



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 315, 1 December 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

“Arts organisations awarded £1.27m to tackle racial inequality”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2020/11/arts-organisations-awarded-1-27m-to-tackle-racial-inequality/?utm_campaign=1845794_18112020&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,13K82,27LU0M,485PW,1

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 18 Nov 2020)

Info about the first round of grants from the Freelands Foundation [see: <https://freelandsfoundation.co.uk/>]:

- New Art Exchange, which is dedicated to culturally diverse contemporary visual arts, will receive £500,000 over three years to launch its Power to Change programme, working with young people and adults to support community empowerment and talent development. The organisation will take an intergenerational, participant-led approach to offer a vital resource for individuals facing various forms of social and economic disadvantage [see: <http://www.nae.org.uk/>]
- Iniva, a visual arts organisation dedicated to developing an artistic programme that reflects on the social and political impact of globalisation, will also receive £500,000 to transform its learning programme, centred around the invigoration of the Stuart Hall Library, a unique collection of books, artist and curatorial archives of Black British Arts movements [see: <https://iniva.org/>]
- Create London will receive £270,000 over two years as part of the funding round to deliver an education and engagement programme celebrating the Windrush Generation with schools and community groups in partnership with Hackney Council [see: <https://createlondon.org/>]

“We must help all students find belonging in books through a diverse curriculum”

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/diversity-books-characters-schools-curriculum-english-literature-b1185701.html>

(Source: email from the Runnymede Trust, 23 Nov 2020)

Article drawing attention to the Penguin Books/Runnymede Trust initiative:

“The case for a more inclusive and representative history curriculum has been powerfully advanced by many voices. English literature must now be part of that conversation”

There is more info about “Lit in Colour” at:
<https://www.penguin.co.uk/campaigns/lit-in-colour.html>

“Through Lit in Colour, we commit to:

- Commission landmark research from The Runnymede Trust to better understand the scale of the issue and explore possible solutions, with the voices and views of teachers and young people front and centre
- Support this campaign over the long-term by providing practical and creative tools to equip and empower teachers and students to make change in the classroom. This will include working together with the incredible authors we publish, as well as donating books, creating free resources and more
- Seek out alliances with experts and organisations already fighting for education reform”

“Black Monuments Matter: A Virtual Exhibition of Sub-Saharan Architecture”

<https://black-monuments-matter.zamaniproject.org/>

(Source: email from Robert Morkot, Exeter University, 24 Nov 2020)

“The Aga Khan University's Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations and the Zamani Project at the University of Cape Town are pleased to present the online exhibition Black Monuments Matter.

Black Monuments Matter recognises and highlights African contributions to world history by exhibiting World Heritage Monuments and architectural treasures from Sub-Saharan Africa.

Black Monuments Matter aspires to create links to living African heritage by making it visible, assessable and known to as many people as possible. In general, we would like to raise awareness of and respect towards Black cultures and Africa’s past to a larger audience.

Black monuments matter and black cultures matter. Sites and monuments are physical representations of histories, heritage and developments in society. This exhibition aims to display the diversity and richness of African cultures as part of world history through the study of African monuments; bringing awareness and pride of African roots and contributions to other cultures.

The African continent has numerous sites and monuments of historic and cultural importance, and our exhibition showcases some of its diversity and richness.”

“Mental health services: 'What is it about your outreach that makes it hard to reach our Black communities?’”

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/your-stories/mental-health-services-what-is-it-about-your-outreach-that-makes-it-hard-to-reach-our-black-communities/>

(Source: *Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance Bulletin*, Nov 2020)

“Isaac Ouro-Gnao sits on [Mind’s] Young Black Men’s steering group supporting the delivery of our Young Black Men’s programme. He is a freelance journalist, dance artist and poet. Talking to other steering group members, he explores the long-held myth of ‘hard to reach’ when it comes to Black people accessing mental health support and services.”

Coronavirus/COVID-19

Books that help children stay safe, calm, connected and hopeful

https://tra-resources.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/entries/document/4716/Covid_children_s_booklist.pdf

(Source: email from CILIP Public and Mobile Libraries Group, 25 Nov 2020)

Just in case you haven’t seen this helpful booklist (I hadn’t!).

