

FOR SPORT, CULTURE AND LEISURE

Pledge 84 – Make sure Plymouth’s libraries are all first class

What we said we would do: We will make sure Plymouth’s libraries are all first class, and we will ensure that every community has access to a library service.

What we wanted to achieve: Develop, implement and promote a single inclusive library offer that customers of Plymouth Library Service as a whole can enjoy.

What we have done: We have expressed our commitment in a Charter, promising customers that we will:

- promote a love of reading by providing printed material, eBooks and eMagazines, and through activities and workshops such as the Summer Reading Challenge and book groups;
- help to get customers online and digitally included using free computers or free Wi-Fi, and providing help and support to assist with accessing public services or leisure and learning pursuits such as coding;
- increase access to cultural activities such as Rhymetimes, craft clubs, author talks and theatre experiences;
- help customers to lead happy and healthier lives through, for example, our Lunch at the Library programme and our Book Prescription scheme, and by providing safe, social spaces and signposting to inform lifestyle choices;
- listen to customers and act on feedback.

Our many and varied services and activities include: pop-up libraries at a number of locations, such as in St Budeaux to maintain a library presence whilst the new library was built, in Whitleigh and in Tothill; a programme of library refurbishments across the estate to best utilise space at each location; digital assistance to help people unable to use computers to engage with online activities, complete online forms, learn new skills and be digitally included; and expanding our eBook and eMagazine offer to meet growing demand.

What’s next: The new St Budeaux library opened on 27 January 2020, and we have a programme of regular events and activities planned. In the two months following opening, this will include: health activities with Livewell; memory café meetings; family film shows and children’s film shows; games mornings and Lego clubs; Hello World coding and digital ‘skills for tomorrow’ sessions; craft group and ‘novels that shaped the world’ workshops; and Rhymetimes and homework clubs.

Efford Library will be refurbished and the space reconfigured to better utilise that space. We are working with The Box to make available local and family history expertise, resources and research material and tools. The layout of resources at the Central Library will also be reconfigured to extend the children’s area.

Find out more!

Here are some news stories about our work to deliver the pledge:

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/?s=library>

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/newpurposebuiltlibraryopensstbudeaux%E2%80%933watchvideo>

