



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 325, 14 April 2021

Events

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

Black Lives Matter

Young Black men's mental health during Covid-19: experiences from the Shifting the Dial project

https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/publication/download/CentreforMentalHealth_ShiftingTheDial_YBM_Covid_0.pdf

(Source: MARCH Mental Health Network *Newsletter*, Mar 2021)

Important new report:

“Emerging evidence highlights the unequal effects of Covid-19 on young Black men across a range of areas in their lives:

- Research suggests that men from racialised backgrounds are reporting higher levels of mental distress during the pandemic compared to white men [...] Contributing factors include bereavement, loneliness and worries about coronavirus and misinformation.
- Young people’s education has been severely disrupted by the crisis and evidence suggests it is widening inequalities, particularly for already disadvantaged pupils. Existing racial bias within the education system has previously contributed to young Black men being excluded at higher rates and has led to the under-predicting of grades. There are concerns that these disparities could worsen during the crisis.
- Young Black men aged 16-25 are amongst the hardest hit by job losses and more likely to report a fall in income because of lockdown.
- Covid-19 enforcement and policing are disproportionately affecting young Black men. They are much more likely to be stopped and searched and issued fines for breaching lockdown measures. This disproportionality existed prior to the crisis and has been shown to fuel mistrust and impact on wellbeing.
- The latest wave of the Black Lives Matter movement has brought into focus the ways in which mainstream mental health services fail Black people as a result of structural racism and discrimination.” [pp1-2]

SHF race report: 40 years of tackling racial inequality in Britain

<https://www.stuarthallfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/SHF-Race-Report-2021.pdf>

(Source: *Black & Asian News*, 18 Mar 2021)

“In the wake of the Black Lives Matter protests in summer 2020, the Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a cross-government inquiry into all aspects of racial inequality in the United Kingdom. The cross-governmental ‘Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities’ would look into discrimination against black, Asian and minority ethnic people in education, health and the criminal justice system. A number of people questioned why another inquiry was necessary [...]” [p2]

This report:

“[...] provides summaries of a selection of reports published between 1981 and 2017 and offers a thematic analysis of recommendations put forward to address racism and racial inequality in communities, education, employment, policing and the criminal justice system. The report examines 589 recommendations and draws out a number of common, overarching themes running through the recommendations including the need to address the disconnect between legislation and its enforcement; the requirement for holistic and co-ordinated approaches across government and between government agencies, employers and community groups; the requirement for further research as well as for regular, improved and standardised forms of data collection; and the need to establish accountability and responsibility at organisational and leadership levels as well as the need to establish independent oversight, investigation and review.” [pp2-3]

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

“Decolonising the Curriculum: what does this mean for museum learning?”

https://gem.org.uk/decolonising-the-curriculum-what-does-this-mean-for-museum-learning/?mc_cid=3939d39ba3&mc_eid=a92006d267

(Source: *GEM eNews*, 150, 26 Mar 2021)

Valuable brief blogpost from Leeds Museums and Galleries, which starts with some of the fundamental questions we ought to be considering, eg the language we use.

Equality Act 2010

“Socio-economic duty to come into force in Wales”

https://justfair.org.uk/socio-economic-duty-to-come-into-force-in-wales/?mc_cid=8c72005272&mc_eid=17c19d737e

(Source: *Just Fair Newsletter*, Mar 2021)

“In an important development in the fight against inequality, the Welsh Parliament voted on 10 of March to bring into force the socio-economic duty contained in S1 of the Equality Act 2010 to build ‘a more equal Wales’.

This follows the Fairer Scotland Duty, which brought the duty into force in Scotland in April 2018.

Unfortunately, the duty is not yet in force in England or Northern Ireland. However, there are a number of English local authorities who are acting in the spirit of the duty and taking steps to tackle socio-economic disadvantage.

The duty offers a powerful tool for public authorities to actively consider the way in which their policies and decisions can address socio-economic inequalities.”

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

“The Government is defunding libraries and it is affecting racialised communities”

<https://www.badformreview.com/read/lu8tl2>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 21 Mar 2021)

Powerful article in support of libraries:

“Libraries are fundamental for social justice and the democratisation of the arts. The intersections between race and deprivation mean that they often hold particular significance for racialised communities, as public, inclusive spaces that are community-focussed. Moreover, as places of information and learning, they often play a key role in welcoming refugees and migrants to the UK. However, under the current government, public libraries are being actively dismantled. The most recent budget gives no indication that public services will be protected; in fact, as the Guardian notes, it seems that ‘the age of austerity...will continue’. The defunding of public libraries must be protested: it is up to us to protect and support them.”

It also mentions Thimblemill Library being the UK’s first Library of Sanctuary.

