

Appendix B: Building a Better Future: Summary update for Overview & Scrutiny Cttee, December 2023

Health & Wellbeing (general support)

Staff awareness and training

Objective: Train library staff in health literacy so they can recognise and promote health and wellbeing, and create a team of Health & Wellbeing Champions across the Library Service

- A range of health and wellbeing related training has / is being rolled out to frontline staff and managers to enable them to better support library visitors and refer them to specialist agencies as required, e.g.:
 - Level 1 + 2 RSPH Health Literacy training/MHFA Mental Health Awareness
 - Dementia Friendly training
 - Visual impairment awareness training (with RNIB)
- Two Health & Wellbeing Champions to be appointed from staff at Keighley Library (a Keighley Community Partnership initiative) who will be trained to give out consistent and safe health messaging, create a health information point, and host or signpost people to vaccination centres. Supported by Health & Wellbeing Development Officer
- 5 Digital Health Champions are being trained across the Library Service
- Development Officer Health & Wellbeing attends Wellbeing Champion meetings and cascades information to library staff

Promotion

Objective: Use the Library Service network and infrastructure to promote Living Well campaigns

The library service uses its physical space to promote posters / leaflets, and social media channels to support and promote health and wellbeing campaigns:

- Living Well campaigns including '20 minute movement',
- National NHS campaigns e.g. Stoptober
- Working in partnership with NHS health library locally – including sharing resources

Activities and events

Objective: Offer Library spaces for partners to do wellbeing-focused pop up activities advisor sessions

- Over 55s Dance Classes at Shipley (Aug-Sep) and at Manningham library weekly from June 2023 onwards
- Flex & Stretch Gentle Exercise for Men at Manningham Library starts weekly from November 2023
- BEEP advisors now run sessions in 4 libraries
- Independent advisor providing elderly advice & support in Ilkley library – new sessions held in July 2023
- Death Café up and running in City Library monthly
- Creative Journaling Club now being held at Keighley Library monthly
- Kooth/Qwell held pop up stalls at Manningham, Wyke and City libraries – July/August – for public awareness of their services.
 - Kooth is an online counselling & emotional wellbeing platform for children/young people.
 - Qwell provides free, safe and anonymous mental health support for adults
- Age UK held pop up stall at Shipley library – discussing “What makes a Good Life?”
- RNIB –Pop Up sessions for public awareness of services available, Sep/Oct 23

Partnership working

Objective: Build and develop the links with Community Partnerships

- Regular attendance at Keighley Area Community Partnership meetings, which have a strong health theme
- Worked with Affinity Care Community Partnership to provide health checks at Shipley Library
- Working with NEET and other organisations to make Shipley Library Garden space suitable for public use – Kirkgate centre gardening club weekly sessions since August 23 – further interest from Shipley in Bloom.
- Dementia Hubs – in discussion with Pro Active Care Team, BDCT in regard to holding Dementia Hubs in libraries. These are currently running in Bradford University as a pilot.
- Working with Natural England, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Libraries Connected, JU:MP and SpongeTree, re Nature Culture project - to be run at Manningham Library – funding from Natural England/Libraries Connected - to develop Manningham Library as a 'green hub' for the community, with an intergenerational project that helps local people connect to nature and local green spaces.

Library adaptations

Objective: Make adaptations to library buildings to accommodate PH needs – e.g. utilising space in the libraries to host Living Well Advisor Service

- Meeting spaces are being introduced into libraries for use by partners for advice sessions etc., including 1:1 pods, small meeting rooms, and large flexible meeting spaces. This work is being supported by £200k grant funding from Arts Council England that is enabling adaptations in libraries across the District including Manningham, Eccleshill, Bingley, Ilkley, Clayton, Menston, Laisterdyke, Shipley, Wyke. CIL funding will also be used to enhance the flexibility and facilities on offer at these and other libraries. Adaptations have already been made at Bingley, Wyke, Eccleshill, Shipley, Laisterdyke and Menston libraries as part of this programme.
- Keighley Library will benefit from the introduction of a Changing Places Facility, with CIL funding used to improve meeting room and kitchenette facilities. 2 glass meeting pods have already been added to the library for partner use.
- A review of library signage with a view to being more Dementia/Autism friendly – adaptations to be tried & tested at Shipley Library

Supporting Employment & Skills

Objective: Develop joint action plan with Skills For Work for working together - Assisting people back into employment

- ESOL classes now available in City, Laisterdyke and Manningham libraries
- Employment Advisors are based in several libraries on set dates.
- Employment Support Hub sessions held at Wibsey Library from 18th May, 6-week trial initially, organised with support from the team at Skills House and the Ward Officer
- Further libraries being identified for delivery of SFW and Family Learning courses – ongoing.
- 1-2-1 IT sessions offered in Keighley Library with Keighley Healthy Living

Objective: Establish Business & Intellectual Property Centre in City Library, with smaller BIPC hubs in Shipley and Keighley Libraries

- BIPC in City Library now up and running
- Keighley BIPC starting May/June 2023
- Shipley Enterprise Hub launching 24th November 2023 – funded through Shipley Towns Fund

Objective: Learn My Way basic IT course to be reinstated in Council libraries

- A new version of Learn my Way has been launched and most libraries are now offering this.

