

# The Network Newsletter: tackling social exclusion in libraries, museums, archives and galleries

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The Network's Website is at [www.seapn.org.uk](http://www.seapn.org.uk) and includes information on courses, good practice, specific socially excluded groups, as well as the newsletter archive.

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## Did you see ...?

### ***CILIP Update***

The March issue<sup>1</sup> includes a look at how St Helens Library Services are developing their libraries as creative centres:

- Sue Williamson “The art of the possible: libraries as creative centres” [pp43-45].

### ***Museums Journal***

The February issue includes some interesting articles:

- Gareth Harris “Museums must take lead in healthy debate”, which stresses the importance of urgently raising the profile of museums’ work in health and wellbeing. It cites a number of examples, including work being undertaken in Manchester (eg “Coffee, Cake and Culture”, a monthly programme of activities for adults with dementia in care homes; “Culture Shots”, an annual week-long programme run by the Whitworth Art Gallery and Manchester Museum in Central Manchester University Hospitals) [p6]
- Patrick Steel “Workforce diversity slowly improving”, which says that “Several recent initiatives suggest that museums in England are making steps towards losing their ‘male, pale and stale’ tag, although there is still some way to go.” [p11]
- Also, “What can be done to diversify the workforce?”, in “Comment”, ‘The Conversation’ between Tim Desmond and Karyn McGee [p17]
- Rebecca Atkinson “Teenage kicks”, examples of ways in which museums are redefining their relationships with young people [p59]

### ***Adults Learning***

The Summer 2014 issue included a number of interesting and important articles, including:

- “A manifesto for change: building sustainable recovery for all”, an introduction to NIACE’s General Election manifesto [pp8-14]<sup>2</sup>
- “A manifesto for change: perspectives on the six priorities”, responses to the six priorities set out in their manifesto [pp15-21]<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *CILIP Update*, Mar 2015. Further information at:

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/cilip/membership/membership-benefits/monthly-magazine-journals-and-ebulletins/cilip-update-magazine>.

<sup>2</sup> Available to download as a pdf (692.7 kb) from:

[http://www.niace.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/adults-learning/2014-summer/AL-Summer-2014-Vol25-V3\\_p8-p14.pdf](http://www.niace.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/adults-learning/2014-summer/AL-Summer-2014-Vol25-V3_p8-p14.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Available to download as a pdf (544.7 kb) from:

[http://www.niace.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/adults-learning/2014-summer/AL-Summer-2014-Vol25-V3\\_p15-p21.pdf](http://www.niace.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/adults-learning/2014-summer/AL-Summer-2014-Vol25-V3_p15-p21.pdf).

- Howard Sinclair “Homeless people need better skills opportunities”, a brief look at the main findings of research carried out by St Mungo’s Broadway [pp40-43].

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## Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

### *Kingdom united?*

This new report<sup>4</sup> is the third and final one from the Social Integration Commission<sup>5</sup>.

“In this report, the Commission explores what can be done to encourage people from different backgrounds to meet and mix and sets out thirteen principles that we believe should underpin a healthy and well-integrated society. Alongside these, we propose a range of activities which could be undertaken, and policy ideas which could be explored, to ensure these principles are reflected in our society. We focus not just on the role of government but also on what schools, businesses, civil society organisations and individuals could do to build a more socially integrated Britain.” [p3]

In the first report<sup>6</sup>, the Commission investigated how integrated modern Britain is, and identified five key issues:

1. Highly diverse areas are not necessarily integrated
2. Ethnic minorities are not the only groups to experience low integration.
3. Levels of integration are structured around institutions.
4. School-age young people are segregated by ethnicity.
5. There is a social disconnect between employers and those looking for work or seeking to progress in their careers. [taken from pp6-7]

In the second report<sup>7</sup>, the Commission investigated the costs and consequences of this lack of social integration to individuals and to society (whilst also noting that there are positive outcomes of integration, including increasing levels of trust).

