



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 324, 16 March 2021

Events

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

Coronavirus/COVID-19

“Post COVID-19 reopening”

<https://embed.org.uk/covid-19-reopening>

(Source: email from DCN to gem@jiscmail.ac.uk, 10 Mar 2021)

This new guidance:

“[...] has been created to support organisations in their decision making prior to reopening following COVID-19 lockdown. It considers potential barriers faced by disabled visitors and customers and offers solution based guidance for organisations of all types with the ultimate aim of keeping stakeholders, staff, volunteers visitors, students or customers as safe as possible.”

It's been created by EMBED* in collaboration with the Disability Collaborative Network (DCN) and the School of Health Sciences, University of East Anglia.

*EMBED is “[...] a group of professional independent consultants who collaborate to deliver sustainable services and solutions dedicated to growing and evolving organisations and environments through greater equality, diversity accessibility and inclusion.” [Taken from: <https://embed.org.uk/>]

YoungMinds COVID-19 January 2021 survey”

<https://youngminds.org.uk/about-us/reports/coronavirus-impact-on-young-people-with-mental-health-needs/#covid-19-january-2021-survey>

(Source: email from YoungMinds, 4 Mar 2021)

YoungMinds have just published the results of their latest survey. ‘Headlines’ include:

- “75% of respondents agreed that they have found the current lockdown harder to cope with than the previous ones including 44% who said it said it was much harder. (14% said it was easier, 11% said it was the same)
- 67% believed that the pandemic will have a long-term negative effect on their mental health. This includes young people who had been bereaved or undergone traumatic experiences during the pandemic, who were concerned about whether friendships would recover, or who were

- worried about the loss of education or their prospects of finding work. (19% neither agreed nor disagreed, 14% disagreed)
- 79% of respondents agreed that their mental health would start to improve when most restrictions were lifted, but some expressed caution about restrictions being lifted too quickly and the prospect of future lockdowns.”

The full report is available at:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/media/4350/coronavirus-report-winter.pdf>.

Equality Act 2010

Public Sector Equality Duty – “Coronavirus: PSED reporting obligations”

https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty?utm_source=e-shot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=GBnewsletterFebruary2021

(Source: email from EHRC, Mar 2021)

“Under the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies in England, Scotland and Wales must publish equality information and objectives. Enforcement of the requirement to publish this information was suspended last year, due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, the requirement has been reinstated this year and relevant information should be published by all public bodies.” [Taken from email]

Climate emergency – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Air quality in Sowerby Bridge and impact on health to be focus of innovative library project”

<https://www.halifaxcourier.co.uk/news/environment/air-quality-in-sowerby-bridge-and-impact-on-health-to-be-focus-of-innovative-library-project-3156752>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 14 Mar 2021)

“Calderdale libraries’ ‘Something in the Air?’ project, supported by researchers at the University of Manchester and funded as part of the Engaging Libraries programme was launched this week.

Between March and September this year, there will be a series of free events that anyone can attend, to hear from specialists and to ask questions about all sorts of issues around air quality and health.

As part of the project, people living in Sowerby Bridge will also be able to borrow and experiment with two types of portable air quality monitor, for measuring indoor and outdoor air quality. Residents are then encouraged to share and discuss their findings.”

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

“Libraries are getting \$200 million in stimulus funds. Here's why”

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/03/13/politics/libraries-covid-relief-funding/index.html>

(Source: LinkedIn post from Nick Poole, 15 Mar 2021)

“Tucked into the massive \$1.9 trillion Covid relief bill signed by President Joe Biden on Thursday is about \$200 million for public libraries.

It's one of the reasons Republicans have criticized the bill, which they argue is too big and includes funding for things that have nothing to do with fighting Covid or the resulting economic crisis. The final bill passed on a party-line vote, without any Republican support in the House or the Senate.

But librarians say they've come to the rescue for those hit the hardest by the pandemic, becoming the only way many without internet access are able to get their kids online for school -- or access medical services, make vaccine appointments or register for federal aid like stimulus checks and unemployment benefits.

That's especially true in low-income or rural areas like western Kentucky's McCracken County, where the library got a burst of calls from people frantically trying to register for their stimulus payments after the first Covid relief package passed last year. So the library began allowing three people in at a time to use its computers and letting others access its wireless internet.”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“We cannot allow the pandemic to set gender parity back decades”

https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/we-cannot-allow-pandemic-set-gender-parity-back-decades?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=JRF%20weekly%20round-up%20WC%208%20March%202021&utm_content=JRF%20weekly%20round-up%20WC%208%20March%202021+CID_d2f420805e4b528925d6075e10b5298a&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Read%20Andreas%20blog

(Source: JRF *Weekly round-up*, 12 Mar 2021)

New blogpost from JRF, looking at the effects of COVID-19 on gender parity. It concludes:

- “We need a focus on creating new, good quality jobs across the country.
- We must tackle barriers holding people back from the jobs market such as issues with transport, unaffordable childcare and lack of flexible work.

We cannot allow another International Women’s Day pass with more women gripped by poverty. It is urgent to act immediately, so that we can continue our previous progress towards gender equality.”

Everyone Connected

https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/sites/default/files/research-publications/good_things_foundation_lottery_report_final_0.pdf

(Source: *Good Things Foundation News*, Feb 2021)

This is the report of the impact of the funding:

“Good Things Foundation has been awarded £500,000 from The National Lottery Community Fund to bolster its work through the Everyone Connected programme, supporting communities affected by the COVID-19 crisis to engage with digital.

