

# 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 ...?

### ***Library + Information Gazette***

In the August/September issue<sup>1</sup>, there is a very brief description of a training day in Enfield Libraries, which was organised with people with learning disabilities; "... library staff joined training provider One-to-One for a training event which aimed to improve services offered to people with learning difficulties." [p19]

### ***Library + Information Update***

The July/August issue<sup>2</sup> has some interesting articles, including:

- "New strategy for better outcomes", a brief summary of the new regulatory framework for libraries [p19]
- Simeon Moore "Into employment or training: helping young people in transition", an important summary of what leads to young people becoming NEET, and the key role that libraries could play in meeting their needs [pp32-34]
- Lynn Ludditt and Sue Atkinson "Training staff to support the Skills for Life agenda", which looks at the Quality in Libraries Award and how one school has been taking part in the QLA programme [pp35-37]
- Daren Kearl "Diary of a Community Development Librarian 2007-2008", six months in the life of one of Kent Libraries' new Community Development Librarians [pp38-39].

The September issue<sup>3</sup> has a couple of interesting articles, including:

- "Gearing up for the Cultural Olympiad" which lists services that are taking part in the three strands, "Literature & Stories", "People's Record" and (the continuing) "Young Cultural Creators" [p11]
- Claire Styles, Liz Roberts and Ruth Harrison "A partnership with young people" which sets work with young people into its current policy context, and then goes on to outline recent developments, particularly in relation to HeadSpace<sup>4</sup> and groupthing<sup>5</sup> [pp 37-41]

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<sup>1</sup> CILIP *Library + Information Gazette*, 22 August-4 September, p19. For further information, see: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/publications/gazette/default.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> CILIP *Library + Information Update*, 7 (7-8) July/August 2008.

<sup>3</sup> CILIP *Library + Information Update*, 7 (9) September 2008.

<sup>4</sup> Originally called "Book Bars", HeadSpace is a Big Lottery-funded project to develop engaging library spaces run as joint partnerships between libraries and young people. See: [www.readingagency.org.uk/young/](http://www.readingagency.org.uk/young/).

## National Year of Reading

### ***Do something different in libraries* fortnight 18 October – 1 November**

As you know, in the last issue, Michele Jones wrote about the success of the membership drive, and also asked you to let her know about work you are developing.

Simon Wallace (Southend Libraries)<sup>6</sup> has emailed Michele and me to update us on the work they're doing, and, with his permission, the list of current activities is included here. If you are also planning for the "Do something different in libraries" fortnight, and would like your work mentioned in the next newsletter, please let me know.

- Polish Translation Service and work with the new Polish community [see appendix]
- Cycle Watch partnership [Cycle Watch is a scheme funded and supported by the Southend Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and led by Neighbourhood Watch, with the support of Essex Neighbourhood Policing Teams. It is designed to reduce the incidence of bicycle theft within the Borough]
- Talks and free Discovery Tours to community groups
- New RNIB supported VIP reading group, working in partnership with a local VIP charity
- Partnership work (including training for library staff) with mental health organisation, Rethink Good Companions
- A Skills for Life Reading Group
- A Bookstart event to tie in with the Cultural Olympiad / "Village Green" day and Metal Arts Project
- Adult Learners Fortnight in partnership with Southend Adult Community College [still at the planning stage]
- Working with the Persula Foundation<sup>7</sup> (Storytelling event)
- "Quick Reads" promotion and library membership drive with ESOL/ Adult Learners in a college setting during October
- "Make the Most of Your Sight" event on 1 October with VIP partners and launch of PlayAway service.

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<sup>5</sup> Groupthing.org is going to be launched in October, and will be a website for young people's reading using Web 2.0 technology. See: [http://www.theirreadingfutures.org.uk/resourcesLibrary/documentRepository/HeadSpace\\_Groupthing\\_HeadSpace\\_briefing\\_doc.doc](http://www.theirreadingfutures.org.uk/resourcesLibrary/documentRepository/HeadSpace_Groupthing_HeadSpace_briefing_doc.doc).

<sup>6</sup> [SimonWallace@southend.gov.uk](mailto:SimonWallace@southend.gov.uk).

<sup>7</sup> See: <http://www.persula.org/projectlist.html>.

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

### ***Working together: UK National Action Plan on Social Inclusion***

Just published<sup>8</sup> is this third UK National Action Plan.

“This National Action Plan (NAP) outlines the current position in the United Kingdom (UK) and the action that the UK will take in the years 2008 to 2010 to tackle poverty and increase social inclusion.” [p v]

The Plan is supported by nine Annexes<sup>9</sup> which illustrate with examples some of the progress made.

