



**Community Libraries  
Network**

**EXPLORING  
COMMUNITY  
MANAGED LIBRARY  
MODELS**



# MISSION OF CMLNPN

The Community Managed Libraries National Peer Network helps community managed libraries (CMLs) to run effectively and successfully by sharing ideas, learning, experiences and inspiration.

## Our Vision

To help community managed libraries thrive in their communities.

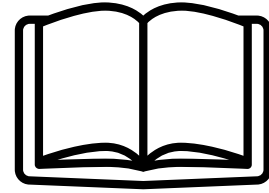
We want community managed libraries to

- be aware of, and able to grasp opportunities such as funding and advice
- provide mutual support and learning
- operate as effectively as possible, to make them sustainable in the long term

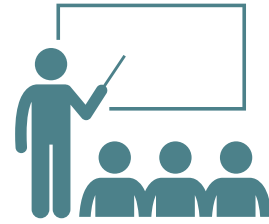
## What we do

- help community managed libraries to learn from each other, exchange information and good practice
- collaborate to run learning and networking events
- create and share resources of benefit to community managed libraries
- provide a voice to raise issues that matter to community managed libraries
- draw on learning and good working practices from other peer networks





**LIBRARIES STRATEGY**



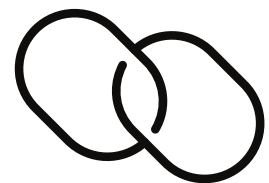
**TRAINING & GUIDANCE**



**LEADING COMMUNITY SPACES**



**AWARDS PROGRAMME**



**COMMUNITY HUB DEVELOPMENT**



**PEER SUPPORT**

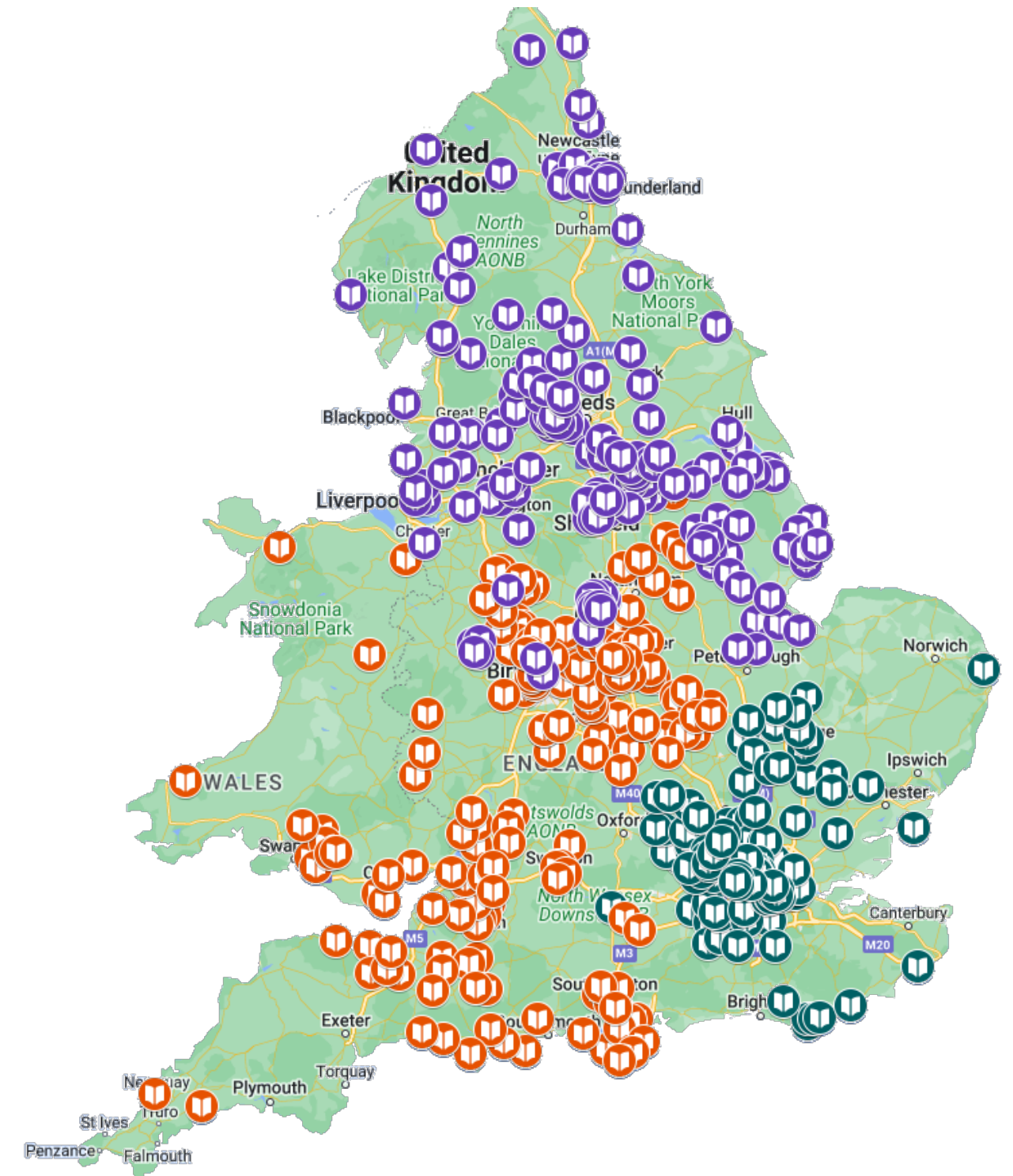
# THE SCALE OF THE NETWORK

642  
COMMUNITY  
LIBRARIES

EXPERIENCE 

KNOWLEDGE 

Power 



# NATIONAL CONTEXT

20K

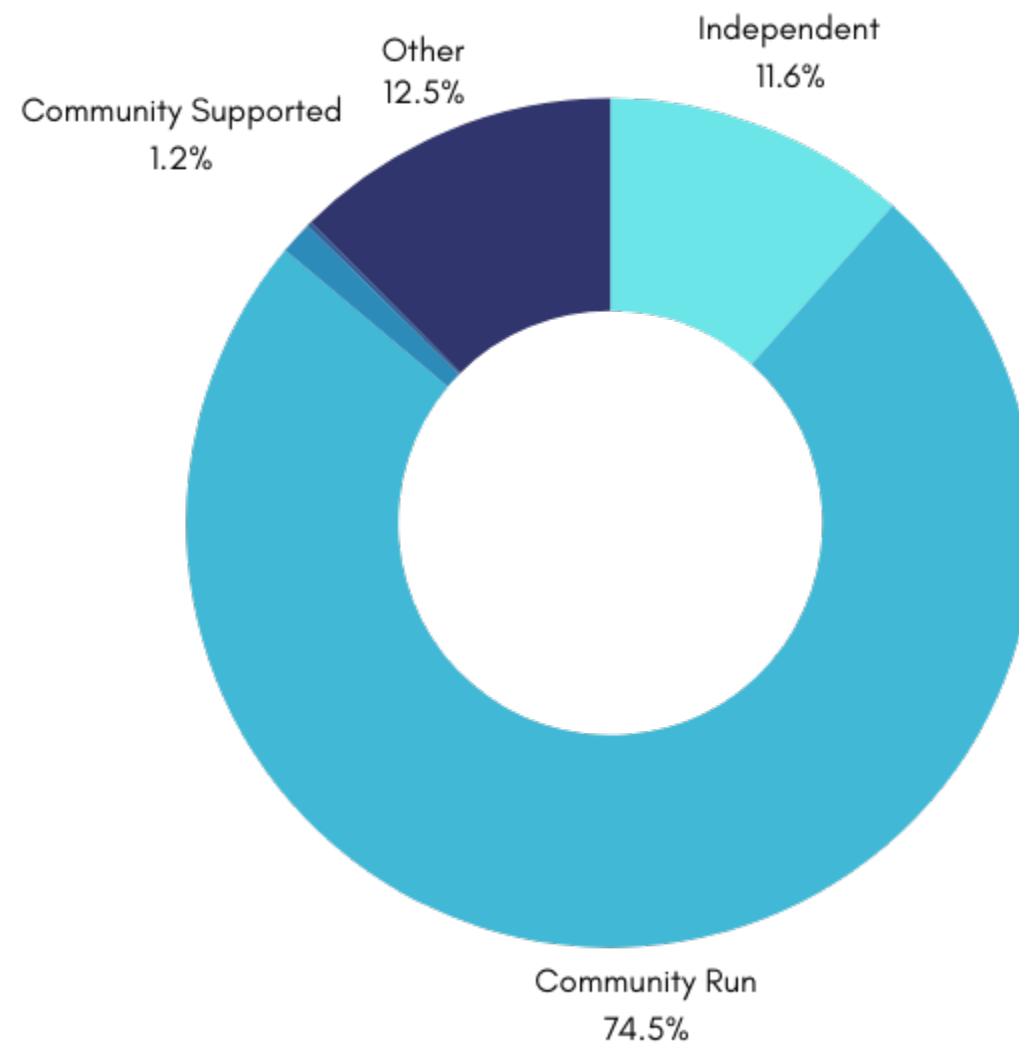
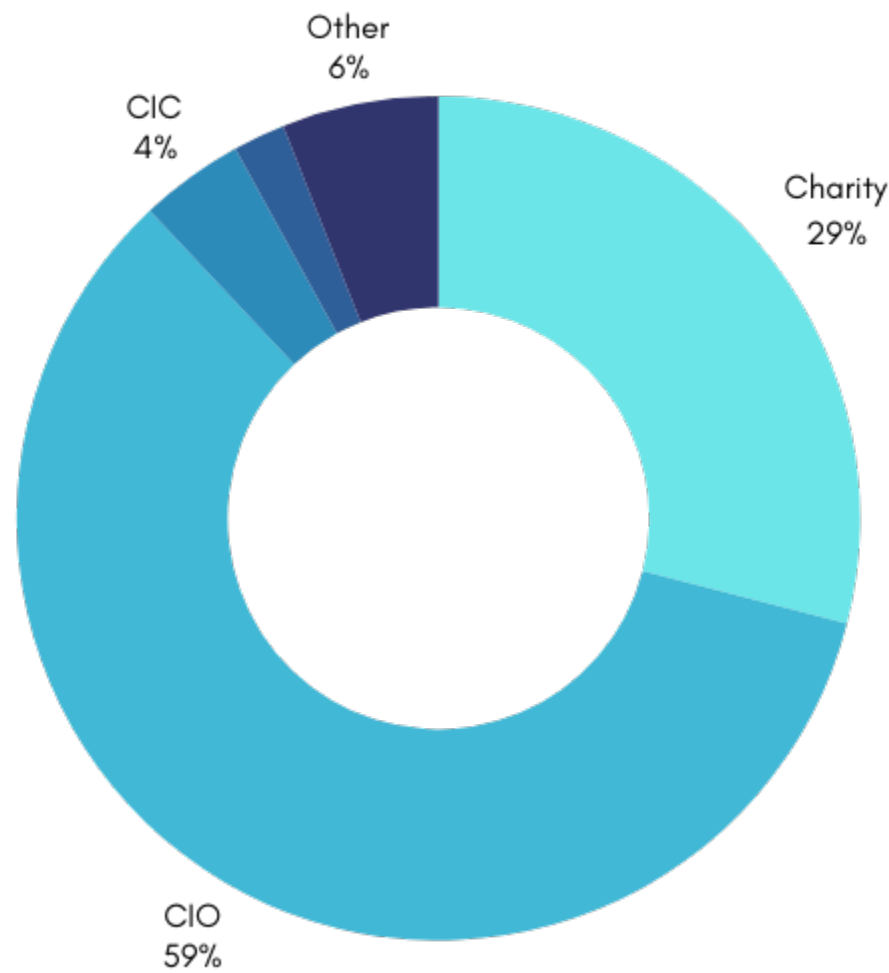
VOLUNTEERS

