

# The Network Newsletter: tackling social exclusion in libraries, museums, archives and galleries

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The Network's Website is at [www.seapn.org.uk](http://www.seapn.org.uk) and includes information on courses, good practice, specific socially excluded groups, as well as the newsletter archive.

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## Did you see ...?

### **Information Professional**

The Oct/Nov issue<sup>1</sup> includes:

- “Librarians ‘should be prosecuted’” [News], which reports briefly on an US survey (by EveryLibrary Institute and Book Riot)<sup>2</sup> of parents’ perceptions of libraries. The majority felt their children were safe in public libraries – but 25% thought that librarians should be prosecuted for “giving children access to certain books”. [p8]
- “Senedd calls for immediate support for libraries” [News], which outlines the Welsh Government’s response<sup>3</sup> to a report<sup>4</sup> on Local Authority Leisure and Library Services [p10]
- “Can libraries keep prisons out of the headlines?” [News Feature], which focuses on the work of the Prison Libraries Group and its *Excellence framework* ...<sup>5</sup> [p12]
- Alice Leggatt “Censorship concerns: the vulnerability of UK school libraries to book restriction” [“Insight” column], which looks at the growing pressure on school libraries to remove particular books (referencing the issues around the author Simon James Green<sup>6</sup>) [p28]
- “Partnerships and collaboration to support Ukraine’s libraries”, interview by Rob Green with Lyusyena Shum (Executive Director of the Library Country Charitable Foundation<sup>7</sup>) [pp29-31]
- David McMenemy “Ethics and advocacy – why we need to talk about our values”, which reports on the REVEAL: Reinforcing Ethics and Values for Effective Advocacy for Libraries project<sup>8</sup> [pp34-36]

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<sup>1</sup> *Information Professional*, Oct/Nov 2023.

<sup>2</sup> See: <https://bookriot.com/parental-perceptions-of-the-public-library/>.

<sup>3</sup> The response, *Welsh Government response to the Senedd Local Government and Housing report on local authority library and leisure services*, is at: <https://senedd.wales/media/jrknylnlq/gen-ld16029-e.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> *Local authority leisure and library services*. Welsh Parliament, 2023, <https://senedd.wales/media/3fdmwwiv/cr-ld15967-e.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> *Making the difference – an Excellence Framework for prison libraries*. CILIP Prison Libraries Group, 2023, <https://www.cilip.org.uk/news/news.asp?id=652342>.

<sup>6</sup> See, for example: Libby Broks “Children’s author Simon James Green: ‘I just wanted to show LGBT+ kids that it’s not all doom and gloom’”, *The Guardian*, 29 Apr 2022, <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2022/apr/29/simon-james-green-author-children-lgbt>.

<sup>7</sup> See: <https://livelibrary.com.ua/en/>.

<sup>8</sup> See, for example, David McMenemy. *Ethics and values-driven advocacy and libraries: exploring key concepts*. CILIPS, 2023, <https://www.cilips.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2023/09/REVEAL-final-v2.pdf>.

There was also coverage of this project in *The Network Newsletter*, 267, May 2023, <https://seapn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Newsletter-NS-267.pdf>, pp4-6.

- “The P\* word (\*poverty)” [“Insight” column], an important piece from the CILIP Disability Network, which looks at some of the barriers – in terms of poverty – facing disabled people [p37]
- “Festival of Pride and Knowledge” [“Insight” column], an update on the activities of the CILIP LGBTQ+ Network [pp38-39]
- Sheila Corral “Making sense of the social turn in academic libraries”, a longer article which looks at socially-engaged practice in academic libraries [pp40-43]

### ***Museums Journal***

The Nov/Dec issue<sup>9</sup> includes:

- A series of articles about civic museums and the funding crises they are facing:
  - Geraldine Kendall Adams “Existential crisis”, which looks at issues in England [pp4-5]
  - Jonathan Knott “Tipping point”, which looks at the struggle to finance education and outreach programmes in Scotland [pp6-7]
  - Simon Stephens “Eyes on the prize”, which looks at expanding the Artes Mundi exhibition beyond Cardiff<sup>10</sup> [pp8-9]
- In the “Working Life” column, Harvinder Kaur Bahra talks about the “Black Chiswick Through History” project<sup>11</sup> [p10]
- Maggie Gray “Too much pressure”, which looks at wellbeing issues in the sector (including bullying) [pp24-27]
- These issues are continued in a section on wellbeing:
  - Holly Black “Care in the community”, which looks at the work of the Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance and other museums initiatives [pp54, 57]
  - “The Museum of Homelessness is somewhere to feel safe”<sup>12</sup> [p55]

<sup>9</sup> *Museums Journal*, Nov/Dec 2023.

