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

Number 43, April 2005

(formerly published as *Public Libraries & Social Exclusion Action Planning Network Newsletter*, issue 1, May 1999 – issue 29, September 2001)

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

For a general overview of work to tackle social exclusion, see the CILIP Community Services Group site at http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/csg/si/index.html.

Network courses

Managing children's library services for social inclusion
Wednesday 4 May 2005, 10am-4.30pm
Newcastle-under-Lyme Library, Ironmarket, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs ST5 1AT

Library services for refugees and asylum-seekers
Wednesday 15 June 2005, 10am-4.30pm
Newcastle-under-Lyme Library, Ironmarket, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs ST5 1AT

Further details of both these courses are available from John Vincent, john@nadder.org.uk.

Did you see …?

Public Library Journal

The latest issue of the *PLJ*[1] has a number of articles of interest, including:

- Debra Conroy "A beginning, a middle and a future" [the Chatterbooks reading group in Manchester], pp21-22
- Catherine Morris "'Libraries rock!'" [a report on "Teenage Kicks", a creative reading day for young people], pp18-20
- John Vincent "Working with looked-after children", pp15-17.

Policy toolkit for cross domain working

A new online toolkit[2] has just been launched.

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[1] *Public Library Journal* 20 (1) Spring 2005.

It has been developed by the CALIMERA project[3] and is aimed at supporting anyone developing policies for partnerships between museums, libraries and archives.

For decision-makers at community, regional and national levels, the toolkit focuses on effective ways of creating user-responsive services that contribute to democracy and citizenship, lifelong learning, social and economic development and cultural diversity agendas. For professional networks and those in local institutions, the toolkit offers new ways of thinking through and acting on issues to gain support from policy agencies and funding bodies.

The toolkit provides brief introductions to key issues for policy development and pointers to important documents produced both by CALIMERA and others. It offers practical guidance and advice on partnerships between museums, libraries and archives on digital projects. The toolkit includes a series of case studies that offer best practice examples of new ways of working across the museums, libraries and archives domains that have been possible through policy development.[4]

"Addressing public choice"

The IDeA has recently published a paper[5] by Charlie Leadbeater, looking at what 'public choice' might actually mean.

He suggests that there are four different ways to engage users in services: choice, personalisation, self-management and co-creation. In terms of public service reform, Charlie thinks that this therefore means that:

- Users have to become more central by self-assessing their needs
- Users need better ways to assess and compare service quality
- If users become co-creators and investors in services, then their contribution becomes part of the system's resource
- There needs to be much more thoughtful service design to make this shift to greater user involvement.

Racial harassment

A new report[6] has been published by Community Links, looking at racial harassment in Newham. It has been produced by Community Link's Social Enterprise Zone[7] and was commissioned by Race Equality in Newham.

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[2] Available at: www.calimera.org/tool-kit/default.htm.
[3] CALIMERA is a project funded via the European Commission Information Society Technologies Programme; MLA is a partner in the project.
[4] Thanks to the MLA *News Ebulletin* 133 for this.
[5] Available at: www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=654047.
[6] *Investigating links between racial harassment and (un) employability in the black and minority ethnic communities of the London Borough of Newham*. Community Links, 2005 (ISBN: 09544047-5-0). Further information from Richard McKeever, Publications Manager at Community Links, richard.mckeever@community-links.org.

The report shows just how far racial harassment affects employability in the Borough: 80% of those interviewed experienced stress, depression and other ill-health effects as a result, and, according to the Newham Household Panel Survey 2003, one in six local people experienced racial harassment.

The report makes a number of key recommendations for action, both at national and local level.

New projects to tackle health inequalities

Just in case you haven't seen this[8], funding for 21 new, pilot health projects was announced in March, covering a range of health priorities including obesity, sexual health and smoking.

Those Network members whose areas are involved are:

Camden	Knowsley
Croydon	Manchester
Greenwich	Nottingham City
Hammersmith & Fulham	Portsmouth
Islington	Sheffield
Kirklees	Wolverhampton

Homelessness Regional Champions

The ODPM has just announced 13 Regional Champions. Their role will be to work with other local authorities to provide support and share good practice to prevent homelessness. They will also work with other Councils to carry out action-planning days and peer reviews, as well as spending time working to develop regional capacity, for example hosting training events or working with sub-regional homelessness forums.

The Champions were chosen because "they have demonstrated that they have developed strengths in tackling and preventing homelessness and we believe they have the skills and expertise to share this good practice with other local authorities."[9]

The 13 Regional Champions are:

Bournemouth	Leeds
Bradford	Leicester
Broxtowe	Manchester
Burnley	Newham

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[7] The SEZ is "where ideas for using mainstream resources and budgets more effectively are generated, tested and shared …" (Press Release, March 2005).
[8] Announced on the Department of Health website, www.dh.gov.uk.
[9] This quote (and the other information about the Regional Champions) was taken from: www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_homelessness/documents/page/odpm_home_035967.hcsp.

Canterbury   North Norfolk
Harrow   Worthing
Hartlepool

There is further information about and links to the Champions at:
www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_homelessness/documents/sectionhomepage/odpm_homelessness_page.hcsp.

Football Unites, Racism Divides [FURD]

Sheffield-based FURD[10] has been running since 1995, and is involved in local, national and international work to ensure that everyone who wants to play or watch football can do so without fear of racial abuse or harassment.

They have a Resources and Information Centre (which includes books, videos, posters, reports, press-cuttings, magazines, teaching packs and fanzines), covering racism in football and other sports; racism in general and how to tackle it; women and sport; fan culture; hooliganism; and the role of sport in relation to sectarianism, nationalism and colonialism. The Resource Centre is open to anyone by appointment.

Further information is available at: www.furd.org.

Reaching out – working with families we find hard to reach

The National Association of Toy and Leisure Libraries [NATLL] produces regular "Helpsheets", and, in October 2004, produced a two-page summary of ideas on reaching hard-to-reach families[11].

Further information on NATLL and its work – and how to join – is available at: www.natll.org.uk.

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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[10] Thanks to Carl Clayton at Sinto for putting FURD and me in touch with each other.
[11] *Reaching out – working with families we find hard to reach.* NATLL ("Helpsheets"), 2004.