

APPENDIX 3 (B)

Case Study and additional strategic narrative 2018-19 Annual Standards Report Caerphilly County Borough Library Service

Good impact case studies are expected to include evidence that the library service has made a positive difference to an individual (or group of individuals). This would normally go beyond a description of services provided and their use, to show the outcome, and may include testimony from the customers concerned.

Authority: Caerphilly County Borough Council

1. The impact which the library has had on an individual, or on a group of individuals, during the year. Describe the use made of the service, and the difference that use made to the individual or group concerned. Up to four case studies may be provided (indicative length: 500 words each).

Please indicate if permission for the Welsh Government to re-use and/or publish the case studies has been obtained or not: Yes - obtained / No – not obtained

a) **Intergenerational Dementia Friend Library engagement**

Saran Pope one of Caerphilly County Borough Council's Community Librarian team has led on a number of impressive intergenerational projects. In the scheme highlighted in this case study Saran discusses a project between a local Primary School pupils and elderly residents with dementia related conditions who reside in local care homes in the Aberbargoed area. The dementia themed interactions initially began with Saran holding shared reading and poetry events in a number of care home settings. The poetry themes would be alternated and the aim at each session was to engage and discuss the choices presented with the elderly residents and to hear their contributions and experiences that related to the subject under discussion whether this be going to the seaside or their favourite movie stars of yester-year.

Saran states:

"These informal sessions encourage the residents to discuss whatever they may be feeling. Sometimes this may be a few light hearted comments and other times residents share with me their own stories. I've learned to always go with the flow... some poems provoke laughter, another might result in a sing song and one even sent someone off to sleep (apparently this was a compliment as the resident was relaxed!) Whatever the direction of the session they always end the same; they ask me to come back and bring more poems next time."

In the last year Saran has developed her confident delivery style and skills at resident engagement to target more specialised dementia orientated care homes and brought the added intergenerational element to the fore with children from a nearby Primary School attending and interacting with the dementia suffering patients. As Saran states:

"After a discussion with the care home's Activity Coordinator I arranged for children from a local primary school to visit the residents after their library visit. In celebration of World Book

Day they all shared their favourite stories and characters with one another. As they enjoy poetry the class also recited a Welsh poem from their recent Eisteddfod. After their initial shyness the children were excited to talk to the residents (this was reciprocated!) and they even ended up demonstrating their flossing skills! As for the residents the beaming smiles said it all! As the Activity Coordinator pointed out; they all lit up as soon as the children came through the door.”

These joint sessions have proven so successful and beneficial to the two parties that more School and care home interactions are being planned. The dementia patients have achieved a greater sense of self-worth and the children have improved their social, communication and literacy skills and their empathy and awareness of the needs of the residents who reside at the local care home. Such has been the success of the community sessions that dementia friend training has been requested by the participating School working with the local Library who will deliver the sessions required.

b) **Libraries supporting less wealthy families to share reading and community events together**

During 2018-19 the site manager and her Librarian noted the frequency of visits that one family were making to access services and facilities at the site. The site in question was Caerphilly Town Library where a couple with their young children would visit every Saturday for the duration that the Library was open. The family would immerse themselves in reading, participate in events and story-time sessions and make active use of the IT equipment as well. When Library staff began to gain the family's confidence they opened up on their personal circumstances. The family were unable to afford to purchase resources of their own and the Library was a vital place in their attempts to share activities and enjoyable learning experiences as a family unit together. It transpired that the parent's children lived with grandparents during the week and it was only on the weekend that the parents and their children could spend precious time together, which they choose to do in the town Library. The parents noted:

“The children are really happy here. They love the library and we come every Saturday. If the library closed we'd have nowhere to go”

“They love the stories, the Easter Egg hunts and the colouring sheets. The library makes them happy.”

“The library makes a difference to us. It is a welcoming place and it keeps the children occupied.”

“The library helps us to have a break. It is good for parents because it helps us understand what the children are getting up to these days. I don't understand what they do in schools but here you get to understand a bit more about what they do.”

“The people who work here get really excited when they tell the stories. I can't do that.”

“The kids really love the story times. They get excited by the people who read.”