The Action Plan is drawn from the following:

### ***UK national report on strategies for social protection and social inclusion 2008-2010***

This is the latest assessment report<sup>10</sup> on the UK’s progress.

It begins with a brief overview of successes (written prior to the current economic maelstrom) and also identifies the key challenges which include:

- Workless households
- Economic inactivity
- Basic skills
- Changes in society, leading to, for example, more separation and divorce, childbearing at later ages
- Demographics, particularly an ageing population
- Globalisation and technological change
- Migration
- Service quality, with a growing demand for personalised services.

The report then highlights the next stage of welfare reform – “social justice through independence” [p10]. This is based on five principles:

- “A stronger framework of rights and responsibilities
- A personalised, responsive more effective approach

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<sup>8</sup> *Working together: UK National Action Plan on Social Inclusion*. DWP, 2008 (ISBN-13: 978-1-84763-680-5). Available to download as a pdf (521.11 kb) from: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2006/nap/uknationalactionplan.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> Available to download from: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2006/nap/>.

<sup>10</sup> *UK national report on strategies for social protection and social inclusion 2008-2010*. DWP, 2008. Available to download as a pdf (1006 kb) from: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2006/socialprotection/uknationalstrategyreport12-9-08.pdf>.

- Not just jobs, but jobs that pay and offer retention and progression
- Partnership – the public, private and third sectors working together
- Devolving and empowering communities.” [p10]

The report then goes on to review progress against the specific policy objectives:

- Increasing labour market participation
- Tackling child poverty
- Improving access to quality services
- Tackling inequality.

The significance of this report for us is that it reemphasises the Government’s priorities and targets – which should help us in planning service developments.

### ***NICCY Rights Review 2008***

Following on from the UK report on the rights of the child<sup>11</sup>, this review<sup>12</sup> looks specifically at the situation in Northern Ireland, and paints a grim picture:

“The totality of the research throughout this report establishes serious and systemic failings on the part of government to comprehensively address issues pertaining to child protection and to marginalised and vulnerable children.” [p8]

Key issues covered include:

- Marginalisation and vulnerability – including looked-after children; Travellers; children from BME and migrant communities; disabled children; children who identify as LGBT; hate crime; children in the justice system; young people who are vulnerable because of drugs/alcohol use, sexual activity or risk of suicide
- Protection – including child abuse; crimes against children; bullying, domestic violence
- Poverty and material deprivation
- Participation and advocacy
- Gaps in service provision.

This is a key report for understanding the needs of children, especially those who are vulnerable, and how these should be met.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> *UK Children’s Commissioners’ report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the child*. 11 Million, 2008. Available to download as a pdf (1007 Kb) from: <http://www.11million.org.uk/resource/31f7xsa2gjqfc3l9t808qfsi.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> Laura McMahon and Paula Keenan. *NICCY Rights Review 2008*. Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People [NICCY], 2008. Available to download as a pdf (793.06 Kb) from: [http://www.niccy.org/uploaded\\_docs/CRU/NICCY%20Rights%20Review%202008%20.pdf](http://www.niccy.org/uploaded_docs/CRU/NICCY%20Rights%20Review%202008%20.pdf).

## Health issues – Other Agencies

### The Campaign to End Child Poverty

The Campaign<sup>14</sup> has just published three important factsheets:

***Intergenerational links between child poverty and poor health in the UK***

This paper<sup>15</sup> summarises the key policy implications of tackling child poverty, and then highlights the major effects of childhood poverty.

The paper is drawn from the following:

***Health consequences of poverty for children***

This document<sup>16</sup> draws together evidence showing the impact of poverty on the child and his/her family.

“Many of the adverse health outcomes discussed increase in a finely graded stepwise fashion with increasing social and material disadvantage. These gradients suggest that the effects of social circumstances on children’s health are not confined to the poorest groups in society but are patterned by social factors across the spectrum. Social factors have a profound effect on child health and improvements in child health are likely to require active intervention at the social and economic policy level.” [p15]

***Childhood poverty and adult health***

The second paper<sup>17</sup> draws together evidence to show that:

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<sup>13</sup> Source: NFER ontheweb, August 2008 – see: <http://www.nfer.ac.uk/latest-news/ontheweb/pdfs/august08.doc>.

<sup>14</sup> “The Campaign to End Child Poverty is made up of more than 120 organisations including children’s charities, child welfare organisations, social justice groups, faith groups, trade unions and others, concerned about the unacceptably high levels of child poverty in the UK” – taken from: <http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/who-are-we>.

<sup>15</sup> Donald Hirsch and Nick Spencer. *Intergenerational links between child poverty and poor health in the UK*. End Child Poverty, 2008. Available to download as a pdf from: <http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/files/Intergenerational Links between child Poverty and poor health.pdf>.