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<sup>4</sup> *Kingdom united? Thirteen steps to tackle social segregation*. Social Integration Commission, 2015. Available to download as a pdf (1620 kb) from: [http://socialintegrationcommission.org.uk/images/sic\\_kingdomunited.pdf](http://socialintegrationcommission.org.uk/images/sic_kingdomunited.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> “The Commission has been set up by The Challenge, the UK’s leading integration charity which exists to strengthen communities by bringing people from different walks of life together. The Commission is being co-funded by The Challenge and British Gas.” Taken from: <http://socialintegrationcommission.org.uk/index.php/about-our-mission/faqs>.

<sup>6</sup> *How integrated is modern Britain?* Social Integration Commission, no date [2014]. Available to download as a pdf (5150 kb) from: [http://socialintegrationcommission.org.uk/SIC\\_Report\\_WEB.pdf](http://socialintegrationcommission.org.uk/SIC_Report_WEB.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> *Social integration: a wake-up call*. Social Integration Commission, no date [2014]. Available to download as a pdf (1720 kb) from: <http://socialintegrationcommission.org.uk/a-wake-up-call-social-integration-commission.pdf>.

This report identifies thirteen principles

1. “Every school should provide opportunities for their pupils to interact with children belonging to different ethnic groups and income backgrounds.
2. Schools’ intakes should reflect the economic and ethnic diversity of their communities.
3. School and college buildings should be places where the community comes together as well as being centres for learning.
4. Business and public sector leaders should recognise the benefits of social mixing and look to recruit from diverse talent pools.
5. Businesses and public sector agencies employing recent migrants should take active steps to enable these workers to meet and mix with different groups of people.
6. Planning authorities should develop and preserve neighbourhoods which are not only diverse, but are organised to enable residents from different backgrounds to mix with one another.
7. People living in diverse areas should be encouraged to get to know their neighbours.
8. Public services should be designed and managed so as to bring together different groups of people.
9. We should draw on the experience of parenthood to build understanding between people from different backgrounds.
10. Publicly-funded moments of celebration should be open to people from all religions and none.
11. Businesses should support their employees to volunteer in and to connect with the communities in which they work.
12. Retired people should be supported to invest their time and the benefits of their life experience in their communities.
13. It should be easy for charities to play their part in bringing together people from different ethnic and age groups and income backgrounds.”  
[p4]

Each of these principles is illustrated with examples of the kinds of action that could be taken. For example, under Principle 4, the report includes:

“Employers look for jobseekers with the ability to communicate and work with people from different backgrounds, but most don’t ask candidates to demonstrate this skill. The Commission calls on employers to build the benefits of social mixing into their recruitment criteria and pathways. They might encourage candidates to describe volunteering experiences through which they met and worked with people from different backgrounds (many large companies, such as British Gas, already place a premium on volunteering experience throughout their recruitment processes), or partner with charities to incentivise potential applicants to have social mixing experiences. Employers including Starbucks, New Look, Bloomberg and Lloyds Bank guarantee interviews to young people who complete sixteen hours of volunteering in socially mixed settings ...”  
[pp16-17]

Under Principle 8:

The Commission calls on the government to explore community centres bringing childcare and youth services, day care and activities for the elderly, family support services and social clubs under the same roof. Whilst each group or service would be allocated a separate space within the centre, doors would be kept open to create a sense of vibrancy and neighbourliness, and communal areas and cafes would provide safe spaces for people to meet and mix. The co-location of these services would additionally allow older people, having passed the relevant safety checks, to lend a hand with childcare and to build relationships with young families in need of support – thus facilitating intergenerational mixing.

As well as bringing together people from different age groups and income backgrounds, co-locating services in this manner would enable providers to take a joined-up approach to individuals' needs and significantly reduce the overhead costs associated with each service." [p21]

To conclude with a comment from the Chair of the Commission, Matthew Taylor:

"The work the Commission has undertaken over the last year has already started an important debate about the nature of the country we live in. Certainly, at a time of hardening attitudes to both disadvantaged people and immigrants, I hope that our findings have increased people's understanding of the social and economic benefits of integration. I also hope that the ideas outlined in this report will convince policymakers and the public that, through reforming our institutions and practices in small but intelligent ways, we can substantially improve levels of social integration." [p3]

An important, timely report.<sup>8</sup>

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### ***The cost of the cuts: the impact on local government and poorer communities***

The last couple of Newsletters have included assessments of books dealing with the effects of austerity<sup>9</sup> more generally; this new report<sup>10</sup> from JRF focuses on the impacts on local government and poorer communities.