“The activity days are really helpful and the children learn things and we learn what they do. They can do the crafty things here. The library helps the children learn.”

The level of dedication of the entire family is exemplary especially as normal life and the expectations that many people take for granted seem outside of their immediate grasp at present. The town Library in Caerphilly clearly makes a difference to this family and countless others at a time when the basics of life can be challenging enough to provide.

c) **Rec Rock initiative at Bargoed Hanbury Chapel**

Developing meaningful partnerships and joint working arrangements with locally based social enterprises are an important method that can facilitate an enhanced range of services that residents can participate in at their local Library whilst also enabling local ventures to reach a more diverse audience in historically challenging areas. The recreational rock social enterprise that currently works in part from Bargoed Hanbury Chapel Library is an excellent example of the diverse services such a partnership activity can facilitate in one of the areas' standout facilities.

Damon Christopher the Senior Library Assistant at the Hanbury Chapel states:

"Bargoed Library has been working in partnership with RecRock, a Caerphilly based social music enterprise, for the last 10 months. Through this partnership community members of all ages are given the opportunity to learn how to play musical instruments, to work and write collaboratively, edit both film and musical media pieces and create social media content. "

Rec Rock, who are a social enterprise based in the Welsh ICE centre in Caerphilly take over areas of the Library on a given day each week. This allows a variety of performance from intimate recordings to open jam sessions, which can be enjoyed by both the group and members of the public throughout the rest of the library.

Damon states that the Library take over each week

"often provokes positive debate among the customers. The group uses library resources during their sessions, including books, music scores, available ICT and WiFi."

Damon adds:

"Using the power of music these sessions have had a positive effect on mental health & culture within our local community. Those taking part in the project are able to realise life-long dreams, discover unknown talents and learn new skills within the community hub of their local library"

In some instances library staff have seen a direct correlation between attending these sessions and improvement in personal self-esteem, mental health and ability among the residents participating in the rock sessions. This has often been built upon by local Library staff providing one to one support for those engaged with digital skill development and information literacy awareness.

Damon concludes:

"Inspired by the success of a GetItLoudInLibraries event we looked to provide the community with recreational, social and cultural opportunities set in the 3rd space. This partnership has given the community the opportunity and space to create, learn and share their passions in a safe, supportive, inclusive, intergenerational and aspirational venue...their local library. We have the supporting resources, space and ethos to stand with our users and to promote local culture and heritage."

d) **Supporting partners to deliver effective learning opportunities for those outside mainstream education**

Local libraries across the County Borough of Caerphilly often facilitate partner services to deliver much needed learning activities for those children and young people who have been unable to adjust to a formal School setting. These under 16's are often referred to as EOTAS students, those educated outside of School. EOTAS student often have highly individual and complex needs which require one to one tuition from trained officer. Libraries often offer the type of learning environment and teaching spaces that suit the complex needs of the individual learner and they are sited in many of the areas communities and towns.

One EOTAS tutor who uses Risca Palace Library recently wrote to the Borough Library Services expressing their thanks for the facilities available and the positive impact it has had on one of her students. The EOTAS tutor stated:

“The facilities at the Library are excellent for teaching as there is an Interactive White board available which is an interactive teaching tool. This resource is great for teaching challenging pupils as it engages them and enables them to be more involved with the lesson”

The tutor continues stating:

“Another facility I use at the Library is the private rooms that are perfect for pupils who have disengaged from School education and need to sit exams. The staff always pre-book rooms for myself and my student which is great piece of mind when organising such important GCSE exams...My student...finds it difficult to focus and has a short attention span so this learning base has entitled him to have options for his mood. Some days he wants to be alone so we use the learning suite and other days he wants to work on the computer. The Library allows him to choose a learning environment that suits him.”

The tutor concludes their letter highlighting the positive and affirmative impact that the professionalism and engagement of the Library Staff bring to their work and how these traits and behaviours have also played a big part in reinforcing learning and skills among this and other EOTAS learners that have been attending the Risca Palace Library facility.

2. Please provide a narrative that demonstrates how the library service is contributing towards wider Welsh Government priorities and strategic goals (indicative length: 500 - 1,000 words).

