

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 254, 27 March 2018

Events

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

Funding & Opportunities

“#NotWithoutMe Accelerator”

<https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/carnegieuktrust/wp-content/uploads/sites/64/2018/03/NotWithoutMe-Accelerator-Project-Brief.pdf>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 11 Mar 2018)

“#NotWithoutMe supports the development of new and engaging digital inclusion projects, working specifically with vulnerable young people aged 11-25 to develop their digital skills, resilience, confidence, access and critical understanding. The Trust is now looking to support the development of a further three projects through their first digital inclusion accelerator. The ‘#NotWithoutMe Accelerator’ offers a six-month programme of training, support and £3,000 development funding.”

Applications must be received by **5pm Monday 30 April 2018**.

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

Culture is digital

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/686624/TT_v3.pdf

This new report:

“[...] showcases innovative projects in the creative sector, highlighting the extraordinary collaborations between our world-leading cultural and digital pioneers and makes 12 policy commitments.” [Taken from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/culture-is-digital>]

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

“Digital Champion stories”

https://www.digitalunite.com/blog/digital-champion-stories-4?utm_source=Digital%20Unite%20Ltd&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=9249267_March%20newsletter%202018&dm_i=13LU,5I8S3,5MZA29,LCSB5,1

(Source: News from Digital Unit, Mar 2018)

“Jeff Moore joined our Digital Champions Network as part of the One Digital funding by the Big Lottery. Since becoming a Digital Champion in December he has helped 43 learners as a Computer Buddy at Hayle library in Cornwall.”

“Focus groups to explore how class impacts on museum work”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/news/14032018-focus-groups-to-explore-how-class-impacts-on-museum-work?dm_i=2VBX,O6CH,27LU0M,2HBKM,1

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 15 Mar 2018)

“Sam Evans, a PhD researcher at the Department for Organizational Psychology, Birkbeck, University of London, will be leading a series of focus groups at which participants will be asked to reflect on what it takes to enter and get on in the sector, how this differs across different roles, how this might have changed, and how class might impact on this.”

Further info at above weblink.

“A ‘Flourishing’ library – in Mowbray Gardens, Rotherham”

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2018/03/12/a-flourishing-library-in-mowbray-gardens-rotherham/>

Terrific Libraries Taskforce blogpost by Christopher Gaynor (Neighbourhood Development Officer, Rotherham MBC) and Alnaar Clayton (Library Manager), which looks at the range of community activities at the library, including work with new arrivals; ESOL classes; arts and creative writing; employability skills, CV writing and job seeking advice; first aid; and awareness-raising about CSE.

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

Progress on socioeconomic rights in Great Britain

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/progress-on-socio-economic-rights-in-great-britain.pdf>

(Source: Equality and Diversity Forum *Newsletter*, 15 Mar 2018)

Subtitled: *Update report on Great Britain’s implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.*

“Although progress has been made in key areas, the report shows that:

- reforms to social security since 2010 are badly affecting children, disabled people, single parents and ethnic minorities
- relative child poverty (after housing costs) has risen, with the use of sanctions making a bad situation worse for many people
- low pay, underemployment, precarious self-employment and zero-hours contracts are still common practice
- changes to legal aid mean that justice is beyond the reach of many, especially children, disabled people and ethnic minorities.” [Taken from: http://www.edf.org.uk/ehrc-report-progress-on-socioeconomic-rights-in-great-britain/?utm_source=Equality+and+Diversity+Forum+Newsletter&utm_campaign=b8aaa04e48-EDF+Newsletter+270218&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_104ed5022f-b8aaa04e48-58965893]

There is an accompanying blogpost, “Progress on socio-economic rights: why are we waiting?” at: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/blogs/progress-socio-economic-rights-why-are-we-waiting>.

The cumulative impact of tax and welfare reforms

Full report: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/cumulative-impact-assessment-report.pdf>

Executive summary:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/cumulative-impact-assessment-report-executive-summary.pdf>

Welsh language version:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/cumulative-impact-assessment-report-welsh.pdf>

(Source: email from EHRC, Mar 2018)

The key findings include:

- “Negative impacts are particularly large for households with more disabled members, and more severely disabled individuals, as well as for lone parents on low incomes.
- For some family types, these losses represent an extremely large percentage of income. For example, for households with at least one disabled adult and a disabled child, average annual cash losses are just over £6,500 – over 13% of average net income.
- The impact of changes to direct taxes and benefits is to reduce the income of Bangladeshi households by around £4,400 per year on average.
- At an individual level, women lose on average considerably more from changes to direct taxes and benefits than men. Women lose about £400 per year on average, and men only £30, although these figures conceal very substantial variation within both genders.
- Lone parents in the bottom quintile (bottom fifth) of the household income distribution lose around 25% of their net income, or one pound in every four, on average.
- On average, disabled lone parents with at least one disabled child fare even worse, losing almost three out of every 10 pounds of their net income. In cash terms, their average losses are almost £10,000 per year.
- Around one and a half million more children are forecast to be living in households below the relative poverty line as a result of the reforms.”
[Executive summary, pp5-6]

