

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

1 November 2012



REPORT FROM COMMISSION ON SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Background

The Schools Library Service offers advice and training on managing and developing the school library, teaching information literacy skills to enable pupils to become independent learners and creating a reading culture in the school. The service also lends or sells carefully chosen resources to support teaching and learning in the classroom and to support wider