

# 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 ...?

### **Information Professional**

The March 2019 issue includes:

- “Three winners in annual CDEG diversity award”, which announces the highly commended services in its Diversity Award (Diversity in the Libraries of the North [DILON]); Bridgewater & Taunton College Learning Resources team; Emily Macaulay, Centre Manager at Exeter Library) [p4]
- “Beating hygiene poverty”, which outlines work by Libraries Unlimited (Devon) with Beauty Banks<sup>1</sup> to give people with limited finances access to health and hygiene products [p15]
- “Unique trans archive goes on display”, announcing an exhibition<sup>2</sup> at the Royal Society of Medicine, opening in June [p15]
- Rob Green interview with William Sieghart “Ambition and imagination: making public libraries indispensable”, which looks at a new project “to reinvigorate public libraries across the country”, involving a partnership between Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Library Services, William Sieghart and CiviQ<sup>3</sup>. Their aim is to pilot five models for potential roles for a public library (Anchor in the high street; Centre of rural life; Reanimating a community; Hub for the region; Pop-up for reviving community assets) and develop good practice that then can be rolled out [pp16-18].

### **ARC Magazine**

The March issue<sup>4</sup> includes:

- Lorna Steele “Community engagement in the Highlands with HMP Inverness – First World War workshop” [pp19-21]:

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<sup>1</sup> See, for example: <https://www.theguardian.com/fashion/2018/oct/06/beauty-banks-help-people-too-poor-to-buy-toothpaste-tampons-sali-hughes>.

<sup>2</sup> “Items from an important archive of materials on transgender issues will be presented for the first time at the Royal Society of Medicine in June to accompany an event focusing on LGBTQ+ health.

The transgender archive of the late Dr Georgina Somerset is a collection of articles, reprints and books on transgender and related sexual health issues kindly donated to the Royal Society of Medicine’s Library as a bequest in 2014.”

See: <https://www.rsm.ac.uk/media-releases/2019/transgender-archive-to-be-showcased-at-royal-society-of-medicine/>.

<sup>3</sup> “CiviQ’s mission is to transform public engagement towards quality consultation and advanced understanding of the nuance and shared perspectives in public opinion.”

Taken from: <https://civiq.eu/about/>.

<sup>4</sup> *ARC Magazine*, 355, Mar 2019.

“As the First World War centenary events came to a climax in November 2018, I held a workshop with prisoners at HMP Inverness to discuss aspects of the First World War.” [p19]

## **Books for Keeps**

The March issue<sup>5</sup> includes:

- Miranda McKearney “EmpathyLab 2019”, which looks at the preparations for Empathy Day, 11 June. It also includes a brief outline of a refugee project, working with the Scouts, the illustrator Jane Ray, and Year 5 children from Kenilworth Primary School in Borehamwood, Herts:

“Called Moving Connections, the project has helped children deepen their understanding of refugees’ experiences. It was initiated by the Scouts’ Heritage Service, drawing on the organisation’s proud history of supporting displaced people.” [p3]

There is also a brief list of EmpathyLab resources for schools and libraries. [pp3-5]

- Michael Lee Richardson “At last, the LGBTQI+ novel comes of age”, which, in part, celebrates a new anthology of queer writing for young people<sup>6</sup>, and also highlights a number of key recent titles [pp6-7]
- Darren Chetty and Karen Sands-O’Connor “Protest and the British children’s book”, which looks at a handful of children’s books from the 1970s and 1980s, before focusing on some modern examples, such as award-winning *The boy at the back of the class*<sup>7</sup>. Interesting article – but it’s a pity it also didn’t include something about the context of the 1970s & 1980s, for example The Other Award [pp14-15]

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

### **Integrated Communities Action Plan**

The Government has just published its Action Plan<sup>8</sup> (for England):

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<sup>5</sup> *Books for Keeps*, no. 235, March 2019, available to download as a pdf at: [https://content.yudu.com/web/1mjdv/0A1midx/BFK235/html/print/BFK\\_235\\_Download.pdf](https://content.yudu.com/web/1mjdv/0A1midx/BFK235/html/print/BFK_235_Download.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> Juno Dawson (comp). *Proud*. Stripes Publishing, 2019 – see <http://littletiger.co.uk/stripes-publishing/proud-1?fpathbox=>.