<sup>16</sup> Nick Spencer. *Health consequences of poverty for children*. End Child Poverty, 2008. Available to download as a pdf from: <http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/files/Health consequences of Poverty for children.pdf>.

<sup>17</sup> Nick Spencer. *Childhood poverty and adult health*. End Child Poverty, 2008. Available to download as a pdf from: <http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/files/Childhood Poverty and Adult Health.pdf>.

“... poverty and low socio-economic status in early life adversely affect health in ways that transmit across time and contribute to poor adult health. In other words, poor social circumstances in childhood are associated with poor health both in childhood itself and in adult life.” [p2]<sup>18</sup>

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

### ***Can museums be a potent force in social and urban regeneration?***

This new paper<sup>19</sup> in the JRF “Viewpoint” series uses detailed case studies of current initiatives to look at:

“... how far museums now go beyond the display and interpretation of collections; their potential role in local regeneration; and whether they can create a space where social issues can be examined in a way the public finds accessible.” [p1]

Case studies include: The Galleries of Justice, Nottingham; Museum of Liverpool; York Museums Trust; The Lightbox, Woking; Ryedale Folk Museum; Black Cultural Archives; The National Waterfront Museum, Swansea; and Proud Heritage.

Key points to emerge from this study are:

- “Museums are playing a part in social change, tackling a range of social issues, such as crime prevention.
- Curators feel they have a role in making sense of history – and the myths that may surround it – in modern terms. They are aware that their curatorial choices need to reflect and respond to other voices within the local community.
- Curators themselves are coming from a range of different backgrounds, often with little if any traditional curatorial training.
- If museums and galleries fulfil their new role as being a major supporter of the local economy, both tourist and citizen should benefit.
- Museums are seen as central spaces of mutual understanding and cohesion where cultural identity can be developed. This may be driven by museum professionals or communities. Such identities may reflect previously unacknowledged histories or more recent social change such as migration or post-industrialisation.

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<sup>18</sup> Source: NFER ontheweb, August 2008 – see: <http://www.nfer.ac.uk/latest-news/ontheweb/pdfs/august08.doc>.

<sup>19</sup> Simon Tait. *Can museums be a potent force in social and urban regeneration?* JRF (“Viewpoint” series), 2008. Available to download as a pdf (148 kb) from: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/pdf/2262.pdf>.

- The extent to which museums can be a focus for economic regeneration varies greatly, depending on the nature of the communities, what investment regenerating authorities are prepared to make in museums, and town planning.
  - Remaining challenges include: convincing other agencies of museums' role in tackling social change; reflecting the speed of social change, which may require adapting complex organisational structures; acknowledging concerns about traditional curatorial remits; exploring legitimate areas that some still feel too sensitive for social history; addressing the physical accessibility of older museums.<sup>20</sup>
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## Abbreviations and acronyms

CILIP = Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals

DWP = Department for Work and Pensions

JRF = Joseph Rowntree Foundation

NEET = not in education, employment or training

NFER = National Foundation for Educational Research

NICCY = Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People

RNIB = Royal National Institute of Blind People

VIP = visually impaired people

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<sup>20</sup> Taken from: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/2262.asp>.

# Biblioteka Southend wita Was !

Każdy za darmo może być członkiem biblioteki.

Obsługa biblioteki chętnie Wam pomoże.

Można wypożyczyć:

- do 14 książek do 3 tygodni
- najnowsze DVD i CD
- książki AUDIO, w tym kursy języka angielskiego
- dwujęzyczne książki dla dzieci (polsko-angielskie)

Dostępne są książki i czasopisma w języku polskim.

Bezpłatnie można korzystać z internetu, wysłać e-mail lub wydrukować CV.

Bezpłatne spotkania dla rodziców i przedszkolaków.

Usługi polskiego tłumacza - piątek 10<sup>00</sup> - 14<sup>00</sup>.

Kawiarnia, faks i ksero (kolorowe).



**Telephone: 01702 534100**

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**Website: [www.southend.gov.uk/library](http://www.southend.gov.uk/library)**

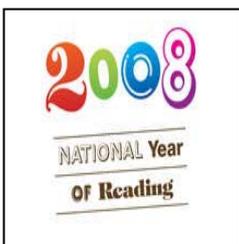


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Anyone can join the library - it is easy and FREE

Library staff will be pleased to help you

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- Use the Internet, send e-mail or type CV's - for free
- The latest DVD's and music CD's
- Talking Books and English Language Courses
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- Polish / English Children's books
- Free Storyrhyme events for Parents and Children
- Polish Translation Service - Fridays 10.00 - 2.00pm
- Central Library Café, Fax and Colour Photocopier



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