Literature review on the impact of COVID-19 on families, and implications for the home learning environment

https://cdn.literacytrust.org.uk/media/documents/Literature_review_on_the_impact_of_COVID-19_on_families.pdf

(Source: email from National Literacy Trust, 26 Nov 2020)

Key findings include:

- “The home learning environment is vital in supporting early literacy, but children from disadvantaged backgrounds are less likely to be read to at home, meaning they can fall behind.
- Although many families have enjoyed spending time together at home during COVID-19, some have been at home in more difficult circumstances, and for many parents the stress of financial insecurity has meant they have not been able to support their children’s learning as much as they would like.
- While many practitioners have provided virtual support to help families with home learning environment activities, there have been disparities in access to support. Higher-income parents were more likely to receive online support from practitioners, and low-income families are less likely to have the resources they need, including the right digital devices and reliable internet connections.
- COVID-19 has exacerbated factors that can lead to parental depression, including economic hardship and job insecurity, and those who had fewer resources to begin with have been impacted more

- Poor parental mental health has an impact on the home learning environment as children learn to think and understand through social interactions with others. If the parent is disengaged or distracted, then they may not respond positively to the child's attempts to communicate and the connections in the child's brain that support the development of communication and social skills don't form as they should.
- Supporting parents to engage with their child's early learning is key to boosting children's language skills. Successful initiatives are those that focus on developing a warm and positive relationship with the family. Parents like to be listened to, have their views taken seriously, and treated as active participants in supporting their children." [Taken from: https://literacytrust.org.uk/research-services/research-reports/impact-covid-19-home-learning-environment/?mc_cid=2dacb46e95&mc_eid=a2d98ab814]

“LGBTI & COVID-19”

<https://lgbtiandcovid.scot/>

(Source: *Equality Network Newsletter*, 30 Nov 2020)

The Equality Network (with support from the Scottish Government) have put together this helpful microsite:

“[...] to help LGBTI people navigate those changes and signpost where you or your group can get advice or support.”

Funding & Opportunities

Shared History Fund

<https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/shared-history-fund>

(Source: *Funding Central Newsletter*, 25 Nov 2020)

“The Shared History Fund uses funds provided by the UK Government and is being distributed by The National Lottery Heritage Fund using criteria set by the Northern Ireland Office.

It will support organisations seeking to:

- Mark the centenary of Northern Ireland in 2021 in a spirit of mutual respect, inclusiveness and reconciliation, in line with the Principles for Remembering.
- Facilitate local and national awareness of, and engagement with, this significant national anniversary.

Grants will be awarded between £3,000 and £100,000 in two categories: £3,000-£10,000 and £10,000-£100,000. Funding must be spent by 31 March 2022.”

The DofE Resilience Fund

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/duke-of-edinburgh-s-award-launches-covid-19-resilience-fund>

(Source: *Children & Young People Now Update*, 25 Nov 2020)

“The Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award scheme has created a fund to offer thousands of places to disadvantaged young people and training for youth workers, to help the youth sector deal with the Covid-19 pandemic.” [Taken from: <https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/duke-of-edinburgh-s-award-launches-covid-19-resilience-fund>]

Thriving Communities Fund

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/thriving-communities-fund#section-1>

(Source: email from CILIP Public and Mobile Libraries Group, 25 Nov 2020)

“This funding is designed to increase social connectedness, and help communities cope with the impact of COVID-19.

By working with those communities most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including black, Asian and ethnically diverse communities, the projects we will fund will help to:

- enhance collaboration and networking between local organisations
- strengthen the range of social prescribing activities offered locally and enable social prescribing link workers to connect people to more creative community activities and services
- explore ways to make these partnerships and activities sustainable over time”

Application Open Date: 12pm (midday), 23 November 2020

Application Deadline: 12pm (midday), 8 January 2021

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

What will it really take to level-up?

http://classonline.org.uk/docs/Report_LevelUp_231120_0145.pdf

(Source: email from CLASS, 23 Nov 2020)

Important new report from CLASS:

“[...] Inequality in the UK has gone from bad to worse. The economic gap between UK regions is the starkest of any comparable developed nation but this is not where our inequality problem starts or ends [...] Whether it be inequalities between groups, between regions, within regions, in wealth or in who has power and who doesn't, the conclusion is the same – the UK is one of the most unequal rich countries in the world. And these inequalities are deadly.” [p7]

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

See also: “Greater equality: our guide through Covid-19 to sustainable wellbeing” by Kate Pickett and Richard Wilkinson, which looks at related issues:

“The pandemic has reinforced the case for egalitarianism to define the ethos of the welfare state.”

See: <https://www.socialeurope.eu/greater-equality-our-guide-through-covid-19-to-sustainable-wellbeing>.