Caerphilly County Borough Library Service contributes to the Council's Corporate Plan 2018-2023 including its Well-being Objectives. The table below highlights the areas of particular synergy between the Library Services activities and the Local Authority's strategic targets. The clear focus on the Wellbeing for Future Generations Act also highlights the Library Services contribution to Welsh Government strategic priorities including the key themes of Prosperity for All and Taking Wales Forward, 2016-202.

Council Wellbeing Objectives 2018-2013	Wellbeing Outcomes	Caerphilly County Borough Library Service Contribution
Improve Education Opportunities for All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the impact of poverty within early years 	The nationally recognised Bookstart Scheme providing free reading materials and information for parents and toddlers at their 9 month Health check is well established within Caerphilly County Borough Library Service this remains the

<p><i>Linked to 'Prosperity for All: the national strategy' key theme 'Ambitious and Learning'</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise Standards of Attainment • Reduce impact of poverty on attainment for both vocational and non-vocational qualifications • Help those who are not able to follow a traditional attainment path • Support learning that enables young and adult employment opportunities including a focus on 'future skills' • Improve Digital Skills • Improve the learning environment 	<p>case for 2018-19.</p> <p>The County Borough Library Service supports a number of projects with the Council's Early Years Team and Flying Start initiative. Aberbargoed Library houses an Early Years team and Flying Start resource base whilst Rhymney Library regularly hosts a range of parent and toddler sessions delivered by Flying Start and other Early Years practitioners, including Meithrin groups.</p> <p>During 2018-19 Caerphilly Libraries supported 11,851 children and parents / carers to participate in Library based toddler sessions and Rhyme time activities. This represents a small decline in performance when compared to 2017-18 when 12,537 attended sessions, a 6% reduction. The overall level of engagement between local Libraries and parents/carer's of young children remains significant and priority theme in all Library Action Plans.</p> <p>1,469 children attended Library operated Homework Clubs in 2018-19 an 8% drop on levels achieved in 2017-18.</p> <p>Coding Clubs for children and increasingly adults has significantly risen in popularity over the last year with 1653 users attending activities compared to 1300 in 2017-18, a rise of 27%. Many of the customers have noted improved skills and confidence gained from participating in the clubs.</p> <p>The County Borough's 18 static Libraries offer dedicated Children sections and space for Young People with targeted resources and welcoming furnishings. It is free to borrow books and use the Internet Terminals and overdue charges do not apply to under 16s with the intention of fostering a fully accessible level of provision for those who wish to access the service.</p> <p>A further service enhancement for residents was achieved in 2018-19, namely the introduction of free WiFi access at all 18 static sites, an increase from 12 where provision existing a year earlier. WiFi printing is being tested in a number of the key larger sites at present.</p> <p>The Borough Library Service hosts a number of adult and employment tailored projects at its sites. These include Bridges into Work, Communities for Work, and Digital Friday styled events. In excess of 6,843 residents have benefited from digital and work preparedness training via these important initiatives. In addition some 1,878 customers have accessed Life Skills support at local Libraries during 2018-19.</p> <p>Supporting residents to improve their Digital and Information handling Skills remains a strategic priority for Caerphilly County Borough Library Service. Performance in</p>
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		<p>these areas is noted above. The Library Service provides free access to 250 Internet enabled terminals across its 18 sites and WiFi provision in all of its service points.</p> <p>Education other than at School (EOTAS) and Home tutoring support services are available at a number of the Borough's Library facilities with 523 children and young people benefitting from sessions hosted in local Library sites during 2018-19. <i>Also see the Case study included in the Standards Return information provided.</i></p> <p>In 2018-19 1,653 children and adults took part in Library hosted Coding Clubs an increase of 27% from those taking part in 2017-18. This area of digital awareness has recognised far reaching benefits for beneficiaries and the County Borough Library Service.</p> <p>In excess of 6,910 people have participated in, and benefitted from, some level of digital skill training, including coding, at Borough Library sites during 2018-19. A 3% increase on like for like training and support provided at Libraries in 2017-18.</p> <p>All 18 County Borough service points offer dedicated space for children, young people, and learners of all ages to access a wide range of resources and digital equipment tailored to their needs.</p> <p>In the most recently analysed Children's satisfaction survey conducted in July 2018 9.5 of Key Stage (KS) 2 Library customers rated their Borough Library as a safe and welcoming place. 93% indicated that using the Library had helped improve their reading with 85% stating the computer facilities had assisted them also. At KS 3 age group 52% of respondents indicated they had used Library computers with their School work.</p> <p>99% of Adult Public Library users surveyed rated Library facilities as enjoyable, safe and inclusive places to visit in 2017.</p>
<p>Enabling Employment</p> <p><i>Linked to 'Prosperity for All: the national strategy' key theme 'Prosperous and Secure'</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to reduce the impact of poverty by supporting people into better employment prospects 	<p>In 2018-19 there was an 6% decrease in the number of IT classes held in Libraries, compared to 2017-18, and the total number of residents who attended declined from 6455 in 2017-18 to 5257 individuals in 2018-19. The number of attendees at IT classes reduced by 19% in one calendar year.</p> <p>During 2018-19 Libraries hosted 395 Job Match sessions and 1,728 Basic Skill interactions.</p>
<p>Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to reduce inequalities in health across the county borough. 	<p>Access is provided to targeted health resources and information across all 18 static sites.</p> <p>The Books on Prescription Scheme to support those customers with mild to moderate Mental Health concerns remains a</p>

