



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 304, 19 July 2020

Events

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

Black Lives Matter

“Racism and mental health”

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/looking-after-yourself/racism-and-mental-health/>

(Source: *YoungMinds Newsletter*, Jul 2020)

Important new resource from YoungMinds:

“We have worked with young people to develop a new page on racism and mental health, which includes tips, advice and suggestions on where you can get help if racism is affecting your mental health.” [Taken from *Newsletter*]

Reading Museum: “Windrush Day, 22 June”

https://www.readingmuseum.org.uk/resources/windrush-day-22-june?_cldee=am9obkBuYWRkZXlub3JnLnVr&recipientid=contact-a4733678e9aee511937a005056915655-3d0952b57edd4602bc1b89f8c3fa0b69&esid=32c20a6d-16bd-ea11-bc4a-005056911737

(Source: Arts Council England update, 3 Jul 2020)

“With the generous support of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and in partnership with Reading’s Caribbean community, we’ve created a range of online resources below, teaching, celebrating and commemorating the Windrush story.

Discover fun-filled activity packs for families and toolkits for teachers. Tune into Gold Dust radio for brilliant live music and local voices discussing the Windrush in Reading. And explore a brand-new digital exhibition, *Enigma of Arrival: The Politics and Poetry of Caribbean Migration to Britain*.”

Race and racism in English secondary schools

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/Runnymede%20Secondary%20Schools%20report%20FINAL.pdf>

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 2 Jul 2020)

Major new report from Runnymede, which “[...] explores the nature of racism in secondary schools and is organised around four key issues: the teacher workforce; curricula; police; and school policies.” [Taken from:

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/projects-and-publications/education/racism-in-secondary-schools.html>]

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

“Stop trying to fight racism with corporate diversity consultants”

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jul/08/diversity-consultants-racism-seminars-corporate-america>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 667, 13 Jul 2020)

Interesting *Guardian* article which argues that:

“Inclusivity seminars and books like *White Fragility* protect power; they don’t challenge it. We’re being hustled”

“What black writers think about the UK’s publishing industry – a survey”

https://theconversation.com/what-black-writers-think-about-the-uks-publishing-industry-a-survey-142564?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2016%202020%20-%201679216191&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2016%202020%20-%201679216191+CID_b779b83b3f5556ee3dabdde3061a1da6&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=What%20black%20writers%20think%20about%20the%20UKs%20publishing%20industry%20%20a%20survey

(Source: *The Conversation*, 16 Jul 2020)

Interesting article reporting on the “Time for Change” research into diversity in children’s publishing:

“Despite awareness of its shortcomings and years of debates and initiatives (diversity schemes, blind recruiting practices and manuscript submission processes) the industry has generally failed to achieve lasting change. This is because they fail to address the broader systemic inequalities faced by people of colour, which contribute to ongoing under-representation in the industry.”

See also: <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/publication/diversity-children%E2%80%99s-literature-report-2019>.

“How to promote an anti-racist culture in social work”

https://www.communitycare.co.uk/2020/07/17/promote-anti-racist-culture-social-work/?utm_content=Top%20story&utm_campaign=CC%20Snapshot%2017-07-20&utm_source=Community%20Care&utm_medium=adestra_email&utm_term=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.communitycare.co.uk%2F2020%2F07%2F17%2Fpromote-anti-racist-culture-social-work%2F

(Source: *Community Care Weekly Newsletter*, 17 Jul 2020)

Very useful – and applicable – article which outlines “[...] clear actions that social work educators, employers and key stakeholders can take to promote anti-racism.”

Coronavirus/COVID-19

“Advisory note: ‘Contact Tracing’ for librarians and information professionals”

<https://www.cilip.org.uk/news/515964/Advisory-note-Contact-Tracing-for-librarians-and-information-professionals.htm>

(Source: press statement from CILIP, 7 Jul 2020)

Helpful advice from CILIP – for us, of particular note is the second criterion:

“No impact on people from marginalised, ‘at-risk’ or vulnerable groups

In addition to the general principle that data-collecting activity must not present a deterrent to library use, the act of requesting personal information on entry and exit from the library may deter people from marginalised or ‘at-risk’ communities, people classed as ‘vulnerable’ or those who may have legitimate cause to mistrust data collection by public authorities.

You should not engage in the requested activity unless you are satisfied that your data-collection methodology presents no actual or implied deterrent for people from marginalised or at-risk communities or vulnerable people.”

Abandoned, forgotten and ignored ...

<https://www.inclusionlondon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Abandoned-Forgotten-and-Ignored-Final-1.pdf>

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 14 Jul 2020)

Subtitled *The impact of the coronavirus pandemic on Disabled people*, this interim report from Jun 2020 by Inclusion London highlights the effects of discrimination and inequality on disabled people during the COVID-19 pandemic:

“Our report demonstrates that the measures designed to support at-risk groups introduced by the government, local authorities and other service providers, including supermarkets and pharmacies, are not working for everyone. Indeed, the crisis has exposed and amplified the structural inequalities that for decades have excluded, discriminated against and marginalised Deaf and Disabled people. The failures, moreover, have reinforced the widespread perception that the voices of Disabled people are being ignored and have led many of us to conclude that we have been forgotten and abandoned.” [p4]

Funding & Opportunities

Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants

https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/projectgrants?_cldee=am9obkBuYWRkZXlub3JnLnVr&recipientid=contact-a4733678e9aee511937a005056915655-af7b81212f184f4f909f74b5082066cd&esid=77291a86-53c7-ea11-bc4a-005056911737

(Source: email from ACE, 17 Jul 2020)

“National Lottery Project Grants is our open access programme for arts, museums and libraries projects. The fund supports thousands of individual artists, community and cultural organisations [...]

