

Section A - EQUALITY ANALYSIS TEMPLATE

You must complete this in conjunction with reading Equality Analysis Guidance

Name of Policy/Decision/Project/Activity: Review of the Schools Library Service current delivery model in Sunderland – non statutory service

Date: 8 Janaury 2021

Version Number: 1

Equality Analysis completed by:

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Job title: Library Manager

Responsible Officer or Group:

Name: Fiona Brown, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods

Is the Activity:

New/Proposed (x)

Changing/Being Reviewed (x)

Other ()

Part 1. Purpose and Scope

The review of the current delivery model for Schools Library Service in Sunderland which provides schools in the City access to library resources across the key stages.

Sunderland have three static Libraries operating from the City Library@Museum & Winter Gardens (also, Local History Library @ETR), Houghton Library and Washington Town Centre Library all supported by a robust digital offer.

Local authorities have a statutory duty under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 'to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons' in the area that want to make use of it (section 7). Local authorities have the power to offer wider library services beyond the statutory service to other user groups, and the Act allows for joint working between library authorities.

The Schools Library Service does not form part of the statutory Libraries Services offer in the City and has operated as a traded service for approximately two decades. The service has been running at an operation a loss for a number of years as schools in the City have not taken up the offer despite a number of campaigns to raise the profile of the service offer.

The Schools Library Service is situated in the west area of the City of Sunderland in the Sandhill Centre. The service is staffed by a 0.5 FTE Librarian (Grade 5) and 1.62 FTE Library Engagement Assistants (Grade 3) posts. The service has access to 1 FTE delivery driver.

Schools	Number of schools in Sunderland	No of subscribing in 2018 - 2019	No of subscribing in 2019 - 2020	No of subscribing in 2020 – 2021 (committed as of August 20)
Primary	83	49	42	31
Secondary	18	7	7	1
Nursery Schools	9	1	1	0
SEN Schools	6	1	1	0

Statutory Libraries Services has covered the financial losses previously but can no longer sustain these going forward from Quarter 1 2021.

There are currently only three other library authorities in the North- East who offer a Schools Library Service, namely Durham, North Tyneside and Northumberland. Other authorities have decommissioned their services over a period of years and supported schools with programme through the statutory Libraries Services offer.

The review will primarily affect only those who currently buy into the Schools Library Service, though the impact should have minimal, if at all any disruption. Proposed changes from Spring 2021

The Schools Library Service will not function from April 2021, the school improvement officers in TfC arrange distribution of physical resources directly to schools depending on academic need/weakness providing targeted response and opportunities for development.

The current Schools Library Services staffing will be deleted (2.12FTE).

The statutory Library Service will continue to support and promote key programme across all schools in the City, inviting engagement in World Book Day activities and programme, The Reading Agency annual Summer Reading Challenge, the annual Literature Festival, Northern Children's Book Festival with access to authors and illustrators as appropriate.

Together for children would not have access to the Library Management System.

Together for Children and the Libraries Services team (as appropriate) should be able to mitigate all any negative impacts.

Intelligence and Analysis

No consultation has been undertaken.

The resources will still be available to those schools who require access, they will not have access to the Library staff but would have access to professional staff within TfC.

During this last year during the Covid 19 pandemic additional digital resources were circulate across schools, these resources are not exclusive to the Schools Library Service and schools can access the resources directly. Some schools did still require deliveries but at the start of the pandemic the majority of schools asked for their book loans to be collected and did not want further deliveries. During the pandemic the Schools Library Service has regularly communicated with schools but with negligible uptake. It is not underestimated the challenge that schools have had over 2020/2021 and the need to move teaching resources online and provide access to pupils without equipment.

It continues to be important for statutory Libraries Services to engage with schools in the City. The library service is signed up and committed to deliver the Universal Library Offers that aim to connect communities, improve wellbeing and promote equality through learning, literacy and cultural activity, these include:

- Culture and Creativity
- Health and Wellbeing
- Information and Digital
- Reading

Alongside **the Children's Promise** to inspire children and young people to read for pleasure and to provide them with materials and activities to support their education and wellbeing.

Gaps in intelligence and information

A pilot children 'e' reading group will be set up in the spring, schools will be invited to engage with e reading groups, pupils will be able to engage independently or through a school group.

Whilst covid guidelines remain in place most activities, events and learning will be online, all access is free and can be tailored to specific needs. As the transition out of covid restrictions evolves pupils, young people and families will be encouraged to engage in a range of activities to stimulate learning and community activity.

Carers or childminders would use the public library service.

Additional Impacts

None known

Part 2. Analysis of Impact on People

Characteristic	List of Impacts		
	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Age		The resources that are currently available through the schools library service will still be available to those schools who need/want stock.	
Disability		No SEN schools have subscribed to the Schools Libraries Services. A range of mental health stock and resources available to schools.	
Gender/Sex		Because the existing stock is still available and appropriate for a range of groups there is neutral impact.	
Marriage & Civil Partnership		Because the existing stock is still available and appropriate for a range of groups there is neutral impact.	
Pregnancy and maternity		Because the existing stock is still available and appropriate for a range of groups there is neutral impact.	
Race/Ethnicity		Because the existing stock is still available and appropriate for a range of groups there is neutral impact. Stock available at all sites with authors from different ethnic backgrounds and in different languages. Stock available about different cultures	
Religion/belief		Because the existing stock is still available and appropriate for a range of groups there is neutral impact. Stock available in respect of different religions and beliefs	
Sexual Orientation		Because the existing stock is still available and appropriate for a range of groups there is neutral impact.	

Gender identity		Because the existing stock is still available and appropriate for a range of groups there is neutral impact.	
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Part 3. Response to Analysis, Action Plan and Monitoring

ACTION	WHO	WHEN	MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS
Promote public library membership for every child of school age and encourage parents to join the library too	Allison Clarke/ TfC Literacy Co-ordinators/ School Improvement Officers	Summer term 21 / new academic year Sept 21	