

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 230, 15 March 2017

Events

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

Funding & Opportunities

“International Tactile Book Competition 2017: entries open”

https://www.rnib.org.uk/insight-online/international-tactile-book-competition-2017?utm_medium=email&utm_source=March-Insight-2017&utm_campaign=Tactile%20book%20competition%20-%20button&launch_ID=1691

(Source: RNIB *Insight Online*, Mar 2017)

“Do you create tactile images or sensory stories for children with [visual impairment]? Or work with child who would love to make their own book? If so, this competition is for you! [...]

Everyone is welcome to enter, regardless of whether their entry is their first book or their eightieth. In previous years they have had entries from crafters, teachers, artists, students, VI specialists and school children.”

Closing date: **Friday 1 Sept 2017**.

Equality Act 2010

“Equality matters to human rights. We need a socio-economic duty”

<https://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/equality-matters-human-rights-we-need-socio-economic-duty>

(Source: Equality and Diversity Forum *eNewsletter*, 6 Mar 2017)

Opinion-piece by Koldo Casla (Policy, Research and Training Officer at Just Fair), which argues that:

“We need evidence-based policies to reduce inequality and support human rights, and we need such policies to be adopted at all levels of government.”

Just Fair (<http://www.just-fair.co.uk/>): “Just Fair advocates economic and social rights in the UK. We believe in social justice through human rights.”

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

“CILIP announces independently chaired review of Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals as part of its wider Equality and Diversity Plan”

https://www.cilip.org.uk/news/cilip-announces-independently-chaired-review-carnegie-kate-greenaway-medals-part-its-wider-equality?utm_source=Communicator_membership_list&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=Untitled4&utm_campaign=Weekly+News+from+CILIP+8th+March+2017

(Source: *Weekly News from CILIP*, 8 Mar 2017)

Just in case you haven't seen this ...

You might also be interested in: “Books to Build Boys and Girls’: a story of gender through the lens of 80 years of the CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Children’s Book Awards”, http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/thought-piece-3.php?utm_source=Communicator_membership_list&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=Untitled5&utm_campaign=Weekly+News+from+CILIP+8th+March+2017.

“Is diversity dead?”

http://www.museumsassociation.org/comment/policy-blog/01032017-is-diversity-dead?dm_i=2VBX,EPYB,27LU0M,118B4,1

Important MA Policy blogpost which argues for the continuing importance of work to increase diversity, but also that the definition needs to widen:

“We need to continue advancing the causes of gender, BAME and LGBT equality. But we also need to seek out greater diversity of representation across all groups that face inequality, including in terms of socio-economic background, disability and lived experience.”

“Ditching The Hype and Focusing on The Community”

<https://justinthelibrarian.com/2017/03/07/ditching-the-hype-and-focusing-on-the-community/>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 8 Mar 2017)

Interesting blog post that argues against the one-size-fits-all universal approach to provision – instead, Justin Hoenke suggests focusing on the “hyperlocal” to meet real community needs.

“Helping prisoners learn to read inside Swansea prison”

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-39179454?post_id=10207712730432871_10211473178401720

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 12 Mar 2017)

Positive story on BBC Wales, looking at the award-winning work being done in Swansea to get prisoners reading.

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

Race in the workplace: the McGregor-Smith Review

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/594336/race-in-workplace-mcgregor-smith-review.pdf

(Source: *MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview]*, 516, 6 Mar 2017)

The independent review looking at the obstacles faced by BME individuals when trying to progress at work has just been published.

The report makes a large number of recommendations – these and its narrative are grouped under six headings in the “Roadmap to success”:

1. Gather data
2. Take accountability
3. Raise awareness
4. Examine recruitment
5. Change processes

6. Government support.

The press release (28 Feb) summarises the report – see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/increase-in-bme-workplace-progression-could-give-uk-economy-a-24bn-boost-baroness-mcgregor-smith-review-finds>.

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

Youth index 2017

<https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/about-the-trust/research-policies-reports/youth-index-2017>

(Source: NCB *Policy & Parliamentary Information Digest*, 16 Jan 2017)

“This is the eighth annual Prince’s Trust Youth Index. It takes an in-depth look into the views and outlooks of young people aged 16 to 25. The Index gauges young people’s feelings about their lives today and their feelings about the future.” [p4]

It makes grim reading:

- “More than a quarter of young people (28 per cent) do not feel in control of their lives
- A third of young people (36 per cent) do not feel in control of their job prospects
- More than one in ten (16 per cent) think their life will amount to nothing, no matter how hard they try
- A fifth of young people (18 per cent) do not think they have the ability to change their circumstances if they want to
- The situation is even worse for NEET young people, who are more likely to feel worried about their circumstances and future
- 34 per cent of young people think they will have a worse standard of living than their parents
- 42 per cent of young people feel traditional goals like owning a house or getting a steady job are unrealistic” [Taken from: <https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/about-the-trust/research-policies-reports/youth-index-2017>]

Migration issues – News

“Refugees applying to live in UK face being sent home after five years”

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/09/refugees-applying-to-live-in-uk-face-being-sent-home-after-five-years>

(Source: MEMO [*Minority Ethnic Matters Overview*], 517, 13 Mar 2017)

News story that appeared on 9 Mar:

“Home Office quietly announces new policy where those applying for permanent residency face ‘safe country review’ after five years’ limited leave”

Also covered by the Scottish Refugee Council

(http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3082_all_refugees_in_uk_now_face_prospect_of_return_to_countries_they_fled); and *The Independent* (<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugees-applying-uk-immigration-sent-home-five-years-home-office-immigration-rules->

[a7621831.html](#)). Also a longer article by Martin Plaut in *The Guardian*, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/mar/11/britain-place-of-sanctuary-home-office>.