“£215 million boost for council homelessness services”

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/215-million-boost-for-council-homelessness-services?utm_source=516fcbc5-9151-41e1-87af-a62de4f0521b&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

Press release from the MHCLG*, announcing funding from 2019:

“Councils across the country are set to receive a share of over £215 million from 2019 to prevent homelessness [...] This includes a £15 million fund for London councils to support their work together to prevent and reduce homelessness [...]

Today's announcement comes ahead of the Homelessness Reduction Act which comes into force next month to significantly reform England's legislation and ensure that more people get the help they need when they're faced with homelessness."

There is more info about the new Act – which comes into force on 3 Apr – at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hospitals-prisons-and-jobcentres-to-refer-people-at-risk-of-homelessness>, and <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/13/contents>.

*MCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) is the new name for DCLG.

Growing up north – Look North: a generation of children await the powerhouse promise

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Growing-Up-North-March-2018-1.pdf>

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Daily Bulletin*, 26 Mar 2018)

New report from the Children's Commissioner (which has had considerable media coverage).

"[...] too many disadvantaged children in the North are being left behind.

This report sets out starkly what this means:

- Too many children starting school far behind where they should be. Often with special educational needs no one has picked up.
- Children from disadvantaged backgrounds facing an education gap that starts before schools and widens throughout education
- More than half of the secondary schools serving the North's most deprived communities are judged to be less than good.
- Large numbers of children dropping out of education before they reach 18.
- Lack of confidence amongst children that economic regeneration will mean more jobs or opportunities." [p4]

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

A question of attitude

http://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Delivering%20Equality/EqualityAwarenessSurvey-Attitudes.pdf?utm_source=NewZapp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ezi-ne-Nov2017

(Source: email from Equality Commission Northern Ireland, 27 Mar 2018)

New research from Equality Commission NI:

"Equality is an important political and societal issue and is frequently in the headlines. The findings of the Equality Commission's most recent Equality Awareness Survey on social attitudes and public perception of

equality issues in Northern Ireland reveal how people see equality, prejudice and each other.

We asked respondents how positive or negative they felt towards different equality groups. We found that, overall, attitudes were much more positive than in previous surveys, in particular towards Travellers, lesbian, gay and bisexual people and trans people. Positive attitudes to LGB people were up from 57% in 2008 to 83% in 2016 and for transgendered people up from 48% in 2011 to 78% in 2016.” [Taken from email from Equality Commission NI]

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“The changed lives behind community ESOL”

https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/news-and-blogs/blog/changed-lives-behind-community-esol?utm_source=Good+Things+Foundation+News&utm_campaign=d89caacfb4-GT_Foundation_News_March_2018&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e9dc7b206a-d89caacfb4-110029601

(Source: *Good Things Foundation News*, Mar 2018)

Blogpost that reflects on “English My Way”, their community ESOL programme. (The post also describes a visit to a celebration event at Ealing Library.)

Good Things Foundation have also just published *How we change the world: Good Things Foundation’s social impact theory of change*. This sets out how they see change happening – basically along three lines:

- “At an individual level: having a positive impact on people
- At a community level: having a positive impact on groups, networks and institutions
- At a societal level: having a positive impact on public attitudes, behaviours and formal policy.” [p1]

See: https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/sites/default/files/research-publications/theory-of-change-playbook.pdf?utm_source=Good+Things+Foundation+News&utm_campaign=d89caacfb4-GT_Foundation_News_March_2018&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e9dc7b206a-d89caacfb4-110029601.

Poverty in Wales 2018

https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/poverty-wales-2018?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=JRF%20weekly%20round-up%20wc%205%20March%2018&utm_content=JRF%20weekly%20round-up%20wc%205%20March%2018+CID_675d263f5b05b17b6ad912cd8080bae7&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Read%20research

(Source: *JRF Weekly round-up*, 9 Mar 2018)

The key findings include:

