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

Number 79, December 2007

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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.

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Did you see …?

Our Place Network

English Heritage have just launched their new networking web-space[1], aimed at people who:

> "… work in the heritage, museums, libraries, archive, arts or community sectors (to name but a few!); in such fields as community engagement, outreach, access, audience development, social inclusion or education. This may be your main role or just something you know you need to do as part of your job but aren't quite sure how to go about it."

News for the site will be provided by The Network!

"Teaching Black history – the struggle continues"

The speech by Marika Sherwood to the Black and Asian Studies Association has just been published[2] on the IRR website, in which she highlights issues of omission and racism, and emphasises the need for education (and MLAs) to continue their focus on Black history beyond the 2007 anniversary.

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[1] See: http://www.ourplacenetwork.org.uk/.
[2] See: http://www.irr.org.uk/2007/december/ha000008.html.

Indices of Deprivation 2007

DCLG have just published the 2007 Deprivation Indices[3].

> "The IMD 2007 is a measure of multiple deprivation at the small area level. The model of multiple deprivation which underpins the IMD 2007 is based on the idea of distinct dimensions of deprivation which can be recognised and measured separately. These are experienced by individuals living in an area. People may be counted in one or more of the domains, depending on the number of types of deprivation that they experience. The overall IMD is conceptualised as a weighted area level aggregation of these specific dimensions of deprivation." [p4][4]

Useful teams within the Department of Health

Just in case you didn't see this, IDeA have published two useful listings[5] of teams in the DOH – a good introduction to 'who does what'.

NHS priorities for 2008-9

The DOH has just published[6] its "Operating Framework" for 2008-9, which includes five priorities, amongst which is "Keeping adults and children well, improving their health and reducing health inequalities".

> "… People should expect to receive the best possible care, irrespective of where they live in the country, socio-economic status, race, age, gender, disability, religion or belief, or sexual orientation. Key to achieving this will be delivering on the national objectives to improve people's overall life expectancy and reduce health inequalities. As part of this, PCTs are expected to continue to tackle the biggest killers, focussing on areas where inequalities exist. This would include tackling cancer, cardiovascular disease (CVD), suicide and smoking, which all have a major impact.
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> ... PCTs, working with local authorities and other partners, will also need to consider how their local plans focus on ill-health prevention and on promoting good health; on helping people to live healthier lives, and to take more control of their own health; and on ensuring that

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[3] Available to download from: http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/neighbourhoodrenewal/deprivation/deprivation07/.

[4] Taken from: *The English indices of deprivation: summary*. DCLG, 2007. Available to download as a pdf (302 Kb) from: http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/576659.

[5] See: http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=7663921 and http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=7663945.

[6] *The operating framework for the NHS in England 2008/09*. DOH, 2007. Available to download as a pdf (1083 Kb) from: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081094.

health inequalities are reduced. This includes tackling lifestyle issues such as obesity and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy, sexual health problems and other areas where we know inequalities exist." [p15]

In relation to children:

"… PCTs should work with local authorities and other partners, in the context of Every Child Matters and the Children's Plan, to ensure that children's and young people's health and wellbeing needs are assessed and that action to address these is included in PCT plans, LAAs and NHS contracts, as appropriate." [p17]

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NHS Scotland has also published its *Better health, better care: action plan*[7]. This sets out how NHS Scotland will contribute to the new Scottish Government's five priorities:

- Wealthier & fairer – enable businesses and people to increase their wealth and more people to share fairly in that wealth.
- Smarter – expand opportunities for Scots to succeed from nurture through to life long learning ensuring higher and more widely shared achievements.
- Healthier – help people to sustain and improve their health, especially in disadvantaged communities, ensuring better, local and faster access to health care.
- Safer & stronger – help local communities to flourish, becoming stronger, safer places to live, offering improved opportunities and a better quality of life.
- Greener – improve Scotland's natural and built environment and the sustainable use and enjoyment of it. [from p1]

The new Place Survey: consultation

Just in case you haven't yet seen coverage[8] of this, DCLG have published the consultation document[9] for "the Government's proposals for a new survey to be undertaken by local authorities. This new survey will replace the Best Value User Satisfaction Survey (and also the Planning, Benefits and Library surveys)." [p5]

The consultation closes on **8 February 2008**.