<sup>7</sup> Onjali Q. Rauf. *The boy at the back of the class*. Orion Children’s Books, 2018, see: <https://www.hachettechildrens.co.uk/books/detail.page?isbn=9781510105010>.

<sup>8</sup> *Integrated Communities Action Plan*. HM Government, 2019. Available to download as a pdf from: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/778045/Integrated\\_Communities\\_Strategy\\_Govt\\_Action\\_Plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/778045/Integrated_Communities_Strategy_Govt_Action_Plan.pdf).

“The government will be taking 70 actions, including:

- Improving the opportunities for those wishing to learn English by developing a new national strategy for English language.
- Helping new migrants integrate into their communities, by trialling a package of practical information to help them meet, mix and build social connections with neighbours and the wider community.
- Publishing a new Community Guide to Action ensuring that communities across the country, whatever their local interest, have access to the information and advice to enable them to improve their local area. This could include taking much loved local assets into community ownership.
- Working in partnership with 5 Integration Areas to develop bespoke local integration strategies, trying new bold and innovative approaches including helping more marginalised women into work.
- Collaborating with civil society to support refugees to rebuild their lives and integrate in the UK, by taking forward actions that focus on English language, employment, mental health and information for refugees.
- Reaffirming our support for faith communities and empowering faith leaders with the confidence and knowledge to meet the changing needs of their congregations. This would include helping them to identify issues like mental health concerns, as well educating them on UK marriage law.”<sup>9</sup>

Of particular interest is the commitment (under “Places and communities”) on p15:

“We will continue to work with Libraries Connected and the Libraries Taskforce to maximise their role in community integration, including supporting the further extension and development of the Libraries of Sanctuary programme, which recognises the role libraries can play in welcoming refugees and migrants into the local community.”

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*The Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper* was published in March 2018, and is available at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/696993/Integrated\\_Communities\\_Strategy.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/696993/Integrated_Communities_Strategy.pdf).

The *Summary of consultation responses and Government response* was also published in Feb 2019, see:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/777160/Integrated\\_Communities\\_Strategy\\_Government\\_Response.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/777160/Integrated_Communities_Strategy_Government_Response.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> Taken from: [https://www.gov.uk/government/news/james-brokenshire-unveils-next-steps-to-building-integrated-communities?utm\\_source=9da2966b-5f76-40f0-b6f0-2a517e63d4e7&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=daily](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/james-brokenshire-unveils-next-steps-to-building-integrated-communities?utm_source=9da2966b-5f76-40f0-b6f0-2a517e63d4e7&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily).

More on this in future Newsletters.

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## Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

### ***Understanding the relationship between poverty and inequality: overview report***

This new report<sup>10</sup> has just been published by the LSE. It is the main summary report of a collaboration between CASE (the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion) and the LSE's International Inequalities Institute on a three-year programme of research on the connections between inequality and poverty, funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

The report summarises the findings of a series of research papers [see below]. In a nutshell, the research explores one of the key issues around poverty and inequality – is one the driver of the other? And which might be pre-eminent?

“For some, inequality between people is the prime concern, with poverty one of its consequences. For others, poverty and ensuring that everyone meets some kind of minimum standard is the starting point.” [p vii]

This is then explored further:

“Given that the evidence does suggest that higher inequality *is* often associated with higher poverty, we therefore examine why there should be such a relationship, examining evidence put forward in the literatures from different fields.” [p x, emphasis theirs]

The researchers conclude that:

“The range of potential drivers of the observed relationship imply that public policies matter and that this is not just the obvious ones, such as social security, taxation and within the labour market including anti-discrimination legislation. What happens across education, housing, regional investment, policy rhetoric, and factors that affect culture and social norms, and democratic safeguards will also be important. However, the relative importance of different items within such an agenda for tackling poverty would reflect what we have seen empirically, notably the apparent importance of inequalities across the income distribution as a whole, rather than specifically inequalities right at the top (although there may, of course, be other reasons for worrying about them).

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<sup>10</sup> John Hills *et al.* *Understanding the relationship between poverty and inequality: overview report*. LSE (Case Report no.119; LIP Paper 10), 2019. Available to download as a pdf from:

[http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/dps/case/cr/casereport119.pdf?mc\\_cid=4156c727ac&mc\\_eid=17c19d737e](http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/dps/case/cr/casereport119.pdf?mc_cid=4156c727ac&mc_eid=17c19d737e).