On 22 July we'll be open again for applications, with a budget of £59.8 million available until April 2021.

We have prioritised reopening this programme to help fund independent organisations, creative practitioners and freelancers as quickly as possible.”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“Paper Chains”

<https://www.thebookseller.com/news/author-smith-launches-paperchains-highlight-marginalised-lockdown-voices-1208559#>

(Source: email from Alan Smith, 30 Jun 2020)

Great write-up of this project in *The Bookseller*.

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

Libraries of Sanctuary resource pack

<https://libraries.cityofsanctuary.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/157/2020/05/COS-Library-resource-pack-low-res-website-version-13-5-20.pdf>

The resource pack (written by John Vincent) was published by City of Sanctuary at the end of May.

“Although the focus is on people seeking sanctuary, many of the issues raised are applicable to any new arrivals, however long their length of stay, such as the ‘Windrush Generation’ and economic migrants from inside and outside the EU.

The pack is aimed at public library staff, but is designed to be shared with all frontline staff and volunteers, council colleagues and elected members, and other stakeholders – as part of a briefing, to inspire and spread good practice, and to provide a starting point for conversations about local needs and solutions.” [p2]

This forms part of the new Libraries of Sanctuary stream on the City of Sanctuary website:

- Review of the resource pack (by Ralph Braunholtz), <https://libraries.cityofsanctuary.org/2020/06/15/libraries-of-sanctuary-resource-pack-a-review>
- Resources, <https://libraries.cityofsanctuary.org/resources>
- “Libraries of Sanctuary in action” – examples and case studies, <https://libraries.cityofsanctuary.org/case-studies>
- How to get involved, <https://libraries.cityofsanctuary.org/get-involved>
- The Libraries of Sanctuary Award, <https://libraries.cityofsanctuary.org/award>.

Brighton & Hove Libraries (Network member) are the latest – and only second UK – library service to be awarded Library of Sanctuary status, see: <https://new.brighton-hove.gov.uk/news/2020/brighton-hove-libraries-awarded-library-sanctuary-status#:~:text=Community%20and%20equalities-,Brighton%20%26%20Hove%20Libraries%20awarded%20Library%20of%20Sanctuary%20status,with%20this%20year's%20Refugee%20Week>

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

“English for Speakers of Other Languages for Integration Fund”

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-to-benefit-from-high-quality-community-based-english-language-learning?utm_source=8c6e4e4b-91e9-4580-9ca2-a99a900f08a8&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

Taken from MHCLG press release 17 Jul:

“The new programme will offer English language sessions to those with little or no written or spoken English. The 30 successful local authorities have all designed programmes that will best meet the needs of residents with little or no English language skills, who may feel disconnected, and will help them to fulfil their potential and improve their connections within their local communities.”

The list of 30 authorities is at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/901486/ESOL_for_Integration_Fund_Areas_2020-21.pdf.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

Education transitions for refugee and asylum-seeking young people in the UK: exploring the journey to further and higher education

https://downloads.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Education-Transitions-UK-Refugee-Report.pdf?_ga=2.66272876.315987451.1593082134-1446334298.1593082134

(Source: *STAR Equal Access Update*, Jun 2020)

New report from Unicef UK and Refugee Support Network:

“The research draws on the experiences of more than 500 young people and practitioners in the UK [...]” [p5]

Amongst its findings and conclusions are:

“This report finds that refugee and asylum-seeking young people are confronted by a multitude of barriers to realising their right to education. These barriers intersect, accumulate and become increasingly restrictive and complex as refugee and asylum-seeking young people attempt to reach further and higher education levels [...]”

Despite the multitude of hindering factors reported and experienced by refugee and asylum-seeking young people and practitioners, research findings demonstrate that progression is achievable. Holistic and specialist support from individuals – including social workers, case workers, teachers and representatives from the voluntary sector – is crucial, as are the decisions taken and approaches adopted by FE and HE institutions. The journey to further and higher education is possible for young refugees, if all actors come together to smooth the transitions process.” [p15]

“Deadly Accommodation Crisis for Glasgow’s Hotel Asylum Seekers”

<https://www.paih.org/deadly-accommodation-crisis-for-glasgow-asylum-seekers-key-demands/>

Positive Action in Housing have been covering the plight of the asylum-seekers in Glasgow, who were caught up in the knife attack, exposing the lack of care and support they have received. This blogpost is just one example ...

“LGBT asylum seekers' claims routinely rejected in Europe and UK”

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jul/09/lgbt-asylum-seekers-routinely-see-claims-rejected-in-europe-and-uk>

(Source: email from the Peter Tatchell Foundation, 16 Jul 2020)

Just in case you haven't seen this write-up of important new research:

“People seeking asylum in the UK and Europe on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity are routinely seeing their claims rejected because of a widespread ‘culture of disbelief’ and an ‘impossible burden of proof’ [...]”

However: “Norway will prioritise lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender refugees”, https://www.euronews.com/2020/07/09/norway-will-prioritise-lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-refugees?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A%20euronews%2Fen%2Fnews%20%28euronews%20-%20news%20-%20en%29.

LGBTQ+ issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Serving the Transgender Community: It's More Than Just Bathrooms!”

<https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=serving-transgender-community-more-than-just-bathrooms-ala-virtual-2020>

(Source: email from *Library Journal*, 16 Jul 2020)

Brief write-up of a useful session at the ALA virtual conference in June, including some helpful tips, eg “Be careful about pronoun use”; “Practice explicit inclusion”.