School Readiness (separate school readiness plan and early years offer prepared, shared and agreed with Family Hubs colleagues – positively received)**Objective: Support for Children 0-5 and their parents / carers**

- Rhyme times and Story times now running in most Council/hybrid libraries plus some Community Managed libraries.
- Rhyme time Challenge - Over 5,000 children and parents/carers took part in the Bradford Libraries Rhyme Challenge during 2022-23- 300 Rhyme Packs were sent out to over 240 childcare settings, toddler groups and libraries across the district. - 98% of parents said that the challenge had increased their child's speech and language skills.
- Story times and craft sessions in all our council led and community managed libraries.
- Story sacks now available for loan to general public and advertised to public and staff.
- Worked with Literacy Hub Stories Bus to promote Wibsey Library reopening. Day of activities on the bus at different stops in Wibsey with around 100 families taking part
- Stock of dual language picture books and board books reviewed and updated.
- Worked with BookTrust to implement the new BookTrust Library Offer - 19 libraries took part with activities and events at National tier in 2022 compared with 11 during 2021
- *Love Books Love Libraries* courses [4 visits to a library, one per week for four weeks with the same families. The families are chosen because they are not engaged with the library service. The sessions include rhymes, stories, crafts & refreshments and are used to encourage regular use of the library explain] undertaken with: City Library - Canterbury families; City Library - West Bowling families. Bolling Hall Library – St Johns Hub BD4 families
- Teddy Bears Picnics took place in 17 libraries over the Summer Holidays – July/August 2023
- Summer Reading Challenge took place in libraries across the district over the Summer Holidays – July/August 2023 – over 100 events and activities booked plus rewards for completing the challenge.
- Lego Club held monthly at Shipley Library from Sep 23 – run by volunteers from Kirkgate Centre
- Early Years Development Officer worked with *50 Things* to launch networking events in September and October (1 evening at Shipley and 1 at Keighley) for home educating families to meet/network and to promote library services including some guidance on using books and stories more holistically.
- Home Education Book Group at Shipley Library – Starts Wed 18th October – monthly – 2 groups will run for younger and older children.

Objective: Support for babies, re-natal to 24 months and their carers

- Automatic library membership for all new-borns now set in place with registration services.
- Baby Photo Booth sessions held to encourage use of new library card at City Library in May & July and Keighley Library in August

Objective: Support for babies, 25-60 months and their carers

- New BookTrust Targeted Offer for children living in low IMD areas:

- 1-2 years packs approx. 400 distributed through NHS Nursery Nurses who make home visits in the targeted postcodes. 600 gone out through settings, remainder through BUFA and EYA.
- 3-4 years gone out to approx. 100 settings in priority postcodes. 90% have gone out and feel confident that they will all be out within the next 2 months.

Tackling Social Isolation

Objective: Libraries offer a safe neutral space and provide a range of group activities that can appeal to people who feel socially isolated

- Knit and Natter & Craft groups run in 10 libraries.
- 112 reading groups (in libraries and other venues (pubs, care homes, schools and online). Looking to set up new reading groups for young people including teenagers with autism.
- Jigsaws and games available in libraries – additional purchased as part of Warm Libraries initiative
- Libraries offer discussion groups, space to meet, coffee morning, creative courses and workshops etc.
- Reading Well project for adults, teens and children (bibliotherapy)
- Shared performance and open mic sessions e.g. Poetry Open Mic July City Library, Sisterhood Festival City Library October
- Ilkley library has lendable Dementia friendly resources for those with Dementia and their carers. Dementia resources to be rolled out to other libraries – in discussion with Dementia Ilkley and Dementia Friendly Community Partnerships
- In discussions with Queer Saltire re ideas/suggestions for space for young people and teens to meet/share – LGBTQ+ - ongoing.
- Planning to hold Dungeons & Dragons gaming sessions in libraries
- Working towards *Libraries of Sanctuary* status for all Council libraries in 2024, reflecting support for refugees and asylum seekers

Reducing the Impact of Poverty

The Library Service provides community venues that host activities and provide information to reduce the impacts of poverty. Libraries provide free access to IT –used by people who lack It facilities at home and a free, warm place with no limit to dwell time during opening hours:

- Free and low-cost activities for adults and families
- Guidance and support with key online transactions – assisted digital support.
- Virtual welfare advice sessions using Teams piloted in Shipley Library
- All Council Libraries providing warm space, hot drinks, and activities as part of wintertime Warm Spaces initiative
- National Databank from the Good Things Foundation is supplying prepaid Sim cards for those who cannot afford data for their phones
- Working with foodbanks and community-led food initiatives - fruit is given out at some story time sessions. Fruit and refreshments provided at Health & Wellbeing events – funded by Asda, Shipley Town Council and Living Well – well received by attendees.
- Promoting Warm Homes, Healthy people energy and fuel poverty scheme
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle .. REPLAY! – sessions within libraries for home ed families looking at environmental/nature themed stories and poems and a craft activity using household recycling (e.g. jars/packageing etc).
- Investigating Period Poverty project re free supply of products for libraries – ongoing research