Bad Form is “An online and print literary review by and about Black, Asian, and racialised community writers”. See: <https://www.badformreview.com/>.

“Brighton and Hove has become the first UK City to adopt the Homeless Bill of Rights.”

https://homelessrights.org.uk/?mc_cid=8c72005272&mc_eid=17c19d737e

(Source: *Just Fair Newsletter*, Mar 2021)

“In a meeting of the full Council on 25th March 2021 the City voted to adopt the Homeless Bill of Rights [...]

We live at a time when great efforts have been made to help homeless people, especially in the government’s ‘Everyone In’ policy which has been thoroughly and admirably implemented by our council. But homelessness and rough sleeping are still here, and are set to increase massively when the furloughs and the eviction bans come to an end. Now more than ever it is important to remember that homeless people have rights, that they are equal in dignity and rights with everyone else,

that they are not a problem to be solved but people who need help, and that administrative efficiency does not equal humanity.”

What will ‘Levelling Up’ pay for?

<https://www.thinknpc.org/resource-hub/what-will-levelling-up-pay-for/>

(Source: New Philanthropy Capital *Monthly Newsletter*, Mar 2021)

New from New Philanthropy Capital:

“To date, there has been no single place where the government has defined Levelling Up or what social and economic issues it seeks to address. There are at least eleven policy initiatives and funds aimed at investing in places. In the March 2021 budget, the Chancellor detailed three new funds under the Levelling Up banner:

- The Levelling Up Fund: £4.8bn over four years ‘intended to support investment in places where it can make the biggest difference to everyday life’. This fund applies to the whole of the UK but prioritises local authorities by the extent to which they need ‘levelling up’.
- The UK Community Renewal fund: £220m, for one year, to ‘pilot imaginative new approaches’ and prepare UK places ‘to take full advantage of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund when it launches in 2022’.
- The Community Ownership Fund: £150m, duration currently unknown, to ensure communities can ‘support and continue benefiting from the local facilities, community assets and amenities most important to them’ [...] The prospectus for this fund will be published in June 2021.

In this paper we analyse what we know about these funds from what has been published so far, and the potential for civil society organisations, and specifically charities, to receive funds and get involved in supporting the Levelling Up agenda.” [p3]

As NPC’s key findings indicate:

- “The new funds announced at the Budget prioritise hard infrastructure such as transport, purchase and repair of buildings, and building new parks. Of the total £5.17bn, we estimate that up to £4.48bn, 87%, could go on capital investment over four years.
- Although there is some potential for social infrastructure, such as skills training, the new funding announced has limited scope for services such as youth provision, addiction, or homelessness, which many would think are important for levelling up our communities.” [p1]

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

Measuring the disadvantage gap in 16-19 education

https://epi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Measuring-the-16-19-disadvantage-attainment-gap_EPI-2021.pdf

(Source: Cultural Learning Alliance *Newsletter*, Mar 2021)

“A new report by the Education Policy Institute (EPI), funded by the Nuffield Foundation, finds that poorer students in sixth forms and colleges trail their more affluent peers by as many as three A level grades when taking qualifications at this level.

The new exploratory research finds that the disadvantage gap – the gap in educational attainment between poorer students and their peers – is substantial during the 16-19 education phase, with poorer students continuing to see far worse educational outcomes than their better off peers [...]

The disadvantage gap at this education phase is found to vary considerably across the country: poorer students are the equivalent of five whole A level grades behind their more affluent peers in some areas of England. In other areas, poorer students are level with, or even ahead of, their more affluent peers [...]

With disadvantaged students shown to face further attainment losses at this phase, on top of those previously experienced in school, the new findings also provide evidence for the need for new interventions aimed at reducing the gap in 16-19 education.

To prevent disadvantaged sixth form and college students from falling further behind, the report concludes that there is a strong case for additional government funding for 16-19 education. Targeted funding is needed to address learning losses caused by the pandemic, which are likely to disproportionately impact the poorest, and will have likely exacerbated the already large disadvantage gap among students at this stage of education.” [Taken from: <https://epi.org.uk/publications-and-research/disadvantage-gap-16-19-education/>]

“Making It Up: parents in prison connecting through stories”

https://www.artsincriminaljustice.org.uk/making-it-up/?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=NCJAAnewsletter0321

(Source: National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance Newsletter, Mar 2021)

“[Give a Book](#) workshop leader David Kendall joins us in this guest blog to share the importance of storytelling and how, over lockdown, the project has been keeping prisoners connected with their families. The [Making It Up](#) project from reading charity Give a Book supports parents in prison to bond with their children by creating storybooks.”