- The proportion of households living in income poverty in Wales has fallen over the last 20 years, especially among pensioners and lone parents, but remains higher than in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- In the three-year period 1994/97, 27% of people in Wales lived in poverty; compared to 23% for the last few years.
- Poverty among pensioners has fallen, but by less than in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. In 1994/97, pensioner poverty, after housing costs, was similar to England and lower than Scotland; by 2013/16 it was higher.
- Poverty among couples with children has been rising since 2003/06.
- There has been good progress in Wales on three important drivers of working-age poverty: worklessness has fallen, employment rates have risen and adults skills have improved. However, this has not delivered lower poverty and the risk of poverty has increased for working and workless households.
- The drivers of rising poverty across the country are reductions to working-age benefits, rising living costs (particularly for housing) and poor quality work.
- 39% of disabled people are in poverty compared to 22% of non-disabled people. The poverty rate for disabled people in Wales is the highest in the UK.
- Since 2010, children from lower-income backgrounds have been catching up with those from better-off backgrounds on educational attainment, but they remain much less likely to leave school with good qualifications.
- The majority of those in the poorest fifth in Wales are not building up a pension, increasing their risk of future poverty.” [p1]

“Low-income working families: an economic update”

<https://www.slideshare.net/josephrowntreefoundation/lowincome-working-families-an-economic-update>

(Source: JRF *Weekly round-up*, 16 Mar 2018)

Handy, brief SlideShare presentation from JRF, which looks at why poverty among working families with children is increasing despite earnings rising at the bottom, and sets out some ways that this could be tackled.

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

The Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance

<https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/>

(Source: email from Jo Ward, 15 Mar 2018)

Launched 13 Mar:

“This new Alliance brings together the National Alliance for Arts, Health and Wellbeing and the National Alliance for Museums, Health and Wellbeing and involves over 50 leading organisations. We aim to bring about a step change in policy and delivery, and will focus on a strong regional infrastructure to support development and progress in the field.”

Migration issues – Other Agencies

Know your rights – a guide for migrants

<https://migrantsrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Hostile-Environment-WEB-1.pdf>

(Source: Migrants Rights Network *Weekly News*, 13 Mar 2018)

“The guide aims to help migrants understand their rights and how to assert them in 8 key areas of everyday life: banking, driving, education, employment, health, housing, social services, and the detention and deportation of homeless EU nationals.

The guide has been written for all migrants living in the UK. It will be particularly useful for people without documents and those trying to regularise their immigration status, including asylum seekers. We have aimed to make the guide comprehensive and informative, as well as easy to use, including by people for whom English is a second language.

The guide has been written in collaboration with Against Borders for Children, Doctors of the World UK, Liberty, North East London Migrant Action (NELMA), and Project 17.” [Taken from:

<https://migrantsrights.org.uk/blog/2018/03/13/know-rights-guide-migrants/>]

“This is what active and engaged migrant communities look like”

https://migrantsrights.org.uk/blog/2018/03/20/active-engaged-migrant-communities-look-like/?mc_cid=01dedc202a&mc_eid=f4e6ea96b3

(Source: Migrants Rights Network *Weekly News*, 20 Mar 2018)

MRN blogpost reporting on a positive meeting in Boston to present the findings of the “Outsider Project” and to help overcome the frequently negative stories about Boston:

“And who knows – in time perhaps national and international media will be inspired by Boston’s local media to present a positive narrative about migration in Boston, which will reflect and celebrate the progressive work that the town’s local communities are leading.”

The “Outsider Project” was noted in Ebulletin 239 – and there is further info at: <https://migrantsrights.org.uk/projects-2/outsider-project/>.

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

“Dionne Hood: PPC Librarian of the Year”

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2018/03/13/dionne-hood-ppc-librarian-of-the-year/>

Libraries Taskforce blogpost by Dionne Hood, outlining some of her work in Bradford Libraries. (PPC = Publishers’ Publicity Circle, see:

<http://publisherspublicitycircle.co.uk/news/ppc-annual-awards-winners-2017/>.)

Broader issues – Other Agencies

“From a symbol of ‘Broken Britain’, grime has become a voice for the voiceless”

<https://theconversation.com/from-a-symbol-of-broken-britain-grime-has-become-a-voice-for-the-voiceless-92468>

Interesting article that explores attitudes to grime music, and highlights how some musicians are using it for social justice aims.

Post-Brexit

“Race, class and Brexit: thinking from detention”

<https://www.versobooks.com/blogs/3675-race-class-and-brexit-thinking-from-detention>

(Source: Migrants Rights Network *Weekly News*, 13 Mar 2018)

Thought-provoking article by Luke de Noronha, which argues that most of the media focus has been on the likely effects on middle-class White European new arrivals to the UK, ignoring the plight of East Europeans and Black Europeans.

Heritage and Immigration Brexit Briefing

<http://www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/tha-website/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/THA-Immigration-Briefing.pdf>

(Source: *Heritage Update*, 366, 23 Mar 2018)

Updated version of this paper from The Heritage Alliance, which makes some key points.