<sup>10</sup> See: <https://artesmundi.org/>.

<sup>11</sup> “Launched in 2021, Black Chiswick through History is an ongoing community project researching the black presence at Chiswick House & Gardens. Working with three groups of community partners from Chiswick School, Hogarth Youth and Community Centre and Hounslow Action for Youth, we are drawing out stories of people, places and experiences, connecting to themes of empire and global and local connections.” <https://chiswickhouseandgardens.org.uk/black-chiswick-through-history-project/#:~:text=Re%2Dinterpreting%20our%20history%20and,presence%20at%20Chiswick%20House%20%26%20Gardens>. See also: [https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/people/2023/11/working-life-it-takes-courage-to-move-community-engagement-to-the-heart-of-what-youre-doing/#msdyntrid=ruY2zk3PEGNbk0LXbdebtR\\_TikdFimclIRKNEhTK7xQ](https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/people/2023/11/working-life-it-takes-courage-to-move-community-engagement-to-the-heart-of-what-youre-doing/#msdyntrid=ruY2zk3PEGNbk0LXbdebtR_TikdFimclIRKNEhTK7xQ).

<sup>12</sup> See: <https://museumofhomelessness.org/>.

- Holly Black “All’s well that ends well”, which “[...] shares advice from experts on how heritage organisations can build successful wellbeing programmes” [p59]
- Meg Barclay “Delivering benefits in spades”, which looks at a project using archaeology to boost mental health<sup>13</sup> [pp61-63]

### ***ARC Magazine***

Apologies – I’m just catching up a bit!

The Sep/Oct issue<sup>14</sup> has a couple of very interesting articles:

- Sarah Trim-West “A dog in the archive”, which looks at some of the adaptations made to working practices to allow a hearing dog on-site [pp28-29]
- Victoria Stevens “Communicating, collections – and conservation!”, which looks at how The Museum of English Rural Life, University of Reading is introducing Makaton into the online descriptions of their work [p31]

### ***Scottish Archives & Records: year in review 2022-3***

The latest review from the Scottish Council on Archives has just been published<sup>15</sup>. As well as the interesting general overview, it includes some very interesting specific items:

- Audrey Wilson “Voices: The Community Story”:  

“To mark Scotland’s Year of Stories: 2022, the Scottish Council on Archives (SCA) created a nationwide project, Voices: The Community Story, collecting stories from across Scotland that record the experience of migration. The project captured oral histories from ‘New Scots’, from second or third generations of earlier migrants, and from people already living in the UK who have decided to relocate to Scotland.” [p6]

There are case studies from:

- Edinburgh City Archives (Ashleigh Thompson) (primarily about how they started out on a new programme of collecting oral histories) [pp6,8]

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<sup>13</sup> “Launched in the shadow of York’s city walls at Willow House a former care home on Long Lane, Archaeology on Prescription is an innovative project. It sees participants work with archaeologists to improve their health and well-being, as well as learn new skills in archaeology. Encouraging local residents who live or have lived in Walmgate to help create a detailed picture of this neighbourhood. Through our finds we are learning more about life in the area from the medieval period to the present.”

<https://community.yorkarchaeology.co.uk/index.php/archaeology-on-prescription/>.

<sup>14</sup> *ARC Magazine*, 394, Sep/Oct 2023.

<sup>15</sup> *Scottish Archives & Records: year in review 2022-3*. Scottish Council on Archives, 2023, <https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Scottish-Archives-Year-in-Review.pdf>.

- The National Library of Scotland (Charlie McCann) (developing their sound collection, and reaching new communities) [p9]
- Scottish Refugee Council (Chris Afuakwah):

“Groups such as the Yemeni Scottish Foundation and Forth Valley Welcome, who had no prior knowledge of how or why to engage with their local archives, were suddenly engaged and excited with the prospect of contributing their stories to Scotland’s archives. I hope that this project was just the start of their archiving and storytelling journey.