Creative writing in prison. a coursebook

<http://cartonerapublishing.com/portfolio/creative-writing-in-prison-a-coursebook/>

(Source: National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance Newsletter, Mar 2021)

“This coursebook is designed to bring the benefits of creative writing to people within the criminal justice system – especially imprisoned or formerly imprisoned people. It offers accessible examples, tips, and activities to help new writers to get started and to spark inspiration in old

hands. The book features writers, rappers, publishers and teachers from India, Indonesia, South Africa, Nigeria, Mexico, Brazil, the US, Ireland, England and Wales. Some became writers while in prison themselves. Others are founders of grassroots, feminist and prison writing collectives, others are experts in prison poetry, literature and writing, others are best-selling authors or young writers who use their writing to fight for human rights, mental health awareness and social justice. What unites all the contributors, is the belief that writing by prisoners is a valuable tool not only for imprisoned and formerly imprisoned authors themselves, but also for the ongoing collective struggle to achieve equality, justice and freedom for all.”

Diversity in books and other materials for children & young people

“Libraries oppose censorship. So they're getting creative when it comes to offensive kids' books”

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/03/03/us/offensive-childrens-books-librarians-wellness-trnd/index.html>

Positive article about the role that libraries can play in dealing with offensive texts.

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

“A Thousand Lost and Found Stories: How to run your own wellbeing project”

<https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/our-work/thousand-lost-and-found-stories-how-run-your-own-wellbeing-project>

(Source: *GEM eNews*, 150, 26 Mar 2021)

This toolkit has been created by Wessex Archaeology, based on a project they ran in 2020-2021. It includes an animated video guide and a downloadable information leaflet, and is designed to enable cultural and heritage organisations to create and deliver their own digital heritage wellbeing projects.

The leaflet, *A thousand lost and found stories – a guide to running a digital heritage wellbeing project*, is available at:

https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/sites/default/files/field_file/A%20Thousand%20Lost%20and%20Found%20Stories%20-%20Leaflet_0.pdf.

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

“Autism made me an art historian. But museums must do more to welcome disabled and neurodiverse communities”

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/comment/a-personal-plea-for-an-inclusive-recovery>

(Source: *Autism in Museums Newsletter*, Mar 2021)

Important article by Bendor Grosvenor:

“There is one group Britain’s art galleries consistently leave behind, and on whose behalf I want to make a special plea: people with autism. For them, museum visits can require significant planning—for example, to

help manage any anxieties about new places or new experiences. On the websites of our nationally funded art galleries, I could find only one – National Museums Liverpool – with a dedicated section for those with autism. Not for nothing is autism called the ‘invisible disability’.

If museums can do more to reach out to the estimated 700,000 people in the UK with a diagnosis of autism, they will find a loyal and highly engaged audience.”

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

“Integrating New Scots”

<https://www.gov.scot/news/integrating-new-scots/>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 698, 22 Mar 2021)

Scottish Government news release:

“Work to help refugees settle in Scotland will benefit from £2.8 million of funding.

The New Scots Refugee Integration Delivery Project will offer small, medium or large grants to organisations to either widen existing work, or start new initiatives which assist those who have had to flee their own country to escape war and terror.

This is part of the New Scots refugee integration strategy (2018-22) which aims to ensure refugees live in safe and welcoming communities that enable them to rebuild their lives from the day they arrive in Scotland.”

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

“The Importance of Being Seen | Trans + Script”

[https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=The-Importance-of-Being-Seen-Trans-](https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=The-Importance-of-Being-Seen-Trans-Script)

[Script&utm_source=Marketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=april6ExtraHelping](https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=The-Importance-of-Being-Seen-Trans-Script&utm_source=Marketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=april6ExtraHelping)

(Source: LJXpress – Library Journal, 6 Apr 2021)

“Jackie Gosselar is a Systems and Discovery Services Librarian at the University of California (UC), Berkeley. They shared their experience as a bisexual, nonbinary librarian, and provided some insight into the value of being part of an organizational culture that makes space for all identities.”

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

“The Fight for Britain’s Libraries”

<https://tribunemag.co.uk/2021/04/the-fight-for-britains-libraries>

(Source: Public Libraries News, 11 Apr 2021)

Important article by library worker and Unison activist and campaigner Alan Wylie:

“During the pandemic, library workers have been deemed 'essential' and many forced to continue work – but government cuts have led to 1,000 closures in a decade, the real measure of how these services are valued.”

Broader issues – Other Agencies

“The rise of South Asian audiobooks”

<https://www.desiblitiz.com/content/the-rise-of-south-asian-audiobooks>

(Source: *Black & Asian News*, 18 Mar 2021)

Interesting article:

“For readers and non-readers alike, audiobooks are the new thing taking the literary world by storm, especially among South Asian audiences.”