How we get along: the diversity study of England and Wales 2020

Full report: <https://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/assets/file-downloads/How-We-Get-Along-Full-Report.pdf>

Summary: <https://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/assets/file-downloads/How-We-Get-Along-Executive-Summary.pdf>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 683, 23 Nov 2020)

Key findings include:

- There is a national consensus that diversity is good for British society – we get along
- Despite widespread positive attitudes towards diversity, we found regional differences
- Despite positive attitudes towards diversity, many people across England and Wales appear to be uncomfortable with the pace of national and local change. There is an emerging consensus that for many it has been too quick
- Diverse friendships are the norm in British society
- When it comes to tackling prejudice, friendship matters and works

Recommendations include:

- “Despite public concern and media narratives that our country is increasingly polarised, there is an emerging national consensus that diversity is good for Britain, but the pace of change has been too fast for many. Our findings suggest that ‘prodiversity’ and ‘pro-immigration control’ positions are neither contradictory nor irreconcilable. The existence of an emerging consensus on both diversity and change offers policymakers opportunities for coalitions and broader appeal. They should seek to build on this finding when considering issues such as equality and immigration.
- Regional variations in attitudes to diversity suggest the need for an even more devolved, regional approach to integration and cohesion policymaking, including the increased use of local consultations. This means giving more attention to regional difference and allowing local and regional government more responsibilities and discretion to manage diversity.
- Friendship should occupy a more prominent role in policymaking, with friendships between people from different backgrounds more actively encouraged and supported.
- Building on the above, there should be a shift in the focus in workplaces tackling inequality towards promoting diversity. Policymakers and employers should consider ‘workplace solos’ more often. More broadly, all workers are a ‘safe bet’ for integration and cohesion strategies. As potential ‘ambassadors’ of their own ethnic, national or religious group,

they are well-placed to challenge stereotypes and establish new norms of social mixing” [Summary report, p14]

“Marcus Rashford’s book club couldn’t come at a better time – children’s reading is at a 15-year low”

https://theconversation.com/marcus-rashfords-book-club-couldnt-come-at-a-better-time-childrens-reading-is-at-a-15-year-low-150572?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%2023%202020%20-%201792317396&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%2023%202020%20-%201792317396+CID_165fa4a7e96dcfc671c6571ab4d2fae5&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Marcus%20Rashfords%20book%20club%20couldnt%20come%20at%20a%20better%20time%20%20childrens%20reading%20is%20at%20a%2015-year%20low

(Source: *The Conversation*, 23 Nov 2020)

Article by Melanie Ramdarshan Bold, looking at how important this initiative is.

Forgotten futures and the city: a manual for the use of arts intervention in prisons and other rehabilitation settings

https://liverpoolhopetheatrecompany.files.wordpress.com/2020/11/forgotten_futures_and_the_city_booklet_130720-2.pdf

(Source: National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance Newsletter, Nov 2020)

“This manual is designed as a resource for those who are working with the arts in prisons or rehabilitation centres, or those who have an interest or curiosity as to the value of implementing arts programmes for offenders. This manual is aimed at people who believe in the transformative potential of the arts to enable social change but the overarching aim of this work is to enhance the lives of people who are on their journey of rehabilitation and reintegration into mainstream society. This guide will help create a productive learning environment because it fosters a positive sense of self for offenders. This is done in the context of exploring future aspirations and potential active citizenship upon release.” [p5]

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

CYPMHC annual report 2020

https://cypmhc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CYPMHC_AnnualReport.pdf

(Source: email from CILIP Public and Mobile Libraries Group, 25 Nov 2020)

Annual report of the Children & Young People’s Mental Health Coalition, which identifies a number of key issues (especially as a result of the pandemic), and calls for:

“[...] a cross government approach to put the health of children and young people at the heart of decision making. This means working across departments to give infants, children, and young people across the country the best chance for good mental health.” [p7]

Women and children's creative health handbook: wellbeing by design
<https://www.improvingme.org.uk/media/1151/womenandchildrenscreativehealthhandbook.pdf>

This is an important new handbook:

“There are three main messages to be taken away from this handbook:

Firstly, if we are serious about reducing health inequalities we need to acknowledge that a social gradient persists in preterm birth risk and in children’s access to positive early experiences. Child health is everyone’s responsibility. We need to give every child the best start in life [...]

Secondly, we need to understand why life expectancy at birth for England’s poorest women has fallen. Furthermore [...] we need to critically examine in tandem significant differences in maternal mortality rates. Why are black women five times more likely to die as a result of complications in their pregnancy than white women? There is a clear need to better utilise the evidence we have and understand what it is telling us. Namely, we urgently need to explore the complexity of these inequalities and to address them, also considering what the implications are for policy and practice.