At the final event in November, Syrian participants from the Highlands expressed their gratitude and excitement at being able to contribute to Scotland’s history. This was a big deal for participants; to be asked by their new home to feed into its national story. And for a long time to come, these recordings will be available for people studying this eventful period of global movement, or interested in discovering who lived in their local area.” [p11]

- Glasgow Caledonian University Archive Centre “Scotland’s Anti-Apartheid Movement” (Carole McCallum):

“The university’s collection holds the minutes, papers and correspondence of the Anti-Apartheid Movement in Scotland from 1975 to 1994. It also holds some Glasgow and Edinburgh branch meeting material and other documentation that pre-dates the establishment of the Scottish Committee. There is also a large collection of national and international material which helps create a full picture of the Movement’s activities and gives an indication of other organisations that gave their support. The Archive is also rich in ephemera including, posters, stickers, and postcards.” [p15]

- Lothian Health Services Archive: Lothian Gay and Lesbian Switchboard (Louise Neilson):

“In April 2022, Lothian Health Services Archive (LHSA) launched their Wellcome Trust funded project, Speaking Out. The project involved cataloguing and promoting the Lothian Gay and Lesbian Switchboard (LGLS) collection and concluded in June 2023.” [p35]

### ***Books for Keeps***

The latest issue<sup>16</sup> includes:

- Darren Chetty and Karen Sands-O’Connor “Witness literature” in their excellent “Beyond the Secret Garden” series. This is a thoughtful piece

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<sup>16</sup> *Books for Keeps*, 263, Nov 2023, <https://booksforkeeps.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/BfK-263-Nov-2023.pdf>.

about writers who write about events they have experienced/observed and some of the issues around the care needed to put them across appropriately [pp18-19]

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## Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

### ***Two Nations: the state of poverty in the UK – an interim report on the state of the nation***

This is an enormous (300 pages) new report<sup>17</sup> from the CSJ, assessing the changes in the UK since the publication of *Breakdown Britain*<sup>18</sup>.

“20 years after the Centre for Social Justice’s (CSJ) seminal report, *Breakdown Britain*, when it first shone a light into the darkest corners of the UK, the CSJ have established the Social Justice Commission [19]. Our task was to first conduct an unflinching enquiry into what life is like for those struggling the most in the UK today, and then consider a way forward to address the root causes of poverty. *Two Nations* is the first stage of that process, a report into the State of the Nation.

As Commissioners of that investigation, we have sought to ensure that no voice is left unheard so that no person’s potential may be left unrealised. We have hosted five landmark “Big Listen” events across the UK, hearing from over 250 frontline charities, social enterprises, and local organisations, working with people in the toughest situations in the country. We spoke to dozens more in meetings and lived experience roundtables to understand the biggest challenges they saw in the fight against poverty. And we have polled over 6,000 people, more than half of whom were from the poorest communities in the UK, to ensure their voices are heard and their lives understood.

What we have found is a deeply divided society – what we have called ‘two nations’.

In short, the state of our nation is unwell, with the deep systemic problems facing those at the bottom of society in danger of becoming entrenched. We have taken evidence from hard-pressed communities across the nation and the message is the same; for too many Britain is broken and the gap between the haves and have-nots is in danger of becoming a chasm.” [p8]

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<sup>17</sup> *Two Nations: the state of poverty in the UK – an interim report on the state of the nation*. Centre for Social Justice, 2023, [https://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/CSJ-Two\\_Nations.pdf](https://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/CSJ-Two_Nations.pdf).

<sup>18</sup> *Breakdown Britain: interim report on the state of the nation*. Social Justice Policy Group, 2006, <https://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Breakdown-BritainCSJ.pdf>.

<sup>19</sup> For info, the Commissioners are:

Martin Ivens (Chair), Josh Babarinde, Andy Burnham, Miriam Cates MP, Liz Earle, Tim Farron MP, Laurance Hancock, Lord King of Lothbury, Mercy Muroki, Stephen Timms MP.

Summarising these changes, the report says:

“Looking back over the past two decades, progress has been made in some key areas: unemployment has fallen; literacy rates amongst young people have improved; overall crime rates are down by some measures; and absolute poverty – which measures poverty in purely monetary terms – has also declined. But those at the bottom of society barely feel these benefits amongst the general experience that life has become more difficult, challenges have become more complex, and poverty has become more entrenched.” [p10]

The ‘headline’ findings are:

- Economic vulnerability: “Work is not worth it”
  - “In the most left behind communities, work is typically poor quality, insecure, and offers little progression.”
  - “The welfare system is topping up the wages of over two million people.”
  - “The most disadvantaged view mental ill-health as the biggest factor holding them back, which only ranks fifth for the general public.” [quotations from p10]
- Unsafe streets: “Crime is the worst thing about where people live”
  - “Although overall crime rates are down, violent crime remains high, and crime is highly concentrated – still six per cent of families account for half of all convictions.”
  - “Only eight per cent of victims are confident they would receive justice as a result of reporting a crime.” [quotations from p11]
- Fractured communities: “Housing is poor, communities are torn apart by addiction and small charities are being hollowed out.”
  - “Communities are marked by poor quality, expensive and insecure housing. The most disadvantaged are twice as likely to worry about the quality of their housing than the general public, and both groups are similarly concerned about costs.”
  - “Communities are also being torn apart by addiction. There has been a 63 per cent increase in deaths of people on methadone than pre-COVID-19 pandemic [...]”
  - “The third sector continues to be hollowed out by the big players in the charity world despite a rise in demand for services following the COVID-19 pandemic. Charities with an income under £1 million a year make up 96 per cent of the voluntary sector in the UK, [...] but CSJ analysis shows that 85 per cent of charitable income goes to just 4.4 per cent of charities [...]” [quotations from pp11-12]
- Fragile families: “Family breakdown hits the poorest families the hardest”

- “Family breakdown hits the poorest families the hardest: a teenager growing up in the poorest 20 per cent of households is two thirds more likely to experience family breakdown than a teenager in the top 20 per cent.”
  - “Family life is hard. This is particularly true for parents who struggle with poor mental health or whose relationship are marked by conflict.”
  - “Over the past eight years, over one in seven children have been classed as a Child in Need at least once.” [quotations from pp12-13]
- A challenging start: “Children are struggling and still suffering from the scars of lockdown”
    - “Childhood in the 21st century is hard. Children and young people are still dealing with the deep scars of lockdown, being educated online, and at home, and missing out on key social and coming of age opportunities.”
    - “Two decades ago, just one in ten children were assessed as having a clinically recognisable mental health problem, a figure that is now one in five [...] rising to one in four for those between 17 and 19 [...] 44 per cent of 16–17-year-olds report elevated psychological distress.”
    - Family underpins everything for this unhappy generation, and social media and phone use exacerbate challenges for those already struggling. The number of pupils with an education health and care plan (EHC) has increased by almost two-thirds since 2016, the most common need being autistic spectrum disorder, and over 1.5 million pupils in England have special educational needs (SEN) [...] Just under two decades ago, 26 per cent of secondary and primary school pupils with SEN were eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), a key proxy for disadvantage. Today 41 per cent of pupils with an EHC plan are eligible for FSM [...] For many, trauma and sexual abuse are a terrible part of their most formative years. Children in the most disadvantaged families are suffering disrupted attachment and developmental delays. Only just over half (57 percent) of the most disadvantaged pupils leave primary school with the expected standards in reading, writing, and maths [...]
    - “140,000 children are missing more school than they attend and a fifth of the whole school population miss an afternoon a week [...] Young people do not feel equipped for work or with skills for life, schools have to deal with social and family issues before they can even turn to teaching, and a decade of progress in closing the attainment gap between disadvantaged students and others was wiped out by the COVID-19 pandemic.” [quotations from pp13-14]

This is just a snapshot of the findings which paint a grim picture of the UK and point to the need for urgent action. As the report states in its Foreword:

“In short, the state of our nation is unwell, with the deep systemic problems facing those at the bottom of society in danger of becoming



entrenched. We have taken evidence from hard-pressed communities across the nation and the message is the same; for too many Britain is broken and the gap between the haves and have-nots is in danger of becoming a chasm.

The story does not end here. Next spring, we will publish our manifesto of solutions. The reason we have spoken to so many small local organisations is that they are already addressing the toughest problems in their neighbourhoods. The solutions are out there if we take the time to find them. Our ambition is simply to multiply what works.

And beyond that will come the general election. Six out of ten people living in the most deprived communities told us they will vote. Addressing their concerns is smart politics, sound economics, and a route to victory. It is also essential for the good of our great nation.” [p8]<sup>20</sup>

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## Migration issues – Other Agencies

### ***Making strides: refugees’ employment trajectories in Yorkshire and the Humber***

This is a new report<sup>21</sup> from IPPR:

“This report presents the findings of a research study looking at the employment experiences of refugees and people with humanitarian leave living in Yorkshire and the Humber [...]

