

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROMISE – PUBLIC LIBRARY
SERVICES OFFER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform the Committee of recommendations resulting from the publication of the Children and Young People's Promise in Public Libraries.

Information and Advice

2. The Children and Young People's Promise sets out the public library services offer to children and young people from birth to 18 years. It was produced by ASCEL, the Association of Senior Children's and Education Librarians, in May 2015.
3. ASCEL is the national membership network of senior managers in children and young people's public library services and school library services in the UK. Their aim is to lead to excellence in library services for children and young people and schools.
4. The Children and Young People's Promise's stated vision is based on six key principles:
 - Every child and young person visiting a public library is inspired by an exciting accessible environment which makes reading for pleasure irresistible
 - They have the opportunity to engage with imaginative digital opportunities through public libraries, building their skills, knowledge and creativity
 - They will find a range of inclusive and diverse fiction and non-fiction books and other information resources to support growing confidence in literacy and formal and informal learning
 - They are able to take part in a wide range of literacy and cultural experiences including reading and book-based activities
 - They are actively involved in decisions about service developments and are offered opportunities to volunteer
 - They are supported through library services and activities to improve their health and wellbeing.
5. The Promise sets out the 'library journey' that children should experience as they grow. Public Libraries welcome children from birth, helping parents and carers to support them as

they grow and learn. Working with schools, school library services, local and national partnerships, libraries provide a range of activities, programmes and initiatives which extend the child's library experience as they grow. ASCEL has drawn these together into a single 'library journey' that every child can enjoy – all focused on the best outcomes for the child.

6. The journey comprises six stages:
 - Pre-natal to birth
 - Pre-school
 - Transition to primary school
 - Out of school engagement with primary aged children
 - Transition to secondary school
 - Out of school engagement with secondary school children.
7. For each stage the main areas in which libraries can interact with the child are stated and the potential outcomes identified.
8. For example at the pre-school stage, interaction includes inspiring parents to read and rhyme with their child, to form a lifelong reading habit and give parents space and time to spend time bonding with babies and building parental confidence. The outcomes include enhancing life outcomes for children, supporting attachment, resilience, emotional health and wellbeing, building resilience and character, speech, language communication development, early literacy and school readiness.
9. To encourage authorities to ensure a level of excellence in their children and young people's library service provision they have been invited to sign up to the Promise to demonstrate their commitment to it. To date 90% of public library authorities have signed up to the Promise including Nottinghamshire.
10. ASCEL has produced a self-assessment tool to enable library services to measure their children's provision against the statements in the Promise. The assessment can be used service-wide or for specific libraries.
11. The Children and Young People's Promise also links to the national public library Universal Offers produced by the Society of Chief Librarians:
 - Reading Offer: books and reading focused promotions for under-fives and older children linking to the calendar spikes of the reading offer
 - Learning Offer and Digital Offer: space and resources for formal and informal learning including digital skills and creativity and e-safety
 - Health Offer: health information and support for children's well-being, social and emotional development and children and young people's mental health lists
 - Information Offer: Access to Information and signposting for parents
 - Six Steps: provision of accessible resources for children in libraries.
12. The Promise also reflects the principles of Arts Council England's 7 Quality Principles for work with children and young people:
 - Striving for excellence

- Emphasising authenticity
 - Being inspiring, and engaging
 - Ensuring a positive child-centred experience
 - Actively involving children and young people
 - Providing a sense of personal progression
 - Developing a sense of ownership and belonging.
13. The Strategy for Nottinghamshire Libraries was approved by County Council on 15 December 2011. The Strategy states outcomes that children and young people can expect from Nottinghamshire libraries:
- Ensure libraries are child and young people safe and friendly
 - Develop the core collections with consultation with children and young people
 - Provide regular activities and events at level 1 libraries, and support the developments at all libraries in line with community demand and available resources
 - Exploit national reading initiatives such as Bookstart and the Summer Reading Challenge to encourage reading for pleasure as a key intervention to improve literacy levels
 - Develop good relationships between local libraries and their catchment schools, facilitating regular visits where possible.
14. Since its approval the Strategy has under-pinned the service's annual business plans.
15. The Strategy has positioned the Council and the service well to respond to developing services for children and young people which has enabled the service to positively meet the expectations from the Children and Young People's Promise.
16. In Nottinghamshire the self-assessment tool has been used on a county wide basis to measure the existing service offer to highlight areas of excellence and opportunities for further development.
17. There are currently 51,500 active child borrowers, which comprise 30% of the total number of borrowers. In the last 12 months children borrowed over 1,100,000 items from County libraries. In 2014-15, 164,000 people attended 5,800 events for children. Over 10,000 children took part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge, a national reading initiative with over 55% of participants completing the Challenge and reading six books over the summer. Over 9,000 children received Bookstart packs as part of the national Bookstart gifting scheme for young children. Over 1,000 child members completed an online satisfaction survey in autumn 2014 with over 90% stating a satisfaction with libraries and staff helpfulness.
18. The Promise will be used to inform service business plans for 2016-17 onwards.

Other Options Considered

19. The report is for noting only.

Reason's for Recommendation/s

20. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

21. 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 services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, 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

22. The Children and Young People's Promise sets out the experience children and young people of all ages should have through public libraries. Nottinghamshire Library Service is committed to ensuring that children and young people receive the highest quality of library services.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the recommendations resulting from the publication of the Children and Young People's Promise be noted.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Carol Newman
Team Manager Library and Arts Service Development
Tel. 0115 982 9040
E: carol.newman@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments

23. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (SS 23/12/15)

24. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Children and Young People's Promise – ASCEL, May 2015
A Strategy for Nottinghamshire Libraries – report to County Council on 15 December 2011.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0759