

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

29 JANUARY 2013

SUBJECT:	LEASOWE LIBRARY HEALTH AND WELLBEING DEVELOPMENT UPDATE
WARD/S AFFECTED:	LEASOWE AND MORETON EAST
REPORT OF:	INTERIM DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
KEY DECISION	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report updates Members on the work being undertaken with The Reader Organisation in piloting a Reading and Well Being Library at Leasowe. The work is being undertaken with the support of Public Health.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 Cabinet on 21 June 2012 (minute 31) agreed for the Leasowe Reading and Well Being Library pilot to proceed. This supported the proposal by the Director of Public Health for the development of a number of libraries in Wirral into places where, in addition to traditional library resources, local people would also be able to support their wellbeing. Leasowe as the initial library would help develop the approach.
- 2.2. This built on the Cabinet budget proposals of 21 February 2012 (minute 317) which proposed work on a new library model based on delivering “soft” social care, education and community development. This was to be carried out in partnership with the Director of Public Health and piloted at one library with the aim of replicating it across the entire library network.
- 2.3 The Reader Organisation is supported by a budget policy option, (minute 317, 21 Feb 2012) for the Get Into Reading initiative, of £100,000. The authority has a service level agreement with the Organisation which is monitored by the Library Services Manager and this work is a direct extension to that.
- 2.4 The appendix to this report has been compiled by The Reader Organisation as the key delivery partner in this project. It gives members an up to date view of the work already done by The Reader Organisation, Public Health and the Library service. It details the work that will be ongoing during the remaining period of this pilot. This highlights the progress made and the consultations undertaken. There is a new timetable in place at Leasowe, which has more than trebled available activities on site.
- 2.5 The next phase of planned activities is also detailed. This includes advancing the Well Being Library via outreach work. There will also be work with the library service, including local Home Reader Service development and the expansion of local volunteers supporting the library staff.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 The considered risk for this project is balancing the success and potential long term benefit it can bring set against the short term additional costs or service impact. These will be considered as part of the evaluation of the pilot by all parties.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 None for the purpose of the pilot and a wider review will take place if the model is to be further developed.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 Consultation work is detailed in the appendix.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

6.1 Local groups are engaged in the development of this work and the experience gained will be used at other sites if developed further.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

7.1 Financial - - the funding for the project is £56,893 from Wirral PCT and is no direct cost to the Council. The Reader Organisation looks to enhance this via grants from charitable trusts and other bodies

7.2. Staffing - Library staff work with The Reader Organisation project worker in developing local community links and this will be assessed for future roll out.

7.3. IT – there are none arising from this report.

7.4. Assets - Work is underway, led by the Head of Asset Management, along with the Registered Social Landlord that occupies part of the facility, with regard to the development of the Library One Stop Shop facility on site.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 An initial impact review is shown below and the overarching assessments for libraries can be found at the following link:

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/finance>

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION

12.1 That Members note the report and the work being undertaken.

13.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

13.1 That members are aware of the work being undertaken in this pilot and how it will support the wider public health agenda

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APPENDIX

The Reader Organisation Update on development work at Leasowe

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet	20 December 2012
Cabinet	21 June 2012
Council	01 March 2012
Cabinet	12 February 2012

Leasowe Library Health & Wellbeing development update

1. Background

- The Reader Organisation (TRO) has been successfully working in partnership with Wirral Library Service and Wirral PCT since 2002, delivering Get Into Reading (GIR) groups across the borough. These weekly, read aloud reading groups provide stimulating, friendly and non-pressured environments where group members can come together and connect with literature, and each other, across social, educational and cultural boundaries. 108 weekly sessions currently take place in Wirral every week, and have proven to significantly improve the health and wellbeing of those who attend.
- Building on this successful partnership, in early 2012, The Reader Organisation submitted a proposal to work alongside Wirral MBC and Wirral PCT to pilot a new library model that would extend the current reach of both Wirral library services and TRO's local shared reading provision. Developing the first reading and wellbeing library of its kind, the purpose of this pilot partnership project would be to see how the inviting, non-stigmatised, non-clinical community space that a community library represents could be adapted to provide a new service that would build public engagement and reduce health and educational inequalities in the local area.
- Wirral Library Service and selected Leasowe Library for this pilot, presenting partners with a fantastic opportunity to challenge the conventional notion of what a library service can do. With national significance, this model projects offers an exciting opportunity to show how an innovative library service can significantly improve the quality of people's lives within one of the most disadvantaged areas of the Borough.