The evidence we present suggests that for those whose primary concern is with tackling poverty, it is hard to do this in countries such as the UK without simultaneously reducing inequalities, given the strong associations we see between them empirically, and the ways in which inequality can itself act as driver of poverty. At the same time, for those for whom both poverty and inequality are concerns, the links between them suggest that policies to tackle either can have a double dividend.” [p xi]

The associated research papers present valuable evidence. These are:

- *Inequality, poverty and the grounds of our normative concerns*<sup>11</sup>
- *The relationship between poverty and inequality: concepts and measurement*<sup>12</sup>
- *The empirical relationship between income poverty and income inequality in rich and middle income countries*<sup>13</sup>
- *Multidimensional poverty and income inequality in the EU*<sup>14</sup>
- *The relationship between poverty and inequality: resource constraint mechanisms*<sup>15</sup>
- *Understanding the relationship between inequalities and poverty: mechanisms associated with crime, the legal system and punitive sanctions*<sup>16</sup>
- *Understanding the relationship between inequalities and poverty: dynamic mechanisms*<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Irene Bucelli. *Inequality, poverty and the grounds of our normative concerns*. LSE (Case Paper 204; LIP Paper 1), 2017. Available to download as a pdf from: <http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/dps/case/cp/CASEpaper204.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> Lin Yang. *The relationship between poverty and inequality: concepts and measurement*. LSE (Case Paper 205; LIP Paper 2), 2017. Available to download as a pdf from: <http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/dps/case/cp/CASEpaper205.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> Eleni Karagiannaki. *The empirical relationship between income poverty and income inequality in rich and middle income countries*. LSE (Case Paper 206; LIP Paper 3), 2017. Available to download as a pdf from: <http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/dps/case/cp/casepaper206.pdf>.

<sup>14</sup> Lin Yang and Polly Vizard. *Multidimensional poverty and income inequality in the EU*. LSE (Case Paper 207, LIP Paper 4), 2017. Available to download as a pdf from: <http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/dps/case/cp/CASEpaper207.pdf>.

<sup>15</sup> Lin Yang. *The relationship between poverty and inequality: resource constraint mechanisms*. LSE (Case Paper 211; LIP Paper 5), 2018. Available to download as a pdf from: <http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/dps/case/cp/CASEpaper211.pdf>.

<sup>16</sup> Magali Duque and Abigail McKnight. *Understanding the relationship between inequalities and poverty: mechanisms associated with crime, the legal system and punitive sanctions*. LSE (LIP Paper 6) [paper seems not to be available, so assume it was published in 2018].

<sup>17</sup> Magali Duque and Abigail McKnight. *Understanding the relationship between inequalities and poverty: dynamic mechanisms*. LSE (LIP Paper 7) [paper seems not to be available, so assume it was published in 2018].

- *Understanding the relationship between poverty, inequality and growth: a review of existing evidence*<sup>18</sup>
- *The net effect of housing-related costs and advantages on the relationship between inequality and poverty*<sup>19</sup>

Very useful report with valuable links to follow up for further reading.<sup>20</sup>

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## ***The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report: 20 years on***

The Runnymede Trust have just published this important re-evaluation<sup>21</sup> of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report.

It is an important reassessment of what has happened in the last 20 years. The report looks at the immediate impact of the Macpherson Report, especially its identifying of institutional racism in the working of the Metropolitan Police Service:

“The Report stressed that finding institutional racism in the operations of the MPS did not mean they found MPS policies to be racist or every officer guilty of racism. Nevertheless, it took some time for the MPS Commissioner and other chief constables to accept the need for institutional change.” [p1]

It looks at the lead-up to the passing of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, and then at the Act’s implementation, including the drafting of the Equality Bill – which became the Equality Act 2010 – and which included the Public Sector Equality Duty [PSED].

In 2010, the Coalition Government completed the legal framework for the PSED, which included provision to reduce the bureaucracy associated with the previous duties:

“It sought to achieve this by imposing two specific duties on national and non-devolved public bodies [...] namely:

- a) to publish annually information demonstrating its compliance with the PSED;

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<sup>18</sup> Abigail McKnight. *Understanding the relationship between poverty, inequality and growth: a review of existing evidence*. LSE (LIP Paper 8) [paper seems not to be available, so assume it was published in 2018].

