

Press Update September to November 2008

GEOFF MULGAN

Society Guardian – 1 October 2008. Call for public sector strategies and innovation strategies to work together.

“What makes a city buzz? The most dynamic cities have always been immersed in the critical innovations of their time. Today, the world’s great cities compete to lead in innovation in fields such as nanotechnology or genomics, sometimes successfully, sometimes with ineffective copycat strategies. Science and business have been their main focus, along with the arts. Yet many are learning that public sector innovation can be just as critical for growing new sources of revenue.”

“Our creative minds need to be harnessed”

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/oct/01/cities.regeneration.innovation>

RUSHANARA ALI

The Guardian - 24 September 2008. This article on the Tower Hamlets Summer University reflects on this successful local summer university and asks ‘how do community schemes grow successfully?’

“Summer universities on their own clearly do not provide the whole answer to tackling youth crime and boredom among young people, but it is incredible just how many places in Britain still lack creative activity of this kind, designed to tap into the energies and enthusiasms of young people. THSU provided a practical answer to a very visible problem of the kind we now desperately need to tackle in many of Britain’s cities. But if it wasn’t for perseverance, hard work and some good luck, THSU might not have flourished.”

‘Swell Ideas’

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/sep/24/youngpeople.communities>

Rushanara also reviewed for Public, Robin Ryde’s new book on leadership, ‘Custom-Built Leadership’

“There’s nothing here that is particularly new or surprising. But the book is mercifully short of the jargon and pretension that mars so many books on leadership.”

Local Innovation

WELLBEING

The Sunday Times – 7 September 2008. As a result of the Local Wellbeing conference and lecture by Dr Martin Seligman on 8 and 9 September the project was widely covered. This includes the following:

“The government is backing a new project designed to “immunise” youngsters from getting the blues by educating them in the art of happiness at a young age. In a programme imported from the United States, 11-year-olds are to be taught how to shrug off setbacks and banish pessimistic thoughts, helping them to cope with whatever life throws at them.”

“Early results of the evaluation – and anecdotal evidence – are that this is having amazing results,” (Geoff Mulgan)

“Pupils taught how to be happy” by Isabel Oakeshott, Deputy Political Editor

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article4692869.ece>

Society Guardian - 10 September 2008 reported on the Local Wellbeing conference.

“The evidence is that wellbeing is synergistic with traditional learning: people who are in positive states learn better,” (Dr Martin Seligman)

“Irene Lucas, the chief executive of South Tyneside council, said the wellbeing project has had such a positive impact on young people, it was as though “pixie dust and magic” had been sprinkled on an area where over half of the residents live in wards which rank in the country’s most deprived 25%.”

“Call for happiness lessons as teenage depression increases” by Carlene Thomas-Bailey

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/sep/10/mentalhealth.happiness>



The conference also coincided with the launch of a report from the Young Foundation and the New Economics Foundation, *Local wellbeing: can we measure it?* and was covered in Public Finance on 19 September.

"We need to remove the stigma around mental health. We need to transform the support we offer for depression and we need to understand much better how to help people with mental health issues back into work," (James Purnell)

'Measuring wellbeing can also support local authorities and their partners to measure "real" progress. Given its immediate relevance to people's lives, this may also provide greater opportunity for better engagement with the public on shaping local policy and local service delivery,' (Local Wellbeing: can we measure it?)

http://www.cipfa.org.uk/publicfinance/news_details.cfm?news_id=58841

APPRENTICESHIPS

Children & Young People Now - 6 November 2008

"Young people in three local authorities are to get an early taste of the government's plans to guarantee an apprentice place to all young people by 2013.

The programme, which is being run by the Young Foundation from January 2009, has been designed to uncover how to maximise the benefits of apprenticeships placements.....

Marcia Brophy, wellbeing programme leader for the Young Foundation, said: "The project will fight negative stereotypes associated with apprenticeships and provide a viable alternative to university."

"Project to test out apprenticeships"

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/ByDiscipline/Education/859523/Project-test-apprenticeships/>

NEIGHBOURLINESS

This piece in the Times on 26 November 2008 highlights the research of the Neighbourhoods project.

"A recent study by the Young Foundation found that while people long for more "neighbourliness" in their lives, hectic and transient lifestyles increasingly preclude social intimacy. The mobility of modern life, the breakdown of extended families, longer working hours and home entertainment have all helped to isolate families and individuals from those living around them. "

"Private. Snoopers/good neighbours keep out" by Ben Macintyre

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/ben_macintyre/article5240206.ece

Launchpad

HEALTH LAUNCHPAD

A number of schemes and pilots taking place within Health Launchpad have recently received positive coverage in the media across the country. PublicNet - 18 November 2008

"Work in social innovation has shown an encouraging outcome with 500 people applying to the Innovations in Mental Health call for ideas and significant interest in Health Launchpad's incubation project for long term conditions. The Launchpad will speed up the creation and development of social enterprises relating to long term conditions. A social venture fund will develop promising ideas into new ventures by providing intensive hands-on support in the form of financial, intellectual and social capital."