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<sup>8</sup> Source: email from Simon Wallace.

<sup>9</sup> Mary O'Hara. *Austerity bites: a journey to the sharp end of cuts in the UK*. Policy Press, 2014. Published price: £15.99. Further info at:

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781447315605>.

John Hills. *Good times, bad times: the welfare myth of them and us*. Policy Press, 2015. Published price: £12.99. Further info at:

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781447320036&sf1=contributor&st1=John%20Hills&m=1&dc=7>.

<sup>10</sup> Annette Hastings *et al.* *The cost of the cuts: the impact on local government and poorer communities*. JRF, 2015. Available to download as a pdf (1580 kb) from: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/CostofCuts-Full.pdf>.

The 'headlines' are:

- “The most deprived areas have borne the brunt of the cuts. On one key measure, the most deprived English authorities have had a level of cut nearly six times higher than the cut experienced in the least deprived areas.
- Councils have employed imaginative strategies to balance budgets, minimising impacts on front-line services to date. But the need for cuts to continue to at least 2018/19 means there will inevitably be greater ‘retrenchment’ in the coming years.
- Austerity has catalysed council efforts to find more efficient ways of working and encouraged new forms of partnership, particularly with health services. But it has also fragmented services and created barriers to collaboration due to the scarcity of resources and the strain on basic services.
- Cuts are clearly beginning to bite, particularly in relation to services for children and young people and neighbourhood upkeep. Even small cuts can have impacts on poorer communities, limiting lives and diminishing support for all but the most urgent and extreme cases.
- While local devolution and greater reliance on civic responsibility are welcomed by local government, without coherent central support and investment, such efforts can only ever be ad hoc, and risk leaving gaps in services through which the poorest and most disadvantaged in society will fall.” [p1]

After the scene-setting introduction (which also highlights the findings of other studies), the report looks at:

- National picture of the scale and incidence of the cuts
- Strategies to manage austerity: the four case studies
- The cost of the cuts: the view from service users
- The cost of the cuts: the view from front-line service providers
- The cost of the cuts for the voluntary sector
- The cost of the cuts for poorer people and places.

The chapter on the ‘National picture’ comes to the following conclusions:

“The first [finding] concerns the overall rate of cuts. Local authorities in England have lost 27% of their spending power between 2010/11 and 2015/6 in real terms. The extent of cuts in Scotland was markedly less (only around 11% in net terms), although Scottish authorities have had to fund significant additional spending responsibilities within this. The second is that, in England, more deprived authorities have continued to see a greater rate of cuts. The result is that the additional resource given to more deprived areas in recognition of the greater demands on services has been reduced – from an extra 45% to just 17%. In Scotland, the cuts have been more evenly distributed but it never had as progressive a system as England. The result has been a convergence between the two countries on a funding system with relatively limited recognition of differential needs. However, local government in Scotland continues to have a higher level of spending per capita overall, and in most service categories, than England.” [pp29-30]

Chapter 3 uses four case study local authorities to illustrate the effects of austerity. These are Coventry City Council, Milton Keynes Council, Newcastle City Council, and Renfrewshire Council. The chapter concludes:

“The challenges facing the case study councils are severe, as funding and cost pressures have combined to produce budget gaps of between 7% and 11% each year for a period of five years. All four councils have not only made the savings required to close these gaps, but have also demonstrated considerable dexterity as they have tried to find ways of delivering savings in a manner that minimises the effects on services. They continue to cope and indeed innovate.

