



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 334, 21 July 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

Lit in colour: diversity in literature in English schools

<https://litincolour.penguin.co.uk/#group-section-About-Lit-in-Colour-J3ZlrTsrhw>

(Source: *Black & Asian Heritage Mix Newsletter*, Jul 2021)

Summary available at above weblink, plus link to download full report.

“We created Lit in Colour in September 2020 together with race equality think tank The Runnymede Trust. Our aim was to find innovative and practical ways to give schools the support and tools they need to introduce more books by people of colour into the classroom for all ages [...]

This research shows us just how much more reflecting we need to do. Building on deep education expertise and extensive engagement with teachers, students, librarians and exam boards, Victoria Elliott and her team paint a stark picture. The call for greater access to literature that represents and celebrates the young people who populate our classrooms couldn't be louder.” [Full report, p3]

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

Funding & Opportunities

Diversity and Equality Award 2021

https://www.cilip.org.uk/members/group_content_view.asp?group=201300&id=740249

“[CILIP's] Community, Diversity and Equality Group is relaunching the Diversity and Equality Award for 2021. Following the difficult time everyone has had due to Covid, the Group feels that it should do something to celebrate and recognise the outstanding work individuals and teams in the library sectors have been doing to help wider society [...]

- This Award is open to any individual or team, working in the library and information profession, in whatever sector.
- Individuals or teams may put themselves forward, but a CILIP Member must support their entry.

- CILIP Members (with the support of another Member) may also nominate individuals or teams for this Award.”

Further info and application form are at the above weblink.

The closing date for applications is **Tuesday 31 August 2021**.

“Digital Skills for Heritage Tranche 8: Digital Volunteering funding”

<https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/digital-volunteering>

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 20 Jul 2021)

“Funding is available for organisations and partnerships to create and support new digital volunteering opportunities.”

Key dates involved are:

- 16 August 2021 (12 noon) – deadline for submitting Project Enquiry Form
- 31 August 2021 – feedback on the Project Enquiry Form provided
- 27 September 2021 (12 noon) – deadline for submitting full applications
- week commencing 8 November 2021 – Digital Campaign assessment panel meeting
- 18 November 2021 – applicants notified of decisions.

Further info on above website.

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

“Read, Talk, Share – How the Reading Agency helped libraries tackle loneliness”

<https://dcmslibraries.blog.gov.uk/2021/07/07/read-talk-share-how-the-reading-agency-helped-libraries-tackle-loneliness/>

DCMS blogpost by Karen Napier (CE, The Reading Agency) about their work with public libraries to tackle loneliness:

“‘Read, Talk, Share’ expanded The Reading Agency’s already successful Reading Well and Reading Friends programmes, enabling public library services to step up to tackle loneliness and support mental health. Together we and our library partners mobilised to reach those most in need of social connectivity, overcoming the challenges of delivery in a pandemic, including the closure of library buildings and the difficulties of distance engagements. The flexibility, commitment and support of library staff and management to deliver this has been amazing.”

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

Press release: “More vulnerable adults supported through ‘Changing Futures’ programme”

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-vulnerable-adults-supported-through-changing-futures-programme?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-

[notifications&utm_source=06355809-899c-4b41-8125-924416c0a6ee&utm_content=daily](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/lottery-fund-to-support-15-local-areas)

“The Changing Futures programme – a joint initiative with The National Lottery Community Fund – the largest funder of community activity in the UK - will provide almost £55 million to 15 local areas across England over the next three years, part of a wider £64 million programme [...]

The 15 areas across England that will receive funding under the programme are: Essex, Westminster, Sussex, Surrey, Bristol, Plymouth, Nottingham, Stoke-on-Trent, Hull, Sheffield, Leicester, Northumbria (Northumberland, Newcastle, Gateshead, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, and Sunderland), South Tees (Middlesbrough, and Redcar and Cleveland), Lancashire (Blackpool, Lancashire, and Blackburn with Darwen) and Greater Manchester.”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

Fostering good relations in Scotland: developing community cohesion through public policy

https://864a82af-f028-4baf-a094-46facc9205ca.filesusr.com/ugd/b0353f_ec32d63f92d541eb91bbc7260586d689.pdf

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 712, 12 Jul 2021)

Important new report from the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights.

“This publication builds on our programme of work so far to set out the policy implications of community cohesion and fostering good relations in Scotland. This includes contrasting approaches in Scotland and England at local and national level, as well as identifying future challenges and opportunities for the role of public policy in implementing the duty to foster good relations.” [p7]

It includes the following recommendations:

- “All public bodies subject to the public sector equality duty should assess their compliance with the duty to foster good relations and identify ways to measure this, with action taken to remedy deficits (including through equality mainstreaming and equality outcome setting processes, for those subject to the Scottish specific public sector equality duties)
- Community Planning Partnerships should build approaches to community cohesion into Local Outcome Improvement Plans and locality planning (ideally with this becoming a requirement through amendment of the Community Empowerment Act)
- Implementation of the community cohesion related actions within the Scottish Government's Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities workstream should be prioritised, with a focus on how future work in this area can develop based on robust evidence of what works to create community cohesion
- Research to inform future approaches to promoting race equality and community cohesion in schools should be undertaken, with particular

attention to the impact of current approaches on a) young people who may be at risk of racially aggravated offending behaviour and b) young minority ethnic people and their relationships with peers in the majority ethnic group

- A common evaluation framework should be applied to all Scottish Government funded projects related to community cohesion, with reporting requirements and central collation of findings to inform future funding processes
- Scottish Government and other funders should review and, if necessary, revise criteria for funding community cohesion work to ensure that funded projects are evidence based and underpinned by robust theoretical frameworks” [p42]

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

Bromley Briefings Prison Factfile

<http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/Portals/0/Documents/Bromley%20Briefings/Winter%202021%20Factfile%20final.pdf>

(Source: Clinks *Policy Briefing*, Jul 2021)

The latest edition has just been published:

“2020 will be remembered as a terrible year for very many people. The Covid-19 pandemic has caused suffering across communities worldwide. Everyone’s way of life has been changed in some way, and for many the loss of day to day freedoms has been extreme.

