

**Report of: Fiona Titterington, Senior Communities Librarian – East Area**

**Report to: Inner East Community Committee – Burmantofts and Richmond Hill,  
Gipton and Harehills, Killingbeck and Seacroft**

**Date: 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

**Subject: Libraries update in Inner East Area – Compton Road, Seacroft, Crossgates**

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**Purpose of this report:**

1. This report is an update of the work of the Libraries and Information Service in the Inner East Area of the City, and will highlight work taking place in Compton Road, Seacroft and Crossgates libraries

**Background**

2. Leeds Library and Information Service provide 35 libraries across the city including a major Central library, as well as 6 mobile libraries, Library at Home service, a service for 3 prisons, and a school library service. The principle purpose is to *provide access to information, knowledge and varied reading choices through books, online resources and well informed staff*. The vision is *‘To provide the world at your fingertips’*: a physical place in the heart of the community, access to a virtual space using community and information networks and a friendly face to support and guide people to access whichever services they need.
3. Our work is underpinned by the Council’s Values: Working as a team for Leeds; Being open, honest and trusted; Working with communities; Treating people fairly; Spending money wisely. We have an Annual Service Plan, which outlines the priorities for the year ahead, with contributions from library teams’ city wide.
4. The service provides access to a wide range of books and electronic material recorded in the public access catalogue. Information provision incorporates electronic resources, also available online for library members, with individual enquiries supported locally or via Enquiry Express- an information hotline. A wide variety of basic learning sessions are offered at sites across the city along with a programme of local and national events that introduce people to libraries and their services. [www.leeds.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/libraries)

5. The objectives of Leeds Library & Information Service are to help people, both locally and regionally, of all ages and backgrounds in the following areas:
- Development of information handling skills
  - making informed decisions and so improve their quality of life
  - encouragement of innovation and creativity
  - contribution to personal, community and economic wellbeing

## **Main Issues**

### **6. Compton Road Library –**

- Successful 'shared reading' group to engage different groups in the community. Poetry produced.
- Northern Ballet 'Tortoise and Hare' community performance coming up.
- Lego/games club to be launched in September.
- Summer Reading Challenge Record Breakers has had 142 children joining the challenge so far.
- Craft session for children in partnership with Harehills Children's Centre.
- We now offer tablet learning sessions.

### **7. Seacroft Library –**

- Memory café sessions over 6 weeks have finished, but will be starting again soon.
- Northern Ballet 'Tortoise and Hare' community performance coming up.
- Weekly storytime for under 5's continuing.
- Breezereads Bookfest comics workshop session attended by 20 young people, 21<sup>st</sup> July.
- Summer Reading Challenge Record Breakers has had 69 children joining the challenge so far.
- Shared Reading sessions for mental wellbeing.
- The team has visited Sandal Library Wakefield. This is a 'dementia friendly' library. Some of the principles are being developed to apply to library services in Seacroft.
- We now offer IT tablet learning sessions.

### **8. Crossgates Library –**

- 'Saturdads' and 'Grandbuddies' sessions are continuing in partnership with Crossgates and Manston Children's Centre.
- Consultation exercise resulted in the change of the under 5's story time to Friday mornings. Attendance of children rose from 8 to 20 now.
- Summer Reading Challenge Record Breakers has had 146 children joining the challenge so far.
- Summer Reading Challenge event, 'Fun with telling tales', 27<sup>th</sup> August.
- We now offer IT tablet learning sessions.

### **9. Mobile Library Services in Inner East -**

- Details of current stops and times for the mobile library service in inner east are contained in **Appendix 1**. Mobile library provision, including the location

and length of stops, is subject to continuous review to ensure that the service and resources are deployed as effectively as possible.

**10. Looking forward:**

- We want to build on the popularity of Minecraft and Lego gaming clubs for children and young people, that already take place in some libraries
- Some libraries already have coding clubs, which are also successful, e.g. using 'Raspberry Pi's' technology.
- From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, the front-line staff and library building (apart from Central library and the mobile library service) passed over into the Citizens and Communities Directorate of Leeds City Council. This is a new way of working, to deliver more joined up services for the citizens of Leeds. Leeds Library and Information Service continues to deliver and provide community library services, events and activities, a quality bookstock, online resources, and free IT learning, which all contribute to life-changing opportunities.

**Conclusion**

11. The report provides an update on the activities of the Libraries and Information Service in Inner East Leeds. The work comprises a broad range of activities across Compton Road, Seacroft and Crossgates libraries.

**Recommendations**

12. The Community Committee is asked to receive an update from the Senior Communities Librarian for the North East Area, providing an update on some of the work libraries are delivering in local communities.
13. Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

**Background information**

- Not applicable