Some may view this as evidence that austerity is ‘working’ – it is driving change within local government. However, the evidence from the case studies is that councils were attempting to develop more effective and efficient ways of working prior to austerity. Our view is that, whilst austerity has undoubtedly catalysed a creative rethinking and reshaping of local government, there is a danger that not all of this change will deliver real benefits over the long term. The pace and scale of central government cuts have undoubtedly reduced the time and the resources available to develop the optimal solutions needed to deliver both sustained improvement and reduced costs over the long term. Indeed, the conditions under which solutions to austerity and public sector reform are being generated must increase the risk that innovation does not deliver the expected benefits.” [p46]

Chapter 4 looks at service-users’ views. The discussion were dominated by four main issues:

- Neighbourhood environmental quality. “A key concern was that levels of cleanliness and maintenance had deteriorated.” [p48]
- Effects on services for children and young people
- Effects on some other services, notably libraries and leisure, and housing, adult social work and social care
- Access to services.

In terms of libraries, for example:

“There was both awareness of, and concern about, the closures and consolidations of libraries which have formed part of retrenchment and redesign of services across the case studies. Participants suggested that this would impact most on children who required internet access, with one stating that she took her children to the local library every day to do their homework.” [p57]

Chapter 5 looks at the views of front-line service-providers. It concludes:

“Although this chapter highlights a number of negative impacts on the nature and quality of service provision – some of them quite significant – it was not the case that services had deteriorated across the board. Indeed, many staff showed a considerable degree of resilience in

managing to keep providing a good, valued service despite workload and other pressures. The extent to which front-line staff may be ‘cushioning’ some of the impacts of austerity measures is striking. However, the stress that this caused to staff was a constant refrain of the discussions ...

Finally, the evidence from front-line staff highlights the danger that public sector reform could be undermined by the severity of the budget cuts inflicted on councils. There were examples of innovation and evidence of a strong appetite for collaboration. It is our sense however that much of the good practice that is in place or being developed occurs in spite rather than because of resource constraint. In addition, the small scale to date of the new activity designed to build capacity among ordinary citizens to fill gaps in services also suggests that if council budgets continue to be squeezed at the levels planned, then the ambition implied in these agendas will be more than difficult to achieve.” [pp82-83]

Chapter 6 looks at the effects on the voluntary sector. It identifies that cuts have affected the voluntary sector in the following ways:

- “direct cuts to the funding of voluntary organisations affecting staffing and services
- funding losses leading to more ‘entrepreneurial’ activity, and concern about ‘mission drift’ and commercialisation
- new contracting arrangements stifling entrepreneurial activity
- relationships changing between voluntary organisations and between voluntary organisations and public agencies
- expanding workloads as the result of stepping in to fill the gaps in council services
- a new level of involvement in capacity-building to facilitate active citizenship.” [p84]

Key conclusions are:

“The impact of austerity measures means that voluntary sector services are operating in a changed world where they must deal simultaneously with more specific and demanding relationships with funders and respond to service users with more complex needs. As the council encourages citizens to take a more active role in service provision, voluntary sector services are also at the forefront of activities supporting service users through the period of change while also building capacity among community groups.” [p94]

Chapter 7 looks at the effects on poorer people and places. This concludes:

“The analysis of the national picture of how pro-poor services have fared when savings decisions have been taken throws some important challenges into sharp relief. It demonstrates a largely shared ambition to afford relative protection to the services used more by poor people and places. The fact that those authorities with the highest concentrations of disadvantage are doubly challenged in this regard should be emphasised. Not only have these councils been subjected to the most

significant levels of budget cuts, but the populations they serve will have a greater level of need for such services. The analysis of the absolute level of cuts that pro-poor services have been subjected to evidences the very significant constraints under which the sector operates.

Moreover, the analysis of the case study evidence shows the extent to which the business of local authorities is dominated by the needs of poorer and more vulnerable groups. The fact that around 90% of the expenditure of the case study councils is on services relied on by poorer groups, and that nearly two-thirds of spend is on services that these groups use to a disproportionate degree, implies a clear limit to the capacity of local councils to shelter poorer groups from the worst impacts of austerity.