467

PAID STAFF



97% VOLUNTEER POWERED





# MEMBERSHIP SCHEM



By becoming a member of the Community Libraries Network, you are not only supporting your own organisation, you are supporting community libraries across England & Wales to grow and thrive.

# COMMUNITY HUB DEVELOPMENT

Develop activities, services and income streams to ensure sustainability & resilience

- Diversifying into Community Hubs
- Self-generating income from multiple sources whether that be trusts & grants, trading income corporate & individual giving, council contracts etc.
- This should always be done in consultation with local communities.



# RECOGNITION

Shout about your successes and achievements!

Libraries are not always the best at celebrating the great work that they do.

Be vocal about your achievements both individually and collectively, as displaying your positive impact is beneficial for all partners involved in delivering community focussed library services.





# JESMOND COMMUNITY LIBRARY

**Model:** Independent Community Library

**Ownership :** The building is leased by the Friends of Jesmond Library from Newcastle City Council

**Location :** Jesmond Library, St George's Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2DL

**Contact information :** [chrisclarkenewbrough@gmail.com](mailto:chrisclarkenewbrough@gmail.com)  
/ [enquiries@jesmondlibrary.org](mailto:enquiries@jesmondlibrary.org)

**Website :** [www.jesmondlibrary.org](http://www.jesmondlibrary.org)

Jesmond Library is open for **three days a week** as a normal public library, with just over **10,000 books**, newspapers and a seating area, a popular children's area, coffee machine, People's Network public access computers, a photocopier and two well-used community meeting rooms. Room bookings and events organised in the community rooms and main library space take place both during normal library hours, and usually in the evenings and on the other four days a week as well. No paid staff are employed; we currently have about **85 volunteers**.

The library operates independently from the local authority, from which it receives no ongoing revenue funding, and so is not part of the statutory library network. Nevertheless, the Friends have had significant advice and help from a number of council officers and councillors and choose to pay for the council to maintain various building maintenance services.

When the library re-opened, the council donated most of the book stock and furniture to us. The Friends now spend about **£4,000 a year on purchasing new (and some second hand) books**, as recommended by a book buying group of library users.

The Friends cover normal running costs from a variety of sources, with the largest contributions coming from regular voluntary monthly or annual donations from supporters, room hire, and events organised by volunteers. Extra fundraising, such as grants and special appeals, is used to fund capital improvements to the building. The Friends hold the building on a **20 year lease** from the council. The council is responsible for keeping the roof in good repair, but otherwise the friends are responsible for all building maintenance, repairs and running costs.



