

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 266, 23 October 2018

Events

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

Funding & Opportunities

National Lottery Partnerships funding

<https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/partnerships-england>

(Source: SAVS Weekly Email – Week ending 5 Oct 2018)

Not-for-profit organisations such as community organisations, charities, schools and social enterprises in England can apply for grants of over £10,000 for up to five years to develop a more strategic approach to improving their community by developing and growing new and existing partnerships.

Further info at above weblink.

Applications **ongoing**.

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

“A focus on outcomes: digital access/literacy - 100% digital Leeds”

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2018/10/09/a-focus-on-outcomes-digital-access-literacy-100-digital-leeds/>

Libraries Taskforce blogpost by Jason Tutin (Digital and Learning Development Manager, Leeds City Council), which looks at the work the Library Service has developed to improve digital inclusion, and their role in leading the city’s “100% Digital Leeds” programme (for more info on this, see:

<https://digitalinclusionleeds.com/2018/07/09/100digitalleeds/>).

“Belfast Central Library at 130: 'No longer are we just librarians”

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-45792339>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 16 Oct 2018)

BBC News NI report on the changed role of public libraries across NI:

“More than 38,000 people took part in 4,030 knit and natter groups here in 2017/2018. Thousands are also signing-up for other library-organised sessions like creative writing, tea and newspapers, introduction to iPad, mindful colouring, rhythm and rhyme and jobs clubs.”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

A quiet crisis: local government spending on disadvantage in England

https://www.npi.org.uk/files/7715/3669/7306/A_quiet_crisis_final.pdf

(Source: *Clinks Members Policy Briefing*, Sep 2018)

Important new report from the New Policy Institute (funded by the Lloyds Bank Foundation):

“Almost the entire burden of the reduction on spending in disadvantage has been concentrated in the most deprived fifth of all councils. This reflects the larger cuts in revenue which deprived councils have experienced relative to less deprived councils. Metropolitan districts in the North of England and the Midlands make up one third of these. Unitary and district authorities especially in the North West, Teesside and the East Midlands make up almost a half. The rest are London boroughs, mainly in the eastern half of the capital. A third of the total are coastal districts. By contrast, the least deprived councils in England have increased spending on disadvantage.” [pp6-7]

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

Occupational aspirations of children from primary school to teenage years across ethnic groups

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/Occupational%20aspirations%20of%20children.pdf>

(Source: email from the Runnymede Trust, 4 Oct 2018)

Report of important new research by the Centre for Longitudinal Studies and the Runnymede Trust, which finds:

- “Ethnic minority boys and girls have higher occupational aspirations (aspirations for well-paid jobs) compared to White children of the same sex.
- This is the case across the age range measured.
- While boys’ aspirations tend to start higher and show some decline over time, the opposite is the case for girls
- This leads to some convergence between boys’ and girls’ aspirations overall.
- In most cases, ethnic minority boys and girls have higher aspirations than their White counterparts already at around age 7. This shows that minority group families are not ‘socialising’ their children into ‘lower’ aspirations.
- By age 14 gaps between minority group girls and White girls are marked, suggesting that as they move towards their GCSEs, minority group girls are particularly looking forward to good jobs.
- Comparing these aspirations with the wages of jobs actually held by ethnic minority children at age 25, ethnic minorities are not achieving the levels of occupational success they aspire to – with the exception of Indian young women.
- There is no evidence that ethnic minorities are ‘choosing’ to go into lower paid occupations.” [p1]

Black History Month Magazine 2018

https://issuu.com/sugarmediamarketing/docs/bhm_2018_final_web/3

(Source: email from the Runnymede Trust, 4 Oct 2018)

Just in case you haven’t seen the latest BHM *Magazine*, it includes a range of interesting articles (particularly about the Windrush Generation), as well as celebrating BHM.

Health & Wellbeing issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Not just treating the symptoms”

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2018/10/09/not-just-treating-the-symptoms/>

Libraries Taskforce blogpost by Dr Neil Churchill, Director for Experience, Participation and Equalities at NHS England, who describes social prescribing and briefly outlines some regional schemes that illustrate how libraries support people to lead happier and healthier lives.

“Books are the best medicine: how libraries boost our wellbeing”

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/oct/10/books-best-medicine-how-libraries-boost-wellbeing>

Just in case you didn't see this round-up of good practice in *The Guardian*.

“Libraries support people with mental health issues, say council chiefs”

<https://www.localgov.co.uk/Libraries-support-people-with-mental-health-issues-say-council-chiefs/46171>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 14 Oct 2018)

Very brief article in *LocalGov*, for Libraries Week, which outlines “[...] how novel library services are helping people cope with a range of mental health problems.”

Examples mentioned are:

- “Norfolk County Council running a 'reading well' collection of books for mental health, selected by NHS health professionals who can recommend a list of titles to patients
- Hounslow Council has launched a home book delivery service for people who are house bound
- A 'creative alternatives' service offered by libraries in St Helen's Libraries includes creative writing, drawing, sculpture and woodwork
- Sefton Council's library services has developed a service for people with dementia who can record wartime experiences and accounts of childhood times”

Health & Wellbeing issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

A connected society: a strategy for tackling loneliness – laying the foundations for change

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748212/6.4882_DCMS_Loneliness_Strategy_web.pdf

This important strategy has just been launched:

“Loneliness and social connections are deeply personal. Government recognises that everyone feels lonely from time to time. But when people are always lonely they are likely to suffer significant ill health and other negative consequences. This strategy focuses on preventing people from feeling lonely all or most of the time.