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[7] *Better health, better care: action plan*. The Scottish Government, 2007 (ISBN-13: 978-0-7559-5599-2). Available to download as a pdf (2890.14 Kb) from: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/206458/0054871.pdf.
[8] See, for example: http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/612397.
[9] *The new Place Survey: consultation*. DCLG, 2007. Available to download as a pdf (413 Kb) from:
http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/612732.

Tackling social exclusion – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

Self-harm and related issues

Self-harm is any action that people choose to do to hurt themselves. Men and women of all ages and from all cultural backgrounds self-harm.

This includes cutting, burning, scratching, hair-pulling, hitting or biting, eating disorders and taking drugs or alcohol to hurt rather than for pleasure.

People self-harm for many reasons, including as a means of coping with mood or emotions, as a way of expressing feelings they cannot talk about, as a control means, or as self-punishment.

A collection of books, leaflets, self-help books and videos has been developed in partnership between Shropshire County Council Community Services (Mental Health), Shropshire County Library Service and South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust in consultation with service users and MIND Shropshire.

The aim of the collection is to raise awareness with families and friends of the issues surrounding self-harm as well as providing information and support to those people who self-harm. It includes books and information on related issues such as eating disorders, bullying, and domestic violence, painful experiences of childhood abuse or loss. Books to help build self esteem and confidence are also included.

Care has been taken to include accessible material wherever possible and includes leaflets published by Bristol Crisis Service for Women, that have been translated into Urdu, Punjabi, Chinese and Bengali.

A few of the leaflets are reference only and therefore can only be read at the library where the collection is based but most can be requested from any library service point. The full list of resources can be downloaded from the Shropshire County Library Service website: www.shropshire.gov.uk.

Future plans include development of a steering group to identify suitable resources, to encourage use and ideas from a newly formed self-support group and to develop resources for young people who self-harm.

Susan White
Senior Librarian – Equal Access
Shropshire County Library Service

Tackling social exclusion – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Adult learning and skills: investing in the first steps

DIUS have just published this brief document[10] which outlines their approach to adult learning and skills, with an emphasis on how learning can contribute to stronger communities and social justice, better health, less child poverty and crime prevention.[11]

The document concludes:

> "This Department is commissioning further work to map the skills activities being carried out across Government, our partners, our providers and the third sector. Our aim is to ensure that every contributing factor in our drive to raise skills – from the National Lottery and social enterprise to our work with football clubs and libraries – is clearly seen as part of the learning and skills story." [p12]

Getting the message across: using media to reduce racial prejudice and discrimination

This interesting new report[12] from DCLG looks at "what works, what is promising and what does not work and why in the use of the media to reduce racial prejudice in England and Wales." [p5]

It concludes:

> "Use of the media to reduce racial and ethnic prejudice is a strangely neglected research area. The review of the literature, databases and other sources such as websites revealed that only a handful of programmes and campaigns have been implemented and documented. Fewer still have had any kind of even basic evaluation. This makes it difficult, if not impossible, to point to specific strategies as examples of how to effectively reduce racial and ethnic prejudice. Consequently, this report offers guidelines to consider when planning and implementing campaigns in the future. In particular, this report concludes that campaign designers should understand how the structure, content and delivery of the message are likely to operate, or not operate, as mechanisms for intended change (in particular social contexts) when aiming to deliver a persuasive communication." [p6]

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[10] *Adult learning and skills: investing in the first steps.* DIUS, 2007. Available to download as a pdf from: http://www.dius.gov.uk/publications/Adult-Learning-and-Skills-investing-in-the-first-steps.pdf.

[11] Thanks to the MLA South East e-bulletin 37, 30 November 2007 for alerting me to this.

[12] Mike Sutton *et al. Getting the message across: using media to reduce racial prejudice and discrimination.* DCLG, 2007. Available to download as a pdf (470 Kb) from: http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/611667.

The report makes some key recommendations and urges the need for greater evaluation of initiatives.

Attitudes to discrimination in Scotland …

The Scottish Government has just published the analysis[13] of their 2006 Scottish Social Attitudes Survey.

