



Report of: Julie Wood, Senior Communities Librarian – North East Area

Report to: Outer North East Community Committee – Alwoodley, Harewood & Wetherby

Date: 7th September 2015

Libraries update in Outer North East Area – Boston Spa, Moor Allerton, Scholes and Wetherby

Purpose of this report:

1. This report is an update of the work libraries are doing in the Outer North East Area of the City, and will highlight work done in Boston Spa, Moor Allerton, Scholes, and Wetherby 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.

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. **Boston Spa Library** – We have a successful partnership with West Oaks School, who have a workshop in the library annexe, - 'WeCanDoCo'. The library provides an outlet to sell the products made by the students in the workshops as part of an enterprise initiative; and the profits are fed back into the project. More information can be found at, www.westoaksschool.co.uk/wecando.co.uk. A librarian works with pupils in the library in order to provide opportunities for students in 16+ to undertake real life work experience placements.
7. As part of the Summer Reading Challenge, four schools were visited to promote the challenge. – At West Oaks, two of the pupils from the 'WeCanDoCo' accompanied our librarian, and promoted the challenge throughout the school.
8. A Board Games event will take place in the library on 13th August, with a view to running this on a regular basis.
9. **Moor Allerton Library** – Ten schools were visited to promote the Summer Reading Challenge, with classes from local schools also visiting the library. Events have included:
 - Ping Pong Challenge – Over 30 people attended for an afternoon of record breaking fun
 - Breezereads Bookfest – An illustration workshop was led by a professional illustrator, Stephen Waterhouse, with over 20 attendees
10. A librarian has visited MaeCare, and delivered an IT session on how to use a Tablet, with more sessions planned.
11. There is a weekly Job Shop drop in session in the library, and customers can be referred to one of our IT Learning sessions for a basic course in using computers.
12. We are looking at setting up a 'Grand Buddies' club for grandparents in the autumn.
13. **Scholes Library** – The local school was visited to promote the annual Summer Reading Challenge.
14. A Lego event is planned for 17th August, with a view to a regular group meeting in the library.
15. **Wetherby Library** – Wetherby library staff have created a wonderful window display to promote the Summer Reading Challenge. – All local school assemblies have been visited by a librarian to speak to the children about joining the challenge.

16. A 'Record Breaking Challenge' event was held in July, with over 20 attendees.

17. Our librarian has delivered sessions on how to use a Tablet with W.I.S.E. and the Laptop Loungers.

18. A Comic Club is planned for the autumn, after requests from local children.

Conclusion

19. 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.