# DENTON WEST END COMMUNITY LIBRARY

**Model:** Independent Community Library

**Ownership :** The building was purchased from the council in 2013

**Location :** Windsor Road, Dane Bank, Denton M34 2HB

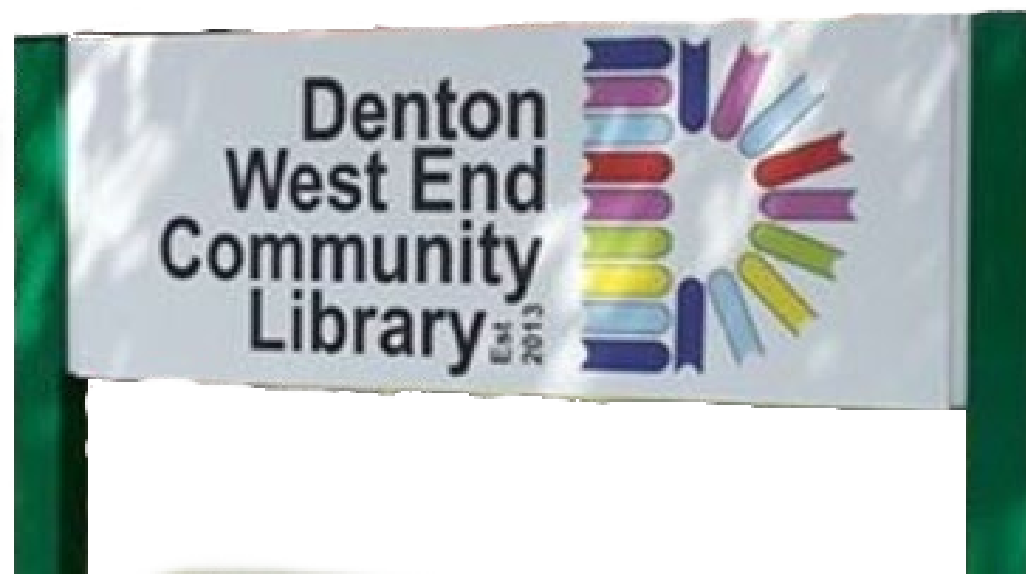
**Contact information :** [dweclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:dweclibrary@gmail.com)

**Website :** [www.friendsofdenton-westendlibrary.co.uk](http://www.friendsofdenton-westendlibrary.co.uk)

They generate **£19,000 a year** to support running costs, through a combination of grants and donations.

**£12,500 a year** is raised through trading activities including:

- Book Sales
- Events
- Tuck Shop
- Room Hire
- Clubs and Craft activities
- Raffles



Denton West End Community Library is a vibrant **Community Hub** offering a range of activities and services to their community:

- **Connect with your community:** Join our lively choir, knit and natter group, or discover new hobbies with our regular arts and crafts activities.
- **Keep fit and healthy:** Drop in to a yoga session, relax at a sound bath or join a family fitness session
- **Stay informed and entertained:** Attend community cinema nights, participate in engaging workshops, and enjoy rhyme time for little ones.
- **Get things done:** Access computers, printing, and photocopying services for all your needs.



# OTHER CML CASE STUDIES...

You can find other case studies exploring different models of Community Managed Libraries on our website

Hanwell Community Library

[www.communitylibrariesnetwork.org/case-study/hanwell-community-library](http://www.communitylibrariesnetwork.org/case-study/hanwell-community-library)

Werrington Community Managed Library Wellbeing Centre

[www.communitylibrariesnetwork.org/case-study/werrington-community-managed-library-wellbeing-centre](http://www.communitylibrariesnetwork.org/case-study/werrington-community-managed-library-wellbeing-centre)

## Community Hubs

Earlsdon Carnegie Community Library

[www.communitylibrariesnetwork.org/case-study/community-hub-development-earlsdon-carnegie-community-library](http://www.communitylibrariesnetwork.org/case-study/community-hub-development-earlsdon-carnegie-community-library)

Upper Norwood Library Hub

[www.communitylibrariesnetwork.org/case-study/community-hub-development-upper-norwood-library-hub](http://www.communitylibrariesnetwork.org/case-study/community-hub-development-upper-norwood-library-hub)

# CONTACTING US...

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RNC (South West, West Midlands, East Midlands & Wales):  
[jane.swindall@communitylibrariesnetwork.org](mailto:jane.swindall@communitylibrariesnetwork.org)

Website: [www.communitylibrariesnetwork.org](http://www.communitylibrariesnetwork.org)

Blog: <https://communitylibrariesnetwork.wordpress.com>

Twitter/X : @CommunityLibs

You can follow the Community Libraries Network on Eventbrite for future meetings & workshops: <https://bit.ly/3gbZklz>