The report concludes:

> "For the most part only a minority uphold a discriminatory outlook. But discriminatory attitudes are more widespread in respect of some groups than others. They are particularly common in respect of Gypsies/Travellers and someone who has had a sex change operation (a description designed to refer to a transgender person). Otherwise, they seem most likely to be expressed in respect of gay men and lesbians. Thereafter they are most widespread when people are asked about Muslims or about black and Asian people as a group. On the other hand, discriminatory attitudes are relatively infrequent in respect of the roles of men and women, age and disability. Even so, significant minorities can not only still hold stereotypical views about the kinds of work that women do, but may in certain circumstances still express discriminatory attitudes about older or younger people, or about someone with a disability, perhaps because of concerns about their ability to 'cope' with the demands of a particular situation." [pp ix-x]

Tackling social exclusion – Other Agencies

Use of sports and leisure facilities by trans people

Useful guidance leaflet[14], produced by Press For Change[15] – this isn't new, but has just received a mention in the latest LGBT History Month *Bulletin*[16], as a Council is using the guidance to inform its leisure centre managers.

Monitoring poverty and social exclusion 2007

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[13] Catherine Bromley, John Curtice <u>and</u> Lisa Given. *Attitudes to discrimination in Scotland: 2006 – Scottish Social Attitudes Survey*. Scottish Government, 2007 (ISBN-13: 978-0-7559-6867-1). Available to download as a pdf (905.79 Kb) from: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/205755/0054714.pdf.

[14] *Use of sports and leisure facilities by trans people*. Press For Change, 2005. Available to download as a pdf from: http://www.pfc.org.uk/files/campaign/pfcsprt01.pdf.

[15] See: http://www.pfc.org.uk/node.

[16] LGBT History Month *Bulletin* 41, December 2007. Available to download as a pdf from: http://www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk/documents/bulletins/bulletin41.pdf.

The New Policy Institute has produced its 10th annual report[17] of indicators of poverty and social exclusion in the United Kingdom – their "principal conclusion is that the strategy against poverty and social exclusion pursued since the late 1990s is now largely exhausted."[18]

This can be summarised as follows:

> "1. The number of people living in poverty rose between 2004/05 and 2005/06 by around three-quarters of a million, to almost 13 million. As this is the only occasion on which the number has risen since 1996/97, it is premature to conclude that poverty is now on a rising trend. But with poverty in 2005/06 at the same level as it was in 2002/03, it is clear that progress on poverty reduction has stalled.
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> 2. Over the last decade, the proportion of both children and pensioners in poverty has fallen while the proportion of working-age adults in poverty has remained unchanged. As a result, the pensioner poverty rate is now lower than the poverty rate for working-age adults – an historic shift – and more than half of the people now in poverty are working-age adults." [p11]

Health issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Consultation on guidance on 'Finding a shared vision of how people's mental health problems should be understood'

The DOH Care Services Improvement Partnership has just issued this document[19] for consultation.

> "The guidance aims to:
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> - identify a shared vision of how people's mental health problems should be understood that is recognised equally by different provider groups and by service users and their carers
> - to raise awareness of the wide variety of different approaches to assessing mental health problems and wellbeing and

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[17] Guy Palmer, Tom MacInnes and Peter Kenway. *Monitoring poverty and social exclusion 2007*. JRF, 2007 (ISBN-13 (paperback): 9781859356203; ISBN-13 (pdf): 9781859356241. Available to download as a pdf (484 Kb) from: http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2152-poverty-social-exclusion.pdf.

[18] Taken from: http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/2164.asp.

[19] Care Services Improvement Partnership. *Consultation on guidance on 'Finding a shared vision of how people's mental health problems should be understood'*. DOH, 2007. Available to download as a pdf (490 Kb) from: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_080913.

- to build mutual understanding of these different approaches as resources for drawing together, through a shared process between service users, carers and service providers, ways of understanding a mental health problem that reflect the particular and often very different strengths and needs of individual service users."[20]

There is mention in the draft guidance of "fine arts or cultural events, such as going to the theatre, cinema, museum or art gallery, or acting in a play, reading for enjoyment or playing a musical instrument", but only in relation to the International Classification of Functioning (ICF – WHO) – there seems to be scope for responses highlighting the role that MLAs play in supporting people with mental health needs.

The consultation runs until **5 March 2008**.

Disability issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Valuing people now: from progress to transformation

This new consultation document[21] from DOH seeks people's views on the priorities for the learning disability agenda over the next three years.