<sup>19</sup> Lin Yang. *The net effect of housing-related costs and advantages on the relationship between inequality and poverty*. LSE (Case Paper 212; LIP Paper 9), 2018. Available to download as a pdf from: <http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/dps/case/cp/CASEpaper212.pdf>.

<sup>20</sup> Source: *Just Fair Newsletter*, Feb 2019.

<sup>21</sup> Barbara Cohen. *The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report: 20 years on*. Runnymede Trust, 2019. Available to download as a pdf from: <https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/StephenLawrence20briefing.pdf>.

b) to prepare and publish at least every four years one or more specific, measurable objectives to meet s. 149 (1) (a) (b) or (c).

Compared to the specific duties under the previous race, disability and gender equality legislation, this significantly slimmer set was read by most public authorities as an intentional downgrading of the importance of the PSED. Many were relieved that at a time of major budget cuts, equality was something they no longer needed to prioritise. Between 2011 and 2017, the EHRC did not once use its statutory powers to enforce PSED compliance.” [p3]

In 2011, the Government introduced its Red Tape Challenge “[...] by which, with public consultation, they would repeal the acts, orders and regulations which they concluded were unduly burdensome.” [p3]

This helped spread the view that the PSED – and, indeed, other elements of the Equality Act – were of lesser importance, and, from 2015 onwards, new duties were introduced (such as the Prevent strategy) which were seen to pay scant regard to the PSED.

The ‘hostile environment’ policy introduced by the Home Office in 2012 to deter people from coming to the UK also appeared to pay little regard to the PSED, and this policy was also pursued in relation to the ‘Windrush Generation’.

Thus, this report concludes that there has been a move away from identifying institutional racism towards more individual blame: for example, in the Lammy Review:

“[...] the PSED was mentioned only twice [...] and there was no mention of institutional racism but frequent reference to ‘bias’.” [p4]

and in the *Guardian* articles in their “Bias in Britain” series<sup>22</sup>, which looked at unconscious bias as the key factor behind discrimination.

The report concludes:

“Twenty years ago, the Report said to those at the top of every organisation that they must accept the problem of institutional racism and examine the outcomes of their policies and practices to avoid race inequality. Then, for some, the language, and hence the thinking, moved from discrimination and equality to ‘diversity’, which can involve doing more but without sanction for doing nothing. Today we see many people almost automatically attributing the problem of less-favourable treatment to unconscious bias, which totally alters the dimension – no longer institutional, but primarily personal – and the responsibilities and mechanisms for change. Training to help people recognise and manage

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<sup>22</sup> See, for example: Robert Booth and Aamna Mohdin. “Revealed: the stark evidence of everyday racial bias in Britain”, *The Guardian*, 2 Dec 2018, [https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/02/revealed-the-stark-evidence-of-everyday-racial-bias-in-britain?CMP=share\\_btn\\_tw](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/02/revealed-the-stark-evidence-of-everyday-racial-bias-in-britain?CMP=share_btn_tw). This was assessed in *The Network Newsletter*, 213, Nov 2018, <https://www.seapn.org.uk/uploads/files/Newsletter-NS-213.pdf>, pp9-11.

their unconscious biases is flourishing. However, there are too many examples today of BME people facing unjustifiable barriers to equality across critical areas of their lives – housing, healthcare, education, employment: the ‘treatment and outcomes’ that Macpherson described. Some people’s unconscious biases may play a part in this, but more urgently the institutions concerned need ‘to examine their policies and the outcomes of their policies and practices’ [...] and make whatever changes are needed to provide appropriate services to all members of the community.” [p4]

Finally, the report makes some key recommendations; these include:

- “There needs to be a renewed focus on institutions as recommended in the Lawrence Inquiry report. This includes the police, but also all public, private and charitable institutions, who must continuously guard against policies and practices that would deny fair treatment and outcomes for Britain’s 8 million black and minority ethnic (BME) people
- The legacy of the report is being undermined by the failure of successive governments, especially since 2010, to give full effect to the ‘public sector equality duty’. Had the duty been working as intended, the worst of the Windrush injustices should not have occurred.
- Other recommendations of the Lawrence Inquiry report still need attention, including representation in the police. An often overlooked recommendation is on the need for more accurate teaching of Britain’s diverse history and our place in the world.” [p1]

An important reminder that there is still much work to be done to tackle institutional racism – and that we should not forget the work of the Macpherson Review.<sup>23</sup>

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

### ***Calm and collected – museums and galleries: the UK’s untapped wellbeing resource?***

This new report<sup>24</sup> has just been published by the Art Fund.