The evidence from front-line council and voluntary sector staff, as well as from service users, is that poor people and poor places are feeling the impact of the cuts to services. Even minor cuts to services can be impactful and can have cumulative effects, as we have seen. However, for some people, social isolation as services retreat or costs go up is a real threat, as are circumstances in which their needs are not being properly addressed. While the ambition to deliver more holistic, person-centred services is clearly widely shared, the evidence of this study is that the efforts under way to actually achieve this in the current climate are operating against the odds. While austerity may have amplified the need for new, innovative ways of delivering services to be found, it is also acting as a constraint on the capacity needed to devise and deliver the most effective solutions.” [pp114-115]

The final chapter pulls together the findings from the report, and makes recommendations. These include:

“It is necessary to slow the pace of the cuts if local government and its partners are to have sufficient time or ‘headroom’ to devise appropriate, strategic responses with the best chance of being effective over the long term.

Furthermore, it is necessary to avoid over-burdening the more deprived authorities by continued erosion of the needs elements within resource allocation systems. The policy of broadly equalising resources between authorities so that they are able to provide similar levels of service is one that has had very long-term support. There should be a national conversation about whether this principle should remain. This becomes all the more urgent as local authority resources become increasingly focused on poorer groups.” [p118]

“Some authorities would favour greater autonomy and sharper incentives for growth, particularly for the inclusive growth that needs to take place if we are to avoid poor places and people getting left behind. Investment strategies need to focus on how all citizens can benefit from economic growth and job creation in their areas if the level of demand on local services is to be reduced by this means. The drive to generate financial savings should not be allowed to undermine the development of local

economic strategies which also support people into employment and improve job retention and progression from low-paid work.” [p120]

“The coalition government has placed great emphasis on the potential for the withdrawal of local authority services to be met by a positive response from the voluntary sector and from civic society or community groups stepping in to take over or to fill gaps. The evidence was that there was not, however, capacity in the voluntary and community sectors to fill all of the gaps ... There may be some complacency on the part of central government over the current capacity of disadvantaged communities to engage with the civic responsibility agenda. The legacy of previous investments in capacity-building may still be in play, and renewed efforts to provide such support are therefore required. Further, there is a need to find ways of sharing learning about precisely which services and roles provide scope for citizens to fill gaps – and which do not.” [p120]

“There is a need to devise appropriate monitoring and intelligence systems that get beyond crude surveys measuring aggregate levels of public satisfaction. These need to capture not just the diversity of experiences between places, but also the views from within organisations of the levels of stress they are under.” [p120]

This is an important research report which highlights just what effects austerity is having on poorer communities and local authorities – recommended.

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### ***Monitoring poverty and social exclusion in Scotland 2015***

This is the seventh report<sup>11</sup> in the series that monitors poverty and social exclusion in Scotland. Key findings include:

- “The poverty rate for children and pensioners has fallen from 33 per cent for both groups in 1996/97 to 22 per cent and 11 per cent respectively in 2012/13. Over the same period, working-age poverty has risen from 19 per cent to 21 per cent.
- Among working-age adults, there has been a rise in the number in poverty among the under-30s by 29,000, and a fall of 67,000 among 30 to 64-year-olds.
- Around one in eight under-25s is now unemployed – at least twice the rate of any other age group.
- Men in Scotland have a lower life expectancy than men in England at all levels of deprivation, but the difference is greatest between the most deprived areas.

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<sup>11</sup> Peter Kenway, Sabrina Bushe, Adam Tinson and Theo Barry Born. *Monitoring poverty and social exclusion in Scotland 2015*. JRF, 2015. Full report available to download as a pdf (2390 kb) from: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/MPSE-scotland-full.pdf>. Summary (248 kb) at: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/MPSE-scotland-summary.pdf>.