It sets out as the main priorities for the period 2008-2011:

- "Personalisation – so that people having real choice and control over their lives and services;
- What people do during the day (and evenings and weekends) – helping people to be properly included in their communities, with a particular focus on paid work;
- Better health – ensuring that the NHS provides full and equal access to good quality healthcare;
- Access to housing – housing that people want and need with a particular emphasis on home ownership and tenancies;
- Making sure that change happens and the policy is delivered – including making Partnership Boards more effective." [p11]

The document does not mentions our sector, but it's clear that we do already (and could further) contribute to this area of work.

The closing date for this consultation is: **11 March 2008**.

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[20] Taken from: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_080913.
[21] *Valuing people now: from progress to transformation*. DOH, 2007. Available to download as a pdf (1287 Kb) from:
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_081014.

Local Area Agreement Culture and Sport Toolkit

Published by the South East Cultural Observatory and developed by a number of organisations, including MLA South East, this toolkit[22] is

> "designed to support Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) to embed culture and sport within their LAA, provide clarity about how culture can support the aims of the sustainable community strategy and to raise awareness of the important contribution that culture and sport can bring to community life."[23]

The toolkit can be searched by/at:

- Generic modules – information on a complete subject area and across all themes. The modules are:
    - National drivers – which identifies how culture and sport contribute to key national agendas and strategies
    - Regional priorities – which identifies how culture and sport contribute to key generic and culture specific regional agendas and strategies in the South East
    - Local priorities – which identifies how culture and sport contribute to key local priority outcomes
    - Practical tools – which includes 'how to' checklists, relationship models by theme and example presentations
    - Performance management – which sets out the performance framework for LAAs, suggested cultural and sport performance indicators to measure key outcomes and examples from existing LAAs
    - Case studies – from the South East region on the contribution of culture and sport to local priorities
    - Further information – sources of further information and evidence to make the case for the contribution of culture and sport to local area agreements.

- Local priority themes – information on how culture and sport contribute to a specific local priority theme or outcome, including theme related examples. The themes are:
    - Improving the life chances of children and young people
    - Health and well being
    - Reducing crime and fear of crime
    - Strengthening communities and involving people
    - Promoting lifelong learning, training and skills development

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[22] See: http://www.seco.org.uk/laatoolkit.
[23] Taken from MLA South East e-bulletin 37, 30 November 2007.

- Increasing economic prosperity and employment
- Protecting and enhancing the environment
- Providing decent and affordable housing
- Improving travel and transport.

- At a strategic level with 'at a glance' information

- At a detailed level with supporting tiers of information, practical tools and case study examples, if you are not so familiar with a subject area and need more evidence and assistance to persuade others of the value of culture and sport.[24]

Broader issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Central-local concordat

On 12 December, the Government and the LGA agreed a concordat[25] which "establishes a framework of principles for how central and local government work together to serve the public." [p1]

This concordat means that central and local government are partners in delivering improved services and in strengthening democracy. It also identifies shared objectives (which build upon the Shared Priorities) to:

- "create and sustain thriving communities, where people want to live, work, bring up their families and retire; where they can reach services; and with access to decent homes at a price they can afford;
- tackle anti-social behaviour and crime and promote good health;
- improve outcomes for children, young people and families;
- anticipate the needs and aspirations of an ageing society through preventative measures that encourage greater independence and wellbeing for older citizens;
- nurture business and enterprise, increasing skills and employment and creating wealth and rising prosperity, shared by all;
- protect and enhance the environment, tackle climate change and pollution;
- support a thriving third sector of local voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises;
- promote a pluralist, healthy democracy with tolerance, decency and respect at its heart, without space for political or religious extremism; and
- promote high standards of conduct in public life." [p2]

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[24] Taken from: http://www.seco.org.uk/laatoolkit/howtousethetoolkit.html.
[25] *Central-local concordat 12 December 2007.* DCLG, 2007. Available to download as a pdf (87 Kb) from: http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/601000.

And finally …

Just in case you haven't seen this, IDeA have published[26] – as part of their contribution to National Plain English Day on 11 December – a list of 100 words that public bodies should not use if they want to communicate effectively! Is your favourite there?

Abbreviations and acronyms

DCLG = Department for Communities and Local Government
DIUS = Department for Innovations, Universities and Skills
DOH = Department of Health
IDeA = Improvement and Development Agency
IMD = Index of Multiple Deprivation
IRR = Institute of Race Relations
LGA = Local Government Association
LGBT = lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people
MLAs = museums, libraries and archives
PCT = Primary Care Trust

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[26] See: http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=7701430.