“Wanting to learn more about the advantages of museum-visiting in this context [of increased reporting of anxiety and worry], in August 2018 we commissioned research to investigate how regularly engaging with museums and galleries could contribute to an individual’s sense of wellbeing.” [p4]

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<sup>23</sup> Source: email from the Runnymede Trust, 25 Feb 2019.

<sup>24</sup> *Calm and collected – museums and galleries: the UK’s untapped wellbeing resource?* Art Fund, no date [2019?]. Available to download as a pdf from: [https://www.artfund.org/assets/national-art-pass/artfund\\_calm-and-collected-wellbeing-report.pdf](https://www.artfund.org/assets/national-art-pass/artfund_calm-and-collected-wellbeing-report.pdf).

The research was carried out in two stages:

“[...] a UK-wide representative survey, and a qualitative social study in which participants were encouraged to visit museums and galleries once a week with a National Art Pass and keep a diary of their activities – suggest that engaging with the nation’s art collections more frequently can help improve our wellbeing. It is an activity that can bring people together, and over time it can become part of an approach to life that people may find healthier and more balanced.” [p7]

The findings show that:

“In the survey, those who say they regularly visit museums and galleries as part of their overall lifestyle choices tend to feel much more satisfied with their lives, and in the social study, those who visit at least once a week report a range of benefits, from learning new things to finding space to reflect.

Yet only 6% of us regularly take advantage of our national art collections. While 51% of those surveyed say they would like to visit museums and galleries more regularly – and 63% say they have at some point visited specifically to ‘de-stress’ – only 6% of us actually visit at least once a month.

Overall, both the quantitative survey and the qualitative social study suggest that museums and galleries are a significant untapped resource at our disposal that can help us achieve a greater sense of wellbeing when we take time out for ourselves.” [pp7-8]

The report looks at the following:

- The stress and anxiety issue: “This research reflects what similar research has shown; that feelings of anxiety are widespread across the UK.” [p12]
- Time-poor people: “Making time for ourselves might sound straightforward, but for many of us there’s a sense that there just isn’t enough time any more.” [p19]
- Investment in self: “It’s perhaps an obvious thing to say, but some of the biggest benefits to our wellbeing come from doing the things we love. Most of us (59%) understand the power of our leisure activities to take us away from the everyday routine; we value them as an important part of our lives and believe that they help us feel more positive about life in general. And in regaining a sense of balance across all aspects of our lives, we feel an increased sense of control and purpose.” [p30]

As part of this last section, the research looks at the role of museums and galleries.

“People who say they do regularly visit museums and galleries report a greater sense of satisfaction with their lives than those who have never

visited – as well as a greater sense of their lives and what they do being worthwhile. People who regularly go to museums and galleries say that they prefer to visit at least every two to three months, and that spending an hour or more on each visit really increases the benefit they feel.” [p33]

It suggests that:

“Museums and galleries can offer an oasis of peace and tranquillity, or an array of stimulating new ideas.

Visiting is something we can do alone but we generally prefer to go with others, allowing us to strengthen our relationships and spend time with loved ones in a different environment.

The outcomes of the social study conducted alongside the survey, in which seven participants visited a museum or gallery at least once a week, demonstrated that visiting more regularly can impact our lives in many ways – such as by giving us additional topics of conversation within our social circle, helping us learn new things in a fun way, and giving us moments of calm to reflect. Participants in the study also reported that the sense of purpose which came with being asked to make regular visits had a lasting positive effect.” [p35]

Yet, given this, museums and galleries are still an “untapped resource”.

“Art Fund is championing wellbeing through an inspiring call to action: for people to take back time to do what really matters to them, and to consider the benefit of museums and galleries as a great option. And with over half of people surveyed (51%) saying that they want to make more use of museums and galleries in the future, these places clearly represent an untapped resource to help us cope with feelings of anxiety or the juggling act of modern-day life.” [p38]

Useful brief report.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Source: MARCH Mental Health Network *Newsletter*, Mar 2019.

## Abbreviations and acronyms

CDEG = CILIP's Community, Diversity and Equality Group

CILIP = Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals

LSE = London School of Economics

MPS = Metropolitan Police Service

PSED = Public Sector Equality Duty

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