2. Progress:

- The first stage of this project has been to consult with partner organisations, local organisations and local community members about the project with the focus being on developing a new timetable of activity in the library. Following consultation, the activity in the library has been increased from 4 activities per week to 13 activities per week:

Day	AM	PM	Evening
Monday	Baby Bounce & Rhyme	After School Reading Group for Young People	Available
Tuesday	Current GIR group	After School Reading Group for Young people	Available
Wednesday	Wriggle Time Tips to Winter Wellness	Looking After Me (Expert Patient Programme) Health Trainer Drop-in	Available

		Session	
Thursday	Chair-Based Exercise	Coffee Club Get Into Reading Group for Older Adults	Available
Friday	St. Chad's Church Outreach Reading Group	After School Reading Group for Young People	Available
Saturday	Available	Fernleigh Outreach Reading Group	Available

- The new activity established is a combination of health, education and social activity. The activity established on Wednesday will utilise the library when it was currently closed.
- The After School Reading Group and Get Into Reading Group have been established since November 2012 – with the After School Reading Group engaging 20 young people and the Get Into Reading Group for Older Adults engaging 8 people. In addition to this, The Reader Organisation delivered a Half-Term project for Young People which engaged 15 individuals.
- The health activity, which includes – chair-based exercise, wriggle time, tips to winter wellness, looking after me (expert patient programme) and health drop-in session, to start w/c 14th Jan 2013.
- The outreach activity, which includes – Fernleigh and St. Chad's Outreach Reading Group will start February 2013.
- Feedback from activity already established has been positive, with beneficiaries making the following comments:

“I like coming to Bookworms because when you read to us I can close my eyes and pretend I'm somewhere else. It's like I'm here but in my head too. And I love it when we read “A Mouse And His Child” and you said I could be the mouse child and we acted it out and then I got a swing and I was good at remembering everything that happened in the book the week before, like the sad tramp looking in the window. Remember? The games we play are good too and I liked making the sparkle snakes!”

L, aged 7

“I was wondering if I could volunteer to help out at Bookworms when I am here? I have been telling people all the new things that are happening in the library so I think I would make a good volunteer. It's good that you are thinking of doing something for older kids because a lot of the boys I know are starting to take drugs and just do nothing except hang about and I don't want to be like that. I'm not like that.”

J, aged 12, Bookworm attendee and volunteer helper

“This is marvellous, the library staff told me about it and I just thought I'd give it a go. The soup is a bonus, just coming here and listening to a story and one I wouldn't

dream of picking up at home, it's brilliant. I can't stop thinking about the one we read about the granddad looking after all the kids and him saying about him thinking about his wife and whether she had any dreams of escaping, you could hear yourself in that story if you know what I mean. And when we read "A Christmas Carol" do you remember I asked the staff here to order me a copy of the Dickens biography as soon as we finished Bite Club. I'm taking this story home with me too because I want to have another think about it."

F, attends Bite Club every Thursday. (As a result of joining Bite Club F has also signed up for the Healthy Cookery sessions that are starting w/c 14th January)

"What I think you are really trying to do here at this library is create something that we all thought we had lost years ago. Neighbourliness."

K, who attends Book at Breakfast

"That was fantastic thank you! I love that you read slowly and we read bits out again. Before going blind I used to read all the time so this is perfect for me."

J, Bite Club

"I can't believe how much I enjoyed that. I'll be honest I was nervous about coming because, well I can't read very well at all, so to be able to follow along with you while you read is great. I'm not able to work at the moment because I have depression and I have good days and bad but I don't ever get to talk about how I'm feeling because people don't always understand. It was lovely just to be able to relax and be in the story you know.

D, New Attendee Bite Club

2.1. Training

The majority of Library Staff based at Leasowe Library have now received Health and Well-Being and Health Champion Training from Wirral Community Health Care Trust. This will help ensure users of the library service are signposted into health activity delivered on All Day Wednesday and Thursday Morning.

2.2. Apprenticeship

Through funding from Wirral PCT, Wirral Apprenticeship Fund and The Reader Organisation's Community Fundraising Programme, we have successfully raised sufficient funding to employ an apprentice who will be based at Leasowe Library. This will provide the opportunity to test out how apprentices can be involved in the delivery of the library service.

3. Next Phase of Planned Activity

Following the establishment of core timetable of activity, the next phase of implementation will involve the establishment of the following activity:

- **Home Reader Service:** We would seek to extend the existing library provision of the Home Reader Service through the augmentation of a volunteer scheme. We would offer existing and new customers the opportunity of a volunteer visiting their home to spend time reading aloud with them. This would be developed in partnership with Leasowe Community Homes who could help identify individuals who would benefit from such a service. This would provide a regular supportive social engagement to an isolated

community member. All volunteers would receive specialist training from The Reader Organisation.

- **Library Outreach Activity:** We will work with library staff to identify outreach activities in addition to Get Into Reading groups which will increase usage of Leasowe Library.
- **A Little, Aloud Training:** We will provide local residents, especially parents with 'A Little, Aloud' training. This training builds individuals skills and confidence to read aloud with their children. The training is centred upon our recently published book 'A Little, Aloud', edited by Angela Macmillan. This book is an anthology of short stories/prose extracts and poems ideally suited for reading aloud to children. We will deliver these sessions on a quarterly basis.
- **Cultural Activity:** In line with recommendations following the recent consultation between the council and the library service, the extended hours would assist in targeting 16-25 year-olds through the provision of a Film Club. This builds on recommendations made by Mary Quigg of Leasowe Community Homes that there is currently a shortage of evening activity available to this target group.
- **Volunteer 'One to One' Reading:** We would seek to recruit and train local volunteers to read on a one to one basis with local children. The nurturing process of reading on a one to one basis with a child can be hugely beneficial and encourages children to form early positive relationships with books and reading that can be carried on throughout their lives.
- **Further Staff Training:** Read to Lead training (to deliver shared reading groups), which has already received by two library staff, will be rolled out to other members of staff in order to implement the development of a range of new reading groups which can then be handed over to library staff facilitators.
- **Book Offer:** A key offer of Leasowe Library is books. We aim to secure external funding which will enable us to purchase much needed new book stock for Leasowe Library. To increase the relevance and appropriateness of stock available in the library, book selection will be based on consultation with current Library users, staff and local schools. The consultation process with library users will begin in October 2012 with a survey regarding library use and reading interests. This will be followed up by focus groups with community members in October and November.

