

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURAL SERVICES****LIBRARIES FOR THE FUTURE: AN ARTS COUNCIL FUNDED PROJECT AT MANSFIELD LIBRARY****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Members of the progress of the Libraries for the Future project at Mansfield Central Library.

**Information and Advice**

2. Nottinghamshire Libraries, in partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council's Arts Service and Near Now (part of the Broadway cinema), was successful in applying to the Arts Council's Grants for the Arts Libraries Fund in Autumn 2013.
3. Broadway is a leading centre for creative media and digital innovation for Central England attracting 400,000 visits annually. Near Now, Broadway's commissioning and artist development programme, produces new work from leading national and international practitioners working at the cutting edge of art, design and technology.
4. £15,000 was awarded by the Arts Council, with financial support also given by the Arts Service (£3,711) and Near Now (£4,365) for a project to run from January 2014 to December 2014.
5. The project involved working with Near Now to explore how digital technologies and creative media can be used to engage library audiences playfully and creatively. Based at Nottinghamshire's Mansfield Central Library, it included:
  - a research period involving library staff, to understand and develop our digital capacity
  - an artistic residency where an artist and creative technologist (Polymath) produced an interactive prototype installation in response to the research
  - a creative summer school for 12-17 year olds run by Codasign to produce playful inventions.
6. Near Now and the project's creative producer, We are Unstuck, ran workshops with library staff members at Mansfield Central Library, to engage with them and carry out the research phase about library use of technology and staff skills and confidence in engaging with it.

7. Polymath developed three concepts for the artistic installation which were shared at the library and received feedback from both library staff and customers. The responses helped to shape the prototype which was then shared at the library to a very positive response. The prototype was then modified again following those responses and the installation was created.
8. A Mega Intelligent Learning Organism called MILO was unveiled at Mansfield Central Library on 6 September to great interest from and engagement with customers.
9. MILO is an 'alien' who library staff will be able to programme to interact with customers and record their responses. This has great potential and will be able to be used for all types of information provision and consultation in the library.
10. The Summer School also took place with six young people engaging with digital coding and creative sessions. This was also an opportunity for our staff to gain skills in this arena, which has a place in the new national curriculum.
11. The project has also been filmed by Dimension 2, who are producing a film which will be shown at the Broadway cinema in September/October as a pre-feature reel and will also be available on the web.
12. The project has been photographed by photographer David Severn, who spent time in Mansfield Central Library capturing the different ways the library is used by many different people. The photographs will result in a touring exhibition in Mansfield, West Bridgford and Worksop Libraries starting in Mansfield in January 2015.
13. A final evaluation report will be produced in the Autumn for the project and an event will be arranged to celebrate and launch MILO.

### **Other Options Considered**

14. As this is a report for noting, it is not necessary to consider other options.

### **Reason's for Recommendation/s**

15. The report is for noting only.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

16. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Implications for Service Users**

17. Service users at Mansfield Central Library will have a new, creative and playful way of interacting with the library service.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the progress of the Libraries for the Future project at Mansfield Central Library be noted.

**Derek Higton**

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## **Constitutional Comments**

18. As this report is for noting only, no constitutional comments are required.

## **Financial Comments (KLA 19/09/14)**

19. There are no financial implications arising as a direct result of this report.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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