- Despite progress in raising attainment among S4 pupils (children aged 15-16) at all levels of deprivation, gaps in attainment are only closing slowly [...]
- Over the last ten years, the number of people in poverty in the social rented sector has come down sharply whereas the number in the private rented sector has risen sharply. The rise – but not the fall – is concentrated among people of working-age.”<sup>12</sup>

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## Disability issues – Other Agencies

### “‘Beat the cheat’ ...”

As noted above, the last couple of Newsletters have included assessments of books dealing with the effects of austerity, and particularly the increasing emphasis on ‘skivers versus strivers’, so it was useful to be able to access this article<sup>13</sup> which looks at the treatment of disabled benefits claimants:

“Using a case study of the *Sun* newspaper’s publications on disability in 2012, this paper illustrates that increasingly negative perceptions of disabled people in society are congruent with dominant portrayals of disability benefit recipients as undeserving in the right-wing press.” [p99]

It argues that disabled claimants are viewed as either ‘deserving’ or ‘undeserving’, and that the *Sun* makes a particular link between disability benefit and disability benefit fraud (compared to other types of fraud). For example:

“Given the focus on fraud, it is unsurprising that the *Sun* positions the majority of disabled people as undeserving of state support. Partly, this is justified through the assertion that many are ‘lead swingers’ ‘cheats’ or ‘shameful scroungers’. This is backed up through the frequent examples of individuals found committing fraud, which allows the paper to generalise ... This becomes more problematic when it is noted that the paper very rarely distinguishes between different types of disability benefit, or, indeed, disabilities. [Disability Living Allowance], for example, is not an out-of-work benefit: individuals may claim it while still working and enjoying a varied social life, since that is part of the benefit’s intended purpose. Those with fluctuating conditions on [Incapacity

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<sup>12</sup> Taken from: [http://www.irf.org.uk/publications/monitoring-poverty-and-social-exclusion-scotland-2015?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Weekly+publications+and+blogs+wc+23rd+March+2015&utm\\_content=Weekly+publications+and+blogs+wc+23rd+March+2015+CID\\_e4471cc9ba6900365099cc95282eb2cb&utm\\_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm\\_term=Featured%20Publication%20Monitoring%20poverty%20and%20social%20exclusion%20in%20Scotland%202015](http://www.irf.org.uk/publications/monitoring-poverty-and-social-exclusion-scotland-2015?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Weekly+publications+and+blogs+wc+23rd+March+2015&utm_content=Weekly+publications+and+blogs+wc+23rd+March+2015+CID_e4471cc9ba6900365099cc95282eb2cb&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Featured%20Publication%20Monitoring%20poverty%20and%20social%20exclusion%20in%20Scotland%202015).

<sup>13</sup> Libby McEnhill and Victoria Byrne. “‘Beat the cheat’: portrayals of disability benefit claimants in print media”, *Journal of Poverty and Social Justice*, vol 22, (2), pp99-110, <http://docserver.ingentaconnect.com/deliver/connect/tpp/17598273/v22n2/s2.pdf?expires=1426090376&id=81092264&titleid=75006380&accname=Guest+User&checksum=F188F239897A5DE3BE92D2FDC0418908>. Thanks to Policy Press for allowing access to this article.

Benefit] will, by definition, have good and bad days that may make holding down a regular job almost impossible. Yet viewed through the *Sun's* black-and-white lens, any expression of independence renders the recipient undeserving of support, even though it may only be the receipt of the benefit that allows for that independence.” [p105]

In addition:

“...there is an undertone that many of those diagnosed as suffering from health issues that allow them to claim disability benefits are not really ‘disabled enough’ to be entitled to this. Thus people who are experiencing ‘headaches ... or even acne’ ... as well as back pain and depression ... fall into this category, under the headlines ‘sick joke: root out the scroungers’ and ‘makes you sickie’ respectively.” [p105]

At the same time:

“‘Deserving’ disabled people are largely absent from the *Sun's* coverage. They tend to be alluded to quite vaguely.” [p105]

The paper concludes:

“The case study of the *Sun* during 2012 supports conclusions reached elsewhere regarding the changing depictions and narratives by which disabled people are discussed within the media. We add to a body of work which sees the potential for attitudes to be negatively affected by media portrayals, with sweeping generalisations substantiated with reference to individual cases. Disabled people are regarded through a deserving/undeserving lens whereby moral judgements are fluid and binary, and articles relating to fraudulent claims are disproportionately high when compared to the fraud rate ...