4. Entrepreneurial Culture

- The existing Leasowe Library provision is nearly all funded by Wirral MBC (95%+). The Reader Organisation will work with staff from Leasowe Library and Wirral Library Service to develop new funding streams to support Leasowe Libraries development. This will include community fundraising initiatives, grant funding from charitable trusts, funding from other public sector organisations such as Arts Council England. The partnership with The Reader Organisation will help access other non-Wirral MBC funding streams.
- This project is partially funded by Wirral PCT which helps to encourage and demonstrate how Leasowe Library can secure new non-Wirral MBC funding streams.

5. Opening Hours

- The Reader Organisation will work with Wirral Library Service to increase the opening hours of Leasowe Library. We wish to explore opening the building on Wednesday and also in the evening. This will be achieved through a mixed model of TRO Staff, Wirral Library Staff and Volunteers.

6. Impact

- By the end of the project, The Reader Organisation will have achieved the following outcomes & outputs:
 - Average number of daily users visiting Leasowe Library increases by 10%
 - Individuals engaging in the project will report the following improvements:
 - 70% report improvements in their reading confidence
 - 75% report improvements in their social functioning
 - 70% report improvements in their wellbeing
- The Reader Organisation will capture these results through a combination of survey's, focus groups and monitoring forms.

Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (May 2012)

Section 1: Your details

EIA lead Officer: Julie Barkway

Email address: juliebarkway@wirral.gov.uk

Head of Section: Malcolm Flanagan

Chief Officer: Peter Timmins

Department: Finance

Date: 9th January 2013

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

Leasowe Library Health & Wellbeing development

Section 2b: Will this EIA be submitted to a Cabinet or Overview & Scrutiny Committee?

Yes

If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date

Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny 29/1/13

And please add hyperlink to your published EIA on the Council's website

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/finance>

Section 3: Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)

X **Services**

X **The workforce**

X **Communities**

X **Other** (please state Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector)

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

None (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4: Does the proposal have the potential to maintain or enhance the way the Council (please tick relevant boxes)

X Eliminates unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation

X Advances equality of opportunity

X Fosters good relations between groups of people

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 5.

No (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 5:

Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any of the protected groups (race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
All people who live on the Leasowe estate and beyond	Potential positive. This initiative is fundamentally inclusive and aims to provide a multi-service approach to tackle health and educational inequalities in an area of high deprivation	Regular review by partner steering group to ensure specified targets and outcomes are being met.	Fiona Johnston (Public Health)	Three phases complete launch of new facility - early 2013	Funding via Public Health
Protected Groups	Potential positive. Reading groups, creative activities etc. Specifically targeted towards listed vulnerable groups with the specific aim of narrowing the gap in life opportunities.	Regular review as above		From October 2012 for 12 months	Funding via public health. Staffing. Volunteers assistance.

Section 5a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

Quantitative and qualitative outcomes are regularly evaluated by a multi-partner steering group specifically formed for this purpose

Section 5b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

Monitoring and evaluation have been built into this innovative project from the start and there is an identifiable process in place to ensure any potential problems would be highlighted and immediately addressed. The whole reasoning behind the initiative is to redress issues leading to health and educational inequality. The components of the proposal have all been positive in engaging with communities within their own right, it is anticipated that effect of combining these activities will result in the overall impact being greater than the sum of the parts

Section 6: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

TRO funded research into health inequality in Wirral and beyond – University of Liverpool.
The Reading Agency Health and Wellbeing strategic report 2012 and other national library reading and well-being research papers.

JSNA information for Wirral Corporate Plan

Public Health Outcomes Framework

Wirral Public Health Annual Plan

Public Health Nice Guidance (PH6 AND PH9)

The Wirral Mental Wellbeing Study (2009)

Section 7: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?

Yes – (please delete as appropriate)

If 'yes' please continue to section 8.

If 'no' please state your reason(s) why:

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 8: How will consultation take place and by when?

The trial of this innovative project for one year is to allow the new way of working to embed itself. It is subject to regular review and evaluation. Consultation is taking place as the initial work has begun to see how it impacts on the local community and if it is achieving its goals. A consultation exercise was undertaken by the RSL on the estate with residents regarding services.

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it's legal requirements. The EIA will be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 5. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for re-publishing.