This briefing reflects the intensity of that experience in UK prisons. At the start of the pandemic, ministers in England and Wales were told that up to 3,500 prisoners might die because our overcrowded, dilapidated prisons represented such a fertile environment for disease to spread. Despite that horrific prospect, they chose not to organise a major early release programme as they were advised. Though prisoners and prison staff have sadly died, those predicted numbers have not materialised, but to achieve that outcome prisoners have spent almost an entire year largely confined to their cells and for the most part denied face to face contact with their loved ones.” [p4]

“Work and universal credit is failing to keep UK workers out of poverty”

<https://www.bigissue.com/latest/employment/work-and-universal-credit-is-not-keeping-brits-out-of-poverty/>

Coverage in *The Big Issue* of the JRF annual Minimum Income Standard report:

“Millions of Brits are falling short of the minimum income needed to live secure and stable lives even if they are on universal credit or earn the national living wage [...]”

The JRF report is at: https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/minimum-income-standard-uk-2021?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=JRF%20weekly%20round-up%20WC%2012%20July%202021&utm_content=JRF%20weekly%20round-

[up%20WC%2012%20July%202021+CID_6af7e10adf10442db97e5dcd32dc29c4&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Read%20the%20research.](https://www.literacytrust.org.uk/resources/promoting-diversity-through-literacy/?mc_cid=0be2427717&mc_eid=a2d98ab814)

Diversity in books and other materials for children & young people

“Promoting diversity through literacy: our resources”

https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/promoting-diversity-through-literacy/?mc_cid=0be2427717&mc_eid=a2d98ab814

(Source: National Literacy Trust *Training & Resources*, 8 Jul 2021)

Network member NLT has drawn together in one place links to their booklists and other resources.

Autism issues – Other Agencies

Ambitious about Autism Toolkits

<https://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/what-we-do/employment/toolkits>

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

“We have designed a collection of toolkits to help more autistic young people access sustainable and meaningful employment opportunities.

The resources will help employers to develop their awareness and understanding of autism. They will support the hiring and retaining of talented autistic young people.

These resources are also relevant for autistic young people, their parents/carers, teachers, and other relevant professionals to support a young person to make informed choices about their future employment opportunities.

The resource has been co-produced in partnership with Ambitious about Autism Youth Patrons as experts by experience and expert partners Creased Puddle, utilising best practice and up-to-date research, the Autism Education Trust, and the Department of Education.”

The toolkits available so far are:

- Transition to employment toolkit
- Toolkit for professionals (“Resources for post-16 careers professionals working with autistic young people”)
- Toolkit for young people
- Toolkit for employers.

NB to download the toolkits, you will need to register (for free) online.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

Living in limbo: a decade of delays in the UK asylum system

<https://media.refugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/01191305/Living-in-Limbo-A-decade-of-delays-in-the-UK-Asylum-system-July-2021.pdf>

(Source: email from the Refugee Council, 2 Jul 2021)

New report from the Refugee Council, which highlights the huge backlog in asylum decisions. Key findings include:

- “At the end of March 2021 there were 66,185 people awaiting an initial decision from the Home Office, the highest number for over a decade [...]
- Of these, three quarters, over 50,000 people had been waiting for an initial decision for more than 6 months, again, the highest for over a decade.
- The number of people awaiting an initial decision for more than a year increased almost tenfold from 3,588 people in 2010 to 33,016 in 2020 [...]” [p1]

"What can we do about the new Nationality and Borders Bill?"

<https://imix.org.uk/what-can-we-do-about-the-new-nationality-and-borders-bill/>

(Source: email from Colleen Molloy, Communications Manager, City of Sanctuary, 14 Jul 2021)

Very useful briefing on the main changes proposed in the Bill, what organisations who work with people seeking sanctuary are saying, and some ideas of what we could all do ...

Know your rights: a guide to help migrants understand their rights and how to assert them

online version: https://migrantsrights.org.uk/reports/know-your-rights/?mc_cid=d22c5a3dd0&mc_eid=f4e6ea96b3

pdf version: <https://migrantsrights.org.uk/app/uploads/2021/07/Know-Your-Rights-2020.pdf>

(Source: Migrants' Rights Network *Newsletter*, Jul 2021)

Latest revised version of this important guide, now online and downloadable as a pdf.

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

“10 ways to step up as an ally to non-binary people”

<https://www.stonewall.org.uk/about-us/news/10-ways-step-ally-non-binary-people>

(Source: *Stonewall Newsletter*, 14 Jul 2021)

To mark International Non-binary People's Day (14 Jul), Stonewall have issued this very useful guidance.