<p><i>Linked to 'Prosperity for All: the national strategy' key theme 'Healthy and Active'</i></p>		<p>important element of Caerphilly Libraries Wellbeing offer as does the recently launched dementia initiative 'Reading Well' that is sponsored by the Reading Agency and Book Council in Wales. The Library Service already holds collections of the 'Pictures to Share' dementia friendly resource in all 18 static sites. Interactive reminiscence pods are shared between Libraries and Council run Care Homes to assist in engaging with residents suffering from dementia or related conditions. The Borough Library Service has also launched a 'Memory Bag' initiative across all 18 sites. The 'Memory Bags' include a mixture of resources and equipment to support interactions between those struggling with dementia and their family/carers.</p> <p>A Dementia Action Plan introduced in the Library Services during 2018-19 has been positively supported by the Wales Alzheimer's Society as working toward becoming Dementia Friendly.</p> <p>Training established to develop dementia awareness has been offered to all Library staff during 2018-19 and a significant number have completed the short sessions to achieve Dementia Friend status.</p> <p>Caerphilly County Borough Library Service purchased 450 titles in 2018-19 that relate to Health and Wellbeing and offers some 4,500 items for loan on a wide range of health related conditions and treatment routes. Loans of these health resources reached 5532 for 2018-19.</p> <p>Interactive Memory Bags have been created with a mix of resources and equipment targeted at supporting those with dementia to communicate more effectively with their carer's and extended family. Each of the Borough's 18 static libraries hold a bag that can be borrowed by customers who have a relative or friend struggling with their memory.</p> <p>The Borough Library Service has been recognised for its work in developing dementia friendly facilities, resources, and environment's/ with a Alzheimer Society sponsored award.</p> <p>Loans of specific dementia friendly materials from Libraries during 2018-19 exceeded 255.</p>
<p>Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being</p> <p><i>Linked to 'Prosperity for All: the national strategy' key theme 'Healthy and Active'</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support people to 'help themselves' by providing comprehensive advice and information including signposting to other services. 	<p>The Council's Library Link 'Housebound Service' provision is operated by two full time officers who take a range of preselected materials to customers in their homes. During 2018-19 the Library Link service delivered 11,491 resources, a 4.5% increase on 2017-18, to 221 customers with 2,873 visits made. The number of customers in receipt of the Housebound Service has declined by 21% since 2017-18.</p> <p>As noted above Caerphilly Library Service</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and support carers. 	provides a range of dementia focused materials from its 18 static sites targeted at supporting those suffering with the condition and their carer's.
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Wellbeing for the Future Generations Act – Wellbeing Goals

