



Minutes

English Public Libraries Stakeholder Working Group (EPL)

Date	Tuesday 5 September 2023
Time	15:00 – 17:00
Location	Virtual Meeting

Present:	Luke Burton	Director, Libraries, Arts Council England (ACE) (Chair)
	Julie Bell	Interim Director of Education, Skills and Culture, Lancashire County Council
	Kathryn Boothroyd	Libraries and Heritage Manager, Lancashire County Council
	Kevin Hadfield	Group Manager Culture and Information, East Riding Libraries
	Kathryn Harrison	Development Manager: Libraries & Information Services, Wakefield
	Tiina Hill	Head of Delivery, LibraryOn
	Alison Hoolihan	Officer, Libraries Development Team, ACE
	Sophie Lancaster	Senior Manager, Libraries, ACE
	Lauren Lucas	Advisor – Culture, Tourism and Sport, Local Government Association (LGA)
	Dave Lloyd	Service Development Manager
	Iain Moore	Commercial Director, Libraries Connected
	Nick Poole	Chief Executive, CILIP, The UK library and information association
	Claire Robe	Lead for Libraries & Heritage, Kingston
	Kamal Shah	Community Managed Libraries Peer Network (CML)

Nick Stopforth Head of Heritage and Culture, City of Doncaster Council

Apologies: Prof. Steven Broomhead Chief Executive, Warrington Borough Council

 Isobel Hunter Chief Executive, Libraries Connected

 Adam Tulloch Chief Executive, Association of Senior Children's and Education Librarians (ASCEL)

 Sue Wells CEO, Lincs Inspire

 Sue Wills Assistant Director Arts, Culture & Libraries Surrey County Council

 Liz White Head of Public Libraries and Engagement, British Library (BL)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

1.1 Luke Burton welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted. Sophie co-chaired the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 There were no interests to declare.

3. MANAGING SAFE AND INCLUSIVE LIBRARY SPACES

3.1 Nick P updated the group on the forthcoming publication of CILIP's [Managing Safe and Inclusive Library Spaces](#) guidance. Public libraries and groups such as the National Acquisitions Group were consulted during the writing of the guidance.

3.2 The guidance will look at stock, censorship, intellectual freedom, library spaces, and event programming. It will include downloadable and printable documents including a staff-facing poster and a public-facing poster. It is due to be published on 20 September.

3.3 Nick highlighted that library staff would like more support in this area. CILIP will be establishing an advisory board and releasing a policy around this. CILIP have also been asked to co-organise, with the American Library Association, an international conference about this.

3.4 Luke updated the group on Liz's note around this issue gaining a lot of interest at IFLA and highlighted the situation at Calderdale Libraries in

Action

relation to this issue. Luke suggested that the publication of CILIP's guidance may result in more libraries being approached by lobbying groups.

- 3.5 Kathryn H informed the group that, to date, there were no issues concerning this with other libraries in the Yorkshire and Humber region. Nick S noted that all libraries had received an FOI request from a journalist concerning this, but no negative feedback had followed.

4. DEALING WITH VULNERABLE PEOPLE

- 4.1 Sophie informed the group that ACE Libraries Team had had a conversation with LGA around their [Debate Not Hate](#) campaign for lead members and discussed the possibility of a similar campaign for senior officers. Sophie will gather evidence from Heads of Service to determine if there is need for this.

- 4.2 **ACTION: Sophie to ask Heads of Service via Libraries Connected about increase in costs related to anti-social behaviour.**

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5. DATA HUB UPDATE

- 5.1 Iain and Libraries Connected have started the work of strand 1 – collecting data on schema such as visitor numbers, PC use, and book loans from all library services. Iain is aiming for 100% response rate, with this EPL group agreeing to a minimum return rate of 80%.
- 5.2 Sophie updated on strand 2 of the project where an ITT is about to go out to appoint a consultant who will take this work forward. Luke asked, once the ITT is in place and a consultant appointed, does the group want the person to attend EPL regularly to update? The group agreed and Sophie added that the appointed consultant should attend EPL in order to get feedback from the representative heads of service.
- 5.3 Lauren added that there is a need to retain DCMS on the steering group, Sophie agreed that DCMS should remain and will be invited to any project updates.

6 ACCREDITATION

- 6.1 Sophie updated the group on the progress of Libraries Accreditation. Luke presented a paper to Arts Council's Executive Board (EB) in July. EB agreed to continue the development of the Libraries Accreditation programme. Consideration now needs to be given to how accreditation will be branded and how its value as a development programme is communicated. A low complexity application and assessment process

will be put in place to ensure sustainability. The scheme will be framed within any recommendations from the Baroness Sanderson report. ACE have a new Senior Manager on the Development Initiatives Team who will take this work forward in conjunction with the Libraries Development Team.