People arriving in the UK on different schemes and routes have a variety of rights and entitlements that shape their access to the labour market and the employment support they might receive. For this reason, this study looked at four groups, on different routes, as case studies to understand better how the route through which people enter and are permitted to remain in the UK impacts on their employment and job progression experiences. The groups were:

- Ukrainians who arrived via the Homes for Ukraine scheme and the Ukraine Family Scheme
- Hongkongers who arrived via the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) route
- Afghans who arrived via the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) resettlement programme
- ‘asylum route’ refugees granted leave to remain following a positive decision on their asylum claim.” [pp4-5]

The report then goes on to look at “[...] the employment rights of refugees and people with humanitarian leave, the support options available to them, and what

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<sup>20</sup> Source: *Left Foot Forward*, 11 Dec 2023.

<sup>21</sup> Amreen Qureshi, Lucy Mort and Jack Liuta. *Making strides: refugees’ employment trajectories in Yorkshire and the Humber*. IPPR, 2023, <https://www.ippr.org/files/2023-12/making-strides-december-2023.pdf>.

we know from existing literature about their career trajectories. It then goes on to suggest some of the key needs that each of the four groups included in this study may have in relation to job progression. Finally, we set out the employability support available to refugees and people with humanitarian leave in Yorkshire and the Humber.” [p6]

This is followed by chapters on the survey and its methodology; what job progression is; the support people need to progress; and barriers getting in the way of progression.

The report then makes a series of recommendations under the following headings:

- creating meaningful opportunities for job progression
- fostering partnerships among key stakeholders
- raising awareness of the employment challenges for refugees and people with humanitarian leave
- delivering tailored progression support.

Recommendations include:

Employers should ensure their organisation provide a safe and welcoming environment for employees who are refugees or people with humanitarian leave

“Employers should ensure that a supportive and accommodating work environment is nurtured by considering some of the following actions:

- offering a comprehensive induction and onboarding process that accommodates requests for flexible working or other adjustments at work
- implementing a diversity, equality and inclusion framework to combat discrimination in the workplace
- offering support to become familiar with the workplace culture and meet other staff members across the organisation
- prioritising worker wellbeing and adopting a trauma-informed approach [...] to pastoral support and, additionally, implementing employment assistance programmes that give workers access to resources to address any mental health and wellbeing needs
- promoting a healthy work-life balance through offering flexible work arrangements, such as remote work options, flexitime, and policies like time off in lieu (known as “TOIL”)
- providing clear and transparent information about rights and how to become a member of a trade union, and signposting to relevant union representatives in the workplace.” [p43]

Employers should proactively create meaningful progression opportunities for employees who are refugees or people with humanitarian leave

Employers should actively support employees who are refugees or people with humanitarian leave with English language acquisition

This could include:

- “providing language training by offering on-site ESOL classes during work hours
- adapting and simplifying communication at work while employees are initially learning English – this can be done through using visual aids, encouraging clear and inclusive communication during meetings, and simplifying language in workplace manuals and training guides
- implementing a language exchange programme where native English-speaking colleagues can engage in “conversation clubs” at the workplace, which would also promote a supportive learning environment.” [p44]

Employers should implement mentorship or buddying schemes in the workplace for employees who are refugees or people with humanitarian leave

Establish an accreditation scheme for responsible employers of refugees and people with humanitarian leave

Awareness-raising workshops should be delivered to employers, jobcentre staff and organisations that provide employability support to refugees and people with humanitarian leave

“These should be targeted at employers to raise awareness about the diverse skills of employees in these groups, the rules around their right to work, and the potential approaches to supporting their job progression. They should also signpost employers to available resources and offer a forum where they can raise any questions or concerns about supporting refugees and people with humanitarian leave in their workforce.” [p47]

Employment support providers – including VCSE organisations, local authorities, jobcentres and careers services at further education colleges and universities – should support the delivery of personalised job progression plans for refugees and people with humanitarian leave

Although the report is targeted to Yorkshire and the Humber, the recommendations are obviously widely applicable. Recommended.<sup>22</sup>

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## **Broader issues – Other Agencies**

### ***This must be the place: a new vision for community wealth and power***

This new paper<sup>23</sup> from CLES (supported by the Local Government Information Unit and the National Institute for Health and Care Research) looks at some of the roles of local government:

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<sup>22</sup> Source: IPPR *The Progressive Insider*, 21 Dec 2023.

“Weighing up the options when it comes to the stewardship and development of our local economies is extremely challenging for local government. With a growing number of councils now facing bankruptcy, local government continues to be hampered by inadequate funding settlements which in turn affects its capacity and ability to long term plan.