The funding has equipped and up-skilled 4,597 vulnerable and disadvantaged people in England; people whose quality of life has been made harder during the pandemic through digital exclusion.” [Taken from: https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/research-publications/everyone-connected-national-lottery-community-fund-impact-report?utm_source=Good+Things+Foundation+Newsletter&utm_campaign=85b5b1c679-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_04_05_08_12_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_874c1dbcc0-85b5b1c679-110066901]

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

“Panic attacks”

https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/feelings-and-symptoms/panic-attacks/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=march-2021

(Source: email from YoungMinds, 4 Mar 2021)

New practical and helpful resource from YoungMinds: it includes info about what happens and how to deal with them, as well as tips for supporting friends who are experiencing panic attacks [as someone who experienced them through my teens and early 20s, I wish there had been resources as supportive as this available then ...]

“Helpsheets about dementia”

https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-support/helpsheets-about-dementia?utm_source=dotdigital&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=GenNewsletter&utm_content=110321&dm_i=57EL,C7EU,2JFJ2V,1E8E6,1

(Source: email from Alzheimer’s Society, 11 Mar 2021)

Alzheimer’s Society have produced a range of helpsheets:

“Helpsheets are printable, simple versions of our most popular information on dementia. They are one single page long.”

Empathy Day, 10 June 2021

Further info about Empathy Day and EmpathyLab: <https://www.empathylab.uk/>
(Source: email from EmpathyLab, 16 Mar 2021)

“Our Empathy Day toolkits are nearly ready, and will be released after Easter. Having listened to teachers' feedback, this year there will be a separate toolkit for secondary schools. To register your interest ahead of their release, just send an email headed 'Toolkit' to:

- primary@empathylab.uk (for the Primary Toolkit, which automatically comes with the Early Years Toolkit)
- secondary@empathylab.uk (for the Secondary Toolkit)

- sarah@empathylab.uk (for the Public Library Toolkit, which automatically comes with the Early Years Toolkit)
- earlyyears@empathylab.uk (if you are an early years setting which just requires the Early Years Toolkit)" [taken from email]

Disability issues – Other Agencies

Living Paintings *Impact report 2020*

<https://livingpaintings.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Living-Paintings-impact-report-2020.pdf>

(Source: email from Living Paintings, 15 Mar 2021)

“In order to measure the positive impact that Living Paintings has on the lives of blind and partially sighted children, we carried out our annual survey amongst our child library members of all different ages. As with previous years, a survey was distributed to parents, carers and teachers. Our purpose is to measure the difference that receiving our Touch to See Books makes to the lives of our young beneficiaries.

98% benefited from improved confidence in reading;
 96% are more confident in joining in class activities and discussions;
 99% benefitted from an increase in shared experiences with sighted friends, family and peers
 97% benefitted from a positive change in their confidence in taking part in physical activities such as getting involved in playing games;
 80% of children use Living Paintings Touch to See books daily or weekly.” [p3]

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“Asylum support during the pandemic: the year in review”

https://www.freemovement.org.uk/asylum-support-during-the-pandemic-the-year-in-review/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=asylum-support-during-the-pandemic-the-year-in-review&utm_source=Free+Movement&utm_campaign=8b0f474b85-Asylum+updates&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_792133aa40-8b0f474b85-116428530&mc_cid=8b0f474b85&mc_eid=7d8713d645

(Source: *Free Movement Refugee and Asylum Update*, 16 Mar 2021)

Very helpful background reading:

“Barred from working and mainstream benefits, for many in the asylum system their only option for money and shelter is by requesting support from the Home Office. A year into the pandemic, the asylum support system has seen significant changes. This article tries to outline just a few of the ways in which the system has been affected by and responded to the crisis over the past 12 months.”

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

“How do LGBT+ people experience the digital divide(s)?”

[https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/news-and-blogs/blog/how-do-lgbt-people-experience-digital-](https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/news-and-blogs/blog/how-do-lgbt-people-experience-digital-divides?utm_source=Good+Things+Foundation+Newsletter&utm_campaign=85b5b1c679-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_04_05_08_12_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_874c1dbcc0-85b5b1c679-110066901)

[divides?utm_source=Good+Things+Foundation+Newsletter&utm_campaign=85b5b1c679-](https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/news-and-blogs/blog/how-do-lgbt-people-experience-digital-divides?utm_source=Good+Things+Foundation+Newsletter&utm_campaign=85b5b1c679-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_04_05_08_12_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_874c1dbcc0-85b5b1c679-110066901)

[EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_04_05_08_12_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_874c1dbcc0-85b5b1c679-110066901](https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/news-and-blogs/blog/how-do-lgbt-people-experience-digital-divides?utm_source=Good+Things+Foundation+Newsletter&utm_campaign=85b5b1c679-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_04_05_08_12_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_874c1dbcc0-85b5b1c679-110066901)

(Source: *Good Things Foundation News*, Feb 2021)

New blogpost:

“How do LGBT+ people experience digital inclusion/digital exclusion? Who do we exclude by going online? Who do we include? What are the differences between LGBT+ people online and those who identify as heterosexual and those whose gender identity matches that which they were assigned at birth (cisgender)?

We’re coming to the end of LGBT+ History Month and I wanted to take this opportunity to pose these questions about how we understand LGBT+ life online and how to support LGBT+ people who aren’t online.”