Three overarching goals guide government's work on loneliness. The first is a commitment to play our part in improving the evidence base so we better understand what causes loneliness, its impacts and what works to tackle it [...]

The second goal is to embed loneliness as a consideration across government policy, recognising the wide range of factors that can exacerbate feelings of loneliness and support people's social wellbeing and resilience [...]

The third goal is to build a national conversation on loneliness, to raise awareness of its impacts and to help tackle stigma." [p7]

It includes references to the important role of libraries and museums (including Norfolk Library and Information Service in a case study).

NB Fuller assessment to appear in *The Network Newsletter*.

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

“Mental health”

https://patient.info/mental-health?utm_campaign=98314_PA%20Newsletter%202nd%20edition%20Mental%20Health%20ONE%20SEND&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Dotmailer&dm_i=4Q86,23UY,18QI5M,6E69,1

(Source: email from Patient Access, 10 Oct 2018)

Useful round-up of resources (information, self-help tips, weblinks) from Patient Access.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“How the right-wing press has weaponised the ability to speak English”

https://theconversation.com/how-the-right-wing-press-has-weaponised-the-ability-to-speak-english-101418?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20September%202014%202018%20-%20111139936&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20September%202014%202018%20-%20111139936+CID_8feac3650fb45fe5f39d6cf05a80d090&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=How%20the%20right-wing%20press%20has%20weaponised%20the%20ability%20to%20speak%20English

(Source: *The Conversation*, 13 Sep 2018)

Based on the analysis of “[...] more than 2,500 articles concerned with the topic of speaking English, published in right-wing British newspapers between 2011 and 2016”, this article shows that “[...] these stories contribute to a broader anti-immigrant narrative, expressing sentiments of exclusion and discrimination against people from minority linguistic and ethnic backgrounds.”

“Immigrants with first languages other than English were frequently represented as criminals and financial burdens on the country,

threatening the cultural fabric of the UK. They were also represented as being poised to displace native English speakers from their dominant position in society. Figures of non-English speaking immigrants reported in the stories fluctuated from the 138,000 reported in the Census, to 800,000 and 'even more' than four million."

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

"Contribution libraries make to early years"

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2018/10/11/contribution-libraries-make-to-early-years/>

Blogpost from the Libraries Taskforce which "[...] illustrates the wide range of contributions that libraries make at a vital stage in a child's development, preparing them for formal learning in school. It also includes examples which illustrate other outcomes including literacy and wellbeing."

"Your library, your work club and The Great Project"

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2018/10/10/your-library-your-work-club-and-the-great-project/>

Guest Libraries Taskforce blogpost for Libraries Week from Nigel Thomas (Head of Service Delivery for Leicestershire Libraries), which looks at Leicestershire Libraries' work clubs, and the Great Project (see:

<https://www.greatproject.org.uk/>) which

"[...] is a £2.4 million project, jointly funded by the Big Lottery and European Social Fund. The project is delivered by Voluntary Action LeicesterShire and is part of the Building Better Opportunities consortium. Leicestershire County Council (LCC) work clubs successfully bid to become a delivery partner on the 3 year project, running "pop up" work clubs to at least 150 participants on the project. The project aims to help families, furthest away from the jobs market, to access employment and training. This can include ethnic minorities, long term unemployed and people with enduring health and mental health problems."

Austerity

"The deepest cuts: austerity measured – how public services from libraries and youth clubs to benefits and social care have been affected"

<https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/uk/2018/10/deepest-cuts-austerity-measured>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 14 Oct 2018)

Round-up by *New Statesman*, which identifies where austerity has had a major impact. In terms of libraries, it says:

"Since 2010, more than 478 libraries have closed in England, Wales and Scotland, while more than 230,000 library opening hours have been lost over the past eight years. This disproportionately affects vulnerable people as the elderly, disabled and those on low incomes rely on library services (internet access, benefits help, children's clubs and pensioners' groups, as well as books) more than others."

There is further news about this, resulting from some research undertaken by the Labour Party, see: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/oct/07/cuts-to-library-hours-across-england-under-austerity>.

“Government passing on costs of services to public, says major study”

<https://www.publicfinance.co.uk/news/2018/10/government-passing-costs-services-public-says-major-study>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 14 Oct 2018)

According to this report in *Public Finance*, new analysis by CIPFA shows that: “Central government as well as local authorities are passing the costs of services, such as legal aid and garden waste collection, on to individuals [...]”

In particular:

“Prisons, despite getting more money from the 2016 Autumn budget, still received 16% less funding than in 2009-10, the tracker noted.

The report said that neighbourhood services – such as waste collection, food safety, road maintenance and libraries – have sustained the deepest spending cuts of all the services looked at.”