Nevertheless, progressive frontiers continue to advance and in this paper we further develop the argument for local action through the lens of community wealth building: where the wealth that exists, and is created, flows to the people and communities who need this the most, rather than trickling out to those who can best help themselves.” [p5]

The paper concludes with recommendations for local partners and for central government. In terms of the recommendations for local partners, these include some important pointers for us:

1. Formalise networks around a shared vision for place:

“In our research for this paper, and our wider work across the UK and Ireland, it is clear that many anchor organisations are now coming together to explore how they can pool resources, raise standards, co-ordinate their work and deliver a more people-centred approach to economic change. Shared approaches to key community wealth building measures such as procurement, land and property and ownership are beginning to emerge with tangible outcomes for communities [...]

What is required to deliver on this promise is a clear, shared vision for place. It is imperative that local authorities and their partners in place come together [...]” [p22]

2. Treat assets as more than a commodity:

“Despite the pressure to sell off surplus land and assets to maximise financial return, councils must recognise the opportunity they present to resist the complications of relying on the market and to take a more interventionist approach to regeneration. An approach which treats land and property assets as more than just commodities could form the backbone of renewed local plans which see these assets harnessed to serve inclusive economy goals, such as the building of green, affordable housing and affordable workspace for local enterprises.” [pp22-23]

3. Use structure to deliver organisational priorities:

“Functions such as human resources, procurement and estates management may not relate to higher level priorities and thus miss

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<sup>23</sup> Tom Lloyd Goodwin *et al.* *This must be the place: a new vision for community wealth and power*. CLES, 2023, <https://cles.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Building-community-wealth-and-power-FINAL.pdf>.

vital opportunities to directly influence the livelihoods and wellbeing of citizens.

To remedy this, the authors of corporate strategies should be more explicit about how individual functions contribute to strategic priorities, and leaders must consider how best practice in inclusive economy approaches in one function could be applied across departments.” [p23]

#### 4. Scale up the social economy:

“Combined authorities have the networks and opportunity to provide much needed scale to supporting the development of more progressive ownership models [...]

For local authorities who wish to go further, targeting the demand for goods and services towards local enterprise and diversifying local business support offers are established mechanisms to help pluralise ownership of the economy.” [p23]

#### 5. Flex funding to meet your own goals:

“Despite the many inadequacies surrounding the various funding allocations given and awarded to local authorities by the government, there are opportunities to use these sources of funding to further community wealth building aims and objectives.

CLES have developed a toolkit, in partnership with APSE, to support local authorities to maximise the impact of the Levelling Up Fund, based on six case studies from places across the UK [24] Scottish City Region Deals also present an opportunity and CLES have worked with the Capital City Partnership in Edinburgh and South East Scotland to develop a framework [25] to guide and influence the region’s current deal, focussed on strategic intent, impact, growing local SMEs, supporting alternative models of ownership and maximising skills and employment opportunities for all.” [p24]

#### 6. Measure and value impact more broadly:

“Using community wealth building approaches to build inclusive local economies requires understanding how effectively wealth is flowing in your place. This means digging into the data and using

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<sup>24</sup> See: Getting the most from levelling up: a toolkit for maximising impact in local Economies. APSE, 2023, <https://cles.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Getting-the-most-from-levelling-up-1-3.pdf>.

<sup>25</sup> See: *Embedding community wealth building into ESES City Deal projects and programmes: a framework for action*. CLES, 2022, <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55c87967e4b05aa55020f656/t/646f33d5cc68736cb488a18d/1685009366076/ESES%2BCRD%2BCWB%2B-%2BFramework%2Bfor%2Baction.pdf>.

a broader set of metrics than GVA <sup>[26]</sup> to measure economic performance.” [p24]

The paper recommends a framework “based on measures we know are accessible to local authorities and are already being developed in some areas.” [p24] including:

- Economic measures, eg GVA, social economy
- Health measures, eg life expectancy, mental health
- Skills and employment measures, eg unemployment rate, accessibility of childcare
- Land, transport and environment measures, eg housing availability and affordability, transport connectivity, biodiversity.

Important background paper.<sup>27</sup>

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## Abbreviations and acronyms

APSE = Association for Public Service Excellence  
CILIP = Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals  
CILIPS = CILIP Scotland  
CLESS = Centre for Local Economic Strategies  
CSJ = Centre for Social Justice  
SLA = School Library Association  
VCSE = voluntary and community sector

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This Newsletter was compiled by John Vincent, and all items are written by him, unless otherwise stated. Please send any comments or items for the next issue to:

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<sup>26</sup> “[...] gross value added (GVA) is the measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector of an economy.” Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gross\\_value\\_added](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gross_value_added).

<sup>27</sup> Source: email from the Centre for Local Economic Strategies, 23 Nov 2023.