"Senior NHS leaders challenged to promote innovation"

<http://www.publicnet.co.uk/news/2008/11/18/senior-nhs-leaders-challenged-to-promote-innovation/>

HEALTH LAUNCHPAD: FULL OF LIFE

The Shields Gazette – 8 November 2008

A self-help scheme aimed at older people suffering from mild depression is being piloted in South Tyneside. South Tyneside Council is one of only two local authorities in the country to use cognitive behaviour therapy techniques in partnership with London's Young Foundation.

The scheme, called Full of Life: Wellbeing in Later Life, involves trained volunteers providing telephone support and encouragement to older people as they work through sessions using self-help books.

Coun Tom Hanson, the council's lead member for independent and healthy lives, said: "This is a fantastic initiative supporting vulnerable older people who may be feeling down as they deal with major changes in their lives.

"It's vital that we provide local services that meet the needs of older people, while promoting their independence and wellbeing."

"Scheme will help depressed OAPs" by Andy Hughes

<http://www.shieldsgazette.com/news/Scheme-will-help-depressed-OAPs.4675091.jp>

LEARNING LAUNCHPAD: STUDIO SCHOOLS

Children & Young People Now - 17 September 2008

“David Nicoll, senior advisor at the Young Foundation, said: “We’re confident that our proposals will get the go-ahead. We had informal discussions with officials at the DCSF and they were impressed with our work. We genuinely believe these new schools will make a huge difference to young people.”

“Studio school plan gathers pace”

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/ByDiscipline/Education/846475/Studio-school-plan-gathers-pace/>

The Sunday Times - Sunday 16 November. In a piece on the role of Prince Charles, Jonathan Dimbleby mentions the proposed Studio School in Lambeth, also picked up in the main section of the paper.

“In partnership with the Young Foundation (whose director, Geoff Mulgan, ran the No 10 Policy Unit for Tony Blair) and the local council, the Prince’s Charities have just submitted a joint bid to open a vocational school teaching arts and crafts to pupils aged between 14 and 19.”

“Prince Charles: Ready for active service” by Jonathan Dimbleby

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article5161186.ece>

“The Prince of Wales wants to set up a school to teach traditional arts and crafts to pupils excluded from mainstream education... The school is expected to be one of the “studio schools” announced earlier by Ed Balls, the schools secretary. It is hoped they will cut the number of pupils who drop out of traditional education by giving them an alternative.”

“Prince Charles plans craft school” by Jack Grimston

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article5162691.ece>

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Research and International

UPRISING

Rosabeth Moss Kanter gave a keynote lecture as part of the UpRising launch event on 5 November and her lecture was covered as the front page article in Society Guardian the following week. Society Guardian – 12 November 2008

“In London to speak at the Young Foundation launch of UpRising, a project that will help... young people acquire leadership skills, Kanter says she is encouraged by both the corporate and grassroots appetite for change.

She says long-term success comes down to promoting diversity in the workplace, finding talented people, and helping them “engage in the process, maybe run for public office, maybe do some volunteer work, maybe start a social enterprise”

“Prophet for a new age” by Mary O’Hara

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/nov/12/rosabeth-moss-kanter-social-enterprise>

The Guardian - 17 November 2008

“At present being piloted with 60 19- to 25-year-olds from the boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Newham and Tower Hamlets, UpRising is aimed at acquainting them with campaigning and decision-making - and although its organisers say they’ve yet to reach parts of the social map that are truly disengaged, UpRising claims to be already operating outside the usual social networks. Its official patrons include Gordon Brown, David Cameron and Nick Clegg, which points up an interesting problem: if they were confronted with the energised, inquisitive people the programme aims to cultivate, wouldn’t their whips and party managers feel uneasy?”

“If we want more representative MPs, we need to start talking about class” by John Harris

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/nov/17/labour-conservatives-liberal-democrats-race-gender>

Launchpad

SCHOOL OF EVERYTHING

The Financial Times - 22 October 2008. It is said that Britain and America are two nations separated by a common language. They may also be divided in the way that their citizens start up businesses.

"We focus all our marketing and our growth efforts on the UK," Mr Miller says. "What we have found is that we grow virally and by word of mouth in other countries." The plan is to translate the School of Everything website into several languages for the European market.

*"Web-based schools a few streets apart" by Jonathan Moules
http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/dfb03738-9fd1-11dd-a3fa-000077b07658.html?nclick_check=1*

The Guardian – 11 November 2008. - Lucy Tobin in The Guardian (November 2008).

"Logging on to the SoE to see what I can learn next, I am spoilt for choice, with lessons available on everything from academic tuition to Japanese cooking. One offers lessons on the nesting habits of breeding birds."

*"Power, pilates and tango to the people" by Lucy Tobin
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2008/nov/11/school-of-everything-education>*