Thirdly, creativity, the arts and culture have a significant role in addressing unfair and avoidable differences in health. The evidence base on the value of such cultural interventions and the opportunity this presents is vast but largely untapped. This needs to change. Therefore benefits accruing from adoption of health policy that embraces non-clinical interventions are manifest.” [p5]

It investigates Pregnancy, labour and birth; Newborn and early years; and Children and young people, and, for each, looks at key challenges and their cost, and then looks at what impact provision of arts can have – and includes case studies, eg BookTrust and Bookstart, Leicestershire Libraries “Bumps to Bookworms”, Live Music Now.

Recommended.

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

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

“Disability History Month: How far have we come? How far have we to go?”

<https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/news/blog/disability-history-month-how-far-have-we-come-how-far-have-we-go>

(Source: *Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance Bulletin*, Nov 2020)

Blogpost by Esther Fox (Head of the Accentuate Programme, a cultural programme leading ground-breaking projects for D/deaf and disabled people).

“So how far have we come? Accentuate is currently embarking on a journey to open up access to the Museum Sector for D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse people. *Curating for Change* will tackle the serious underrepresentation of D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse people in our museums. We are working with over 20 museums across the country with thanks to funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund.”

Curating for Change:

“[...] the project aims to change the way D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse people are represented in Museums through a ground-breaking work placement programme for D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse curators.” [Taken from: <http://www.accentuateuk.org/Curating-for-Change>]

Migration issues – Other Agencies

Deadly crossings and the militarisation of Britain’s borders

<https://irr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Deadly-Crossings-Final.pdf>

(Source: email from Institute of Race Relations, 25 Nov 2020)

Powerful – and heart-breaking – report:

“This transnational collaboration between the IRR, the Permanent People’s Tribunal (PPT) London steering group and French group Gisti is the first English-language analysis of the nearly 300 known border-related deaths in and around the English Channel since 1999” [Taken from IRR email]

“Refugee Council launches new guide to help refugees open a bank account”

<https://refugeecouncil.org.uk/latest/news/refugee-council-launches-new-guide-to-help-refugees-open-a-bank-account/>

(Source: West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership *e-Bulletin*, 10, Nov 2020)

“Newly-recognised refugees face major barriers to opening a bank account. They typically do not have the documents that most banks require to set up a bank account, and often have limited knowledge of how the UK banking system works and the options available to them.

To address this issue, the Refugee Council has created a banking guide to help make this process easier for refugees. The guide explains how bank accounts work in the UK, the documents that banks require applicants to provide, how to make an application for a new account and tips for avoiding financial scams.

The guide is available in English, Arabic, Farsi, Kurdish and Pashto.”

Locked in abuse, locked out of safety: the pandemic experiences of migrant women

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5af498dd3c3a53848b8530b6/t/5f8d43da5688f32ed1347aaa/1603093480213/Locked in abuse locked out of safety S4Sreport.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5af498dd3c3a53848b8530b6/t/5f8d43da5688f32ed1347aaa/1603093480213/Locked+in+abuse+locked+out+of+safety+S4Sreport.pdf)

(Source: West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership *e-Bulletin*, 10, Nov 2020)

“Safety4Sisters have repeatedly warned of the bleak future that awaits many women trapped by the immigration system, by patriarchal systems, and by systems that perpetuate racialised inequalities. In this report, we call again for action for migrant women – but now with even more urgency. We powerfully reveal the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and how the responses to the virus have further impacted upon the women we support [...]

Safety4Sisters are calling for an urgent response based on the findings from this report. The report highlights the inequalities and impact of discriminatory state responses – and sets out the long-term policy changes and immediate responses that government, local government, statutory services and the domestic abuse sector must take to rectify these.” [p5]

“Safety4Sisters North West is a small frontline feminist Black and minority ethnic led women’s charity working with vulnerable migrant women who have experienced gender-based violence and who are subject to immigration control.” [p2]

Fixing Britain’s broken asylum system: briefing paper

<https://www.smf.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Fixing-Britains-broken-asylum-system-Novemeber-2020.pdf>

(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 30 Nov 2020)

Interesting paper from the Social Market Foundation, which:

“[...] sets out the complexities and challenges facing Britain's asylum system and makes the case for co-operation between both sides over increased participation in international resettlement schemes.” [Taken from: https://www.smf.co.uk/publications/fixing-britains-broken-asylum-system/?utm_source=Free+Movement&utm_campaign=ca09b57dda-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_WEEKLY&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0792133aa40-ca09b57dda-116428530&mc_cid=ca09b57dda&mc_eid=7d8713d645]