Goal	Description	County Borough Library Service Contribution
<p>A prosperous Wales</p> <p><i>Linked to 'Prosperity for All: the national strategy' key theme 'Prosperous and Secure'</i></p>	<p>An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<p>Caerphilly County Borough Library Service enables residents to have free access to a wide range of resources that can assist in their recreational activities, provide escapism, inform and educate. Library book and non-book materials are by their nature the perfect embodiment of recycling as numerous individuals can read the same title without the need to travel across the Borough to access them. The Library Service operates a free request service and is an active partner in the South Wales 'Books4U' initiative. During 2018-19 Caerphilly Library Service accessed 4,014 books and related materials via 'Books4U' whilst sending 2,559 titles to other participating Council's in the area, an increase in lending of 15% on activity in 2017-18.</p> <p>During 2018-19 Libraries hosted 395 Job Match sessions and 1,728 Basic Skill interactions.</p> <p>In excess of 6,910 people have participated in, and benefitted from, some level of digital skill training, including coding, at Borough Library sites during 2018-19. A 3% increase on like for like training and support provided at Libraries in 2017-18.</p> <p>Library settings are modern, well-furnished and comfortable to use. All 18 static libraries now offer free WiFi access an improvement from 12 in 2017-18. Additionally the traditional desk top computer experience is currently being maintained via 250 Internet Terminals. Pilot studies are currently underway across a number the Council's larger Library sites to offer customers free access to Wireless printing.</p> <p>In the most recently analysed Children's satisfaction survey conducted in April 2018 9.5 of Key Stage (KS) 2 Library customers rated their Borough Library as a safe and welcoming place. 93% indicated that using the Library had helped improve their reading with 83% stating the computer facilities had assisted them also. At KS 3 age group 52% of respondents indicated they had used Library computers with their School work.</p> <p>In 2018-19 1,653 children and adults took part in Library hosted Coding Clubs an increase of 27% from those taking part in 2017-18.</p>

		<p>In excess of 6,910 people have participated in, and benefitted from, some level of digital skill training, including coding, at Borough Library sites during 2018-19. A 3% increase on like for like training and support provided at Libraries in 2017-18.</p> <p>99% of Adult Public Library users surveyed rated Library facilities as enjoyable, safe and inclusive places to visit in 2017.</p> <p>Education other than at School (EOTAS) and Home tutoring support services are available at a number of the Borough's Library facilities with 523 children and young people benefitting from sessions hosted in local Library sites during 2018-19. A significant reduction when compare to the recorded EOTAS provision at the same location in 2017-18 when 1,281 children and young people were assisted. <i>Please see the case study included on supporting learners who struggle in formal educational settings.</i></p>
<p>A resilient Wales</p> <p><i>Linked to 'Prosperity for All: the national strategy' key theme 'Prosperous and Secure'</i></p>	<p>A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p>	<p>Caerphilly County Borough Library Service uses a number of recycling services to ensure resources that have reached the end of their productive lifespan can be re-used whilst supporting environmental targets. Discontinued books and other media are wherever possible recycled by registered companies and in some instances sold via Better World Books a social business that works closely with the Charity sector.</p>
<p>A healthier Wales</p> <p><i>Linked to 'Prosperity for All: the national strategy' key theme 'Healthy and Active'</i></p>	<p>A society in which people's physical and mental Well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p>	<p>Caerphilly County Borough Library Service purchased 450 titles in 2018-19 that relate to Health and Wellbeing and offers some 4,500 items for loan on a wide range of health related conditions and treatment routes. Loans of these health resources reached 5532 for 2018-19.</p> <p>The Borough Library Service is an active participant in the national Books on Prescription scheme designed to support residents with mild to moderate Mental Health conditions and the Reading Agency supported Reading Well collections that seek to support dementia sufferer's and those caring for family members with this condition</p> <p>2018-19 has marked a significant strategic priority on the part of the County Borough Library Service to improve the training and awareness of staff about the challenges of living with dementia or how carer's of dementia patients can be more effectively supported. The Library Services Dementia Action Plan has been positively received by the Alzheimer's Society in Wales.</p> <p>Each Library in the County Borough offers a loanable bag of Memory jogging aids and reminiscence resources.</p> <p>Each Library in their annual Local</p>

