fb_us&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwY2xjawUGdPFwZG9mAWV4dG4DYWVtAjEwAGJyaWQRMVpLeG10Z2xnZGVONiYyc1hzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzIxNzQ4MjAwODkyAAEe97Gavq2S-Ez9C5aKUKj2R1MnkzKs8mc2z0N4fvpY9CijtAxdSQzyPSKLzI_aem_zQ4Q8o5aXU5W6mXZQM91fw#Echobox=1788279709

(Source: LinkedIn)

Just in case you didn’t see this important article which is reporting on a PEN America report, *Out of circulation: expanding censorship in public libraries*, <https://pen.org/report/out-of-circulation/>.