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Migration statistics

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06077/SN06077.pdf>

(Source: MEMO [*Minority Ethnic Matters Overview*], 517, 13 Mar 2017)

Useful House of Commons Library Briefing Paper which:

“[...] explains the concepts and methods used in measuring migration. It contains current and historical data on immigration, emigration and net migration in the UK. It sets out the most recent estimates of the UK’s foreign-national and foreign-born populations, and includes international comparisons of migration and migrant populations in European Union countries.” [p3]

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“Myths of Immigration” Booklets

<http://www.eis.org.uk/Anti-Racism/MythsofImmigration.htm>

(Source: MEMO [*Minority Ethnic Matters Overview*], 516, 6 Mar 2017)

The Educational Institute of Scotland has “produced new guidance for teachers on challenging the myths and misunderstandings related to immigration.”

There are three booklets, each one tailored to a different age range:

- Early Years and Early Primary
- Primary (recommended for Primary 3 upwards)
- Secondary and Further Education.

They are all available to download from the above weblink.

Equal Access Newsletter

<http://us1.campaign-archive1.com/?u=d7ec03323201c494ef3f26c8b&id=03a718e077>

(Source: email from STAR, 9Mar 2017, via refed,

<http://www.refugeeeducation.co.uk/mailing.htm>)

“Student Action for Refugees have created an access to higher education newsletter for groups and organisations supporting refugees and asylum seekers.

The newsletter includes information about scholarships and other higher education opportunities for refugees, asylum seekers and those granted other forms of temporary status.”

“Refugee Study”

<http://www.refugee-study.co.uk/>

(Source: email 14 Mar 2017 via refed, <http://www.refugeeeducation.co.uk/mailing.htm>)

Recently launched:

“This website is an information portal for refugees and asylum seekers who want to study in the United Kingdom. It provides information about grants, scholarships, bursaries and free courses, with links to relevant funding organisations. It also provides tips to help you to obtain funding.”

The Round-Up: rough sleeper immigration raids and charity collaboration

<https://corporatewatch.org/sites/default/files/CW%20rough%20sleepers%20investigation.pdf>

(Source: *MRN Weekly Update*, 8 Mar 2017)

Migrants’ Rights Network has issued a statement on the latest Corporate Watch report:

“MRN is deeply concerned by the findings of the Corporate Watch report, ‘The Round-Up’, which, if accurate, outlines cooperation between key homelessness organisations and immigration enforcement to detain and deport destitute migrants.” [Taken from:

<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/blog/2017/03/08/mrns-statement-in-response-to-report-on-homeless-organisations/>]

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

“Cultural commissioning and libraries: workshops”

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2017/02/17/cultural-commissioning-and-libraries-workshops/>

Drawn from workshops at the recent Libraries Taskforce sector forums, this blogpost covers what commissioning is, how to develop an offer and how to evidence that offer. Lots of useful info and links to case studies.

And, on a similar note (with apologies for being slow to include this): “Kent County Council Libraries Registration and Archives – Internal commissioning: Delivering better outcomes for the people of Kent”,

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2017/01/17/kent-county-council-libraries-registration-and-archives-internal-commissioning-delivering-better-outcomes-for-the-people-of-kent/>.

“Reflections on the Taskforce sector forum”

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2017/03/14/reflections-on-the-taskforce-sector-forum/>

Latest Libraries Taskforce blogpost by Alice Corble, describing her participation in the Libraries Deliver: Ambition sector forum in London at the Whitechapel Ideas Store in January, and looking at some of the key issues around change, involving frontline staff, etc.

“To survive the cuts, libraries must put themselves at the heart of communities”

<https://www.theguardian.com/public-leaders-network/2017/feb/22/libraries-community-hubs-survive-council-budget-cuts>

(Source: *Weekly News from CILIP*, 1 Mar 2017)

Useful article in *The Guardian* “Public Leaders Network” series by Councillor Ian Stephens (Chair, Local Government Association culture, tourism and sport board), looking at the creative ways that councils are finding to support libraries that offer a wide variety of services, from homework clubs to health advice and business partnerships.

Review of reader development activities in libraries and training needs

<http://goscl.com/wp-content/uploads/Review-of-Reader-Development-Activities-and-Training-Needs-February-2017-1.pdf>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 14 Mar 2017)

New report from SCL, which includes 22 case studies, and makes a number of key recommendations, including a call for more training.

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

Broader issues – Other Agencies

Reading with your child

<https://fileserver.booktrust.org.uk/usr/resources/351/reading-with-your-child-booklet-for-parents.pdf>

New booklet from BookTrust:

“Our Reading with your Child booklet for parents is available to download on our website. It contains loads of tips on what books to choose, and how you can make reading a time for closeness, laughing and talking together.”

Also available in Albanian, Arabic, Bulgarian, Czech, Farsi, French, German, Gujarati, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, and simplified Chinese – see:

http://www.booktrust.org.uk/resources/search/?misc_list_1=&sort=&search=reading+with+your&misc_list_2=&audience_type=&professional_type=&resource_type=&activity_type=34.