7 FUTURE LIBRARIES

- 7.1 Nick P gave an update on the Future Libraries project that CILIP are leading. Workshops have been developed with Shared Intelligence around scenarios for future sector development and attended by key stakeholders within the sector. A Futures toolkit will be devised for libraries to run Futures sessions with their teams and to help them to strategise.

8 MEMBERS UPDATE

8.1 DONCASTER LIBRARIES – NICK STOPFORTH

- Currently looking at how staff can respond to incidents involving vulnerable people in light of police only attending if there is a threat to life. Looking into how to support staff to deal with these situations and also how to support vulnerable people by signposting to health organisations.

8.2 EAST RIDING LIBRARIES – KEVIN HADFIELD

- The East Riding Libraries NPO held a children's festival which helped to raise awareness of the library service. The NPO is also working on bringing cultural activity into the mobile library.
- The Arts Council funded project Healthier Happier Connected is progressing and had resulted in a marketplace of organisations which should lead to more commissioning opportunities.

8.3 COMMUNITY MANAGED LIBRARIES – KAMAL SHAH

- 3 posts are now in place and developing the network.
- Currently prioritising how to make decision-makers aware of CMLs.

8.4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION – LAUREN LUCAS

- The new Culture, Tourism and Sport board is now in place. The new chair is very keen on the green agenda and the LGA are

about to advertise a tender for a route map on greening assets and neutralising the carbon footprint.

- The councillor sounding board will take place later this month.

8.5 LANCASHIRE LIBRARIES – JULIE BELL

- Julie highlighted the need to shout loud about the Summer Reading Challenge in light of the [Literacy Trust's press release](#) around children not reading for enjoyment. Lancashire Libraries had over 18000 enrolments this year on their summer reading scheme.
- Libraries Connected Northwest are going to look into a piece of work around the SEND agenda, how libraries can support and contribute to this. It will also look at how to build on the legacy of Eurovision in Liverpool.

8.6 LANCASHIRE LIBRARIES – KATHRYN BOOTHROYD

- There is currently an archival football project at Burnley Library which is building community engagement around the archives of Burnley F.C.
- Working on a LIF round 3 application for a music facility in the area.

8.7 KINGSTON LIBRARIES – CLAIRE ROBE

- Working with public health and NHS Trusts to bring older people into the library with initiatives such as Dementia Cafes.
- Currently working on a LIF round 2 project refurbishing a music studio. This will result in a more interactive space for young people.
- Other projects include the refurbishment of the reference room at Surbiton Library and a blue plaques project.

8.8 CONVENTRY LIBRARIES – DAVE LLOYD

- Looking at budgets and potential savings targets.
- Following on from the ACE supported [Digital Spaces](#) project, now looking at a number of VR and game playing projects.
- Libraries Connected West Midlands is considering a similar research project to the Libraries Connected East of England's [Libraries for living, and for living better report.](#)

8.9 WAKEFILED LIBRARIES – KATHRYN HARRISON

- The Know Your Neighbourhood project, looking at increasing volunteers and reducing loneliness, has started its pilot events which will then be rolled out wider.
- Wakefield Libraries have just been awarded ACE Unlocking Collections funding to widen access to their unique collection of 19th century diaries, manuscripts, and scrapbooks.
- Currently applying for LIF round 3 funding to develop a joint children's area with the museums service.
- Yorkshire and Humber region are employing a freelance to re-tender for a new LMS that will enable shared e-resources.

8.10 ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR CHILDREN'S AND EDUCATION LIBRARIANS – LUCY BANKS

- ASCEL are supporting initiatives around the decline in children's reading, particularly through HAF.
- The new ASCEL team is now in place and have begun work on developing its activity.
- The [ASCEL conference](#) is taking place on 10 & 11 November and early bird tickets are available to book.

8.11 BRITISH LIBRARY – TIINA HILL

- LibraryOn is currently producing public-facing video content and a national marketing campaign is being planned. There is also going to be LibraryOn grants training sessions.

8.12 CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS - NICK POOLE

- [Green Libraries Week](#) is taking place 2-8 October. There is an interactive events map for libraries to upload what they are doing.
- The [Rewired Conference](#) is taking place on 10 November. This will look at creative digital transformation in libraries, particularly public and school libraries.

9 AOB

- 9.1 Nick S asked if there was any guidance for libraries in relation to the S.114 announcement from Birmingham Council. Lauren advised that LGA are available for conversation about this.
- 9.2 Nick S highlighted the end of British Library support for BIPCs and asked whether any further support is available.

9.3 **ACTION: Luke and Sophie to explore further with Nick.**

- 9.4 Sophie informed the group that Stewart Hamilton, Head of Libraries Development for the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) in Ireland, and Pamela Tulloch, Chief Executive Officer at the Scottish Library and Information Council, will be guests at the next meeting.

Date and location of next meeting: Tuesday 17 October 2023, 15:00 – 17:00 Virtual Meeting.

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