		Improvement Plans has priorities associated with improving residents health and wellbeing.
<p>A more equal Wales</p> <p><i>Linked to 'Prosperity for All: the national strategy' key theme 'United and Connected'</i></p>	<p>A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).</p>	<p>Caerphilly County Borough Library Service provides free and welcoming facilities to all its residents.</p> <p>The nationally recognised Bookstart Scheme providing free reading materials and information for parents and toddlers at their 9 month Health check is well established within Caerphilly County Borough Library Service.</p> <p>The County Borough Library Service supports a number of projects with the Council's Early Years Team and Flying Start. Aberbargoed Library houses an Early Years team whilst Rhymney Library regularly hosts a range of parent and toddler sessions delivered by Flying Start and other Early Years practitioners including local meithrin groups.</p> <p>During 2018-19 Libraries hosted 395 Job Match sessions and 1,728 Basic Skill interactions.</p> <p>In excess of 6,843 residents have benefited from digital and work preparedness training in 2018-19.</p> <p>The County Borough Library Service continues to support residents who are, or have moved to the Universal credit benefit system with digital support. The Library Service currently assists EU nationals who are seeking settled status in the UK post Brexit as part of the government's sign-up requirements.</p>
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities</p> <p><i>Linked to 'Prosperity for All: the national strategy' key theme 'United and Connected'</i></p>	<p>Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.</p>	<p>Caerphilly County Borough Library Service is located in 18 town and village centred sites that actively contribute the physical environment they share. Public Libraries are seen as anchor tenants in the modern retail / High Street environment.</p> <p>In the recently adopted Council Public Toilet Strategy Libraries play an important role as a local site's where residents can access their facilities near to where they live, work, or play.</p> <p>In the most recent Adult and Child user surveys of Borough Libraries customers questioned strongly endorsed local Libraries as safe, welcoming, and connected facilities.</p>
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</p> <p><i>Linked to 'Prosperity for All: the national strategy' key</i></p>	<p>A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts,</p>	<p>The Borough Library Service plays an important role in supporting the cultural identities of the communities it represents.</p> <p>The Library Service proactively markets its Welsh materials to customers and has embraced a bilingual approach to service presentation and user support wherever possible in line with the requirements of the</p>

<p><i>theme 'United and Connected'</i></p>	<p>and sports and recreation.</p>	<p>2011 Welsh Language Measure.</p> <p>During 2018-19 Caerphilly Library Service spent £27,413 on Welsh Language resources, 7.5% of the total resource fund and loaned 15,182 items an increase of 32% on the performance reported for 2017-18.11,492.</p> <p>The County Borough Library Service has maintained its commitment to train new staff in meet and greet Welsh language familiarity.</p>
<p>A globally responsible Wales</p> <p><i>Linked to 'Prosperity for All: the national strategy' key theme 'Prosperous and Secure'</i></p>	<p>A globally responsible Wales. A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural Well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global Well-being.</p>	<p>Public Libraries form an important part of the County Council's building portfolio with a number of significant sites that complement their physical environments whilst also protecting important cultural locations in Risca, Caerphilly, Newbridge, and Bargoed.</p> <p>Public Libraries are seen as important anchor tenants in local town and village centres supporting the economic wellbeing of the areas they are located in.</p>

3. Please provide a short statement about the future direction and plans for the library service (indicative length 200 words).

Caerphilly County Borough Council Library Service currently works toward achieving the goals set in its 2017-2020 Strategy and annual Service Improvement Plan. The Local Authority has recently approved an Education Improvement Plan entitled 'Shared Ambitions: working together to achieve the best outcomes for our young people'. The Borough Library Service will work alongside other support services to assist Schools, teacher, pupils and parents to achieve the best outcomes possible for young residents growing up in the area.

The Borough Library Service, like all Council Sections is governed by the Local Authority's Medium Term Financial Plan 2019-2023. Saving proposals for Libraries 2019-2020 include reductions to the Resource Fund and increased adoption of single staffing at a number of the Council's community Library sites. This will undoubtedly affect the Annual Standards Return anticipated for 2019-2020. Further financial constraints are likely for each of the subsequent years of the Medium Term Financial Plan cycle up to March 2023.

The Local Authority remains committed to delivering the best Public Library provision possible during this period of continuing financial constriction. Welsh Government Public Library Standards will continue to provide the measures by which the Council will assess its performance.