As discussed, the moral judgements made in the newspaper do not stand alone, both with regards the portrayals of disability and disabled people in other newspapers, and the way other groups – such as immigrants and the unemployed – are depicted. Further research is encouraged in order to highlight and challenge portrayals whereby similar moral judgements are used to validate a binary divide between those who deserve and those who do not deserve support from the state.” [p106]

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## Broader issues – Other Agencies

### ***Enriching Britain: culture, creativity and growth ...***

The Warwick Commission's final report<sup>14</sup> has just been published. The overall message from the report is headlined in the Foreword by Vikki Heywood (Chair of the Commission, and Chair of the RSA):

“The key message from this report is that the government and the Cultural and Creative Industries need to take a united and coherent approach that guarantees equal access for everyone to a rich cultural education and the opportunity to live a creative life. There are barriers and inequalities in Britain today that prevent this from being a universal human right. This is bad for business and bad for society.” [p8]

The report sets five goals (rather wordily, but neatly summarised in the report – these are mostly taken from the summaries):

1. Investing in the ecosystem : “A Cultural and Creative Ecosystem generating stronger cultural wellbeing and economic growth and opportunity for all citizens and communities.” [p14]
2. Using the diversity and range of talent in our society to enrich the ecosystem
3. Fully harnessing the importance of creativity in education and skills development
4. Maximising the opportunities created by the digital age
5. Prioritising the role of culture and creativity in generating a sense of identity, place and community across the country.

Commentators<sup>15, 16, 17</sup> have also picked up on the report's comments about lack of diversity in 'audiences':

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<sup>14</sup> *Enriching Britain: culture, creativity and growth – the 2015 Report by the Warwick Commission on the Future of Cultural Value*. University of Warwick, 2015. Available to download as a pdf (313.86 kb) from: [http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/research/warwickcommission/futureculture/finalreport/warwick\\_commission\\_report\\_2015.pdf](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/research/warwickcommission/futureculture/finalreport/warwick_commission_report_2015.pdf).

<sup>15</sup> For example, Gareth Harris, “Audiences for publicly-funded culture lack diversity”, *Museums Association News*, 23 Feb 2015, [http://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/23022015-report-highlights-lack-of-diversity-for-publicly-funded-culture?utm\\_source=ma&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=03032015](http://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/23022015-report-highlights-lack-of-diversity-for-publicly-funded-culture?utm_source=ma&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=03032015).

<sup>16</sup> See also: Sarah Shaffi “Concern over 'narrow demographic' accessing arts”, *The Bookseller*, 18 Feb 2015, <http://www.thebookseller.com/news/concern-over-narrow-demographic-accessing-arts>.

<sup>17</sup> Also, Mark Brown “Creativity and culture not open to all, review finds”, *The Guardian*, 17 Feb 2015, <http://www.theguardian.com/culture/2015/feb/17/creativity-and-culture-not-open-to-all-review-finds>.

“Despite the excellent work and high levels of commitment to change in the Cultural and Creative Industries, low cultural and social diversity amongst audiences, consumers and the creative workforce remains a key challenge for future success. We are particularly concerned that publicly funded arts, culture and heritage, supported by tax and lottery revenues, are predominantly accessed by an unnecessarily narrow social, economic, ethnic and educated demographic that is not fully representative of the UK’s population.” [p32]

The RSA supported by the Arts Council, is now starting to explore this further, and has begun to develop a draft contract that sets out a set of ‘asks’ and ‘offers’ to Government.<sup>18</sup>

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## Abbreviations and acronyms

CILIP = Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals

JRF = Joseph Rowntree Foundation

RSA = Royal Society of Arts

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This Newsletter was compiled by John Vincent, and all items are written by him, unless otherwise stated. Please send any comments or items for the next issue to:

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<sup>18</sup> For further info, see: <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/news/arts-council-news/toward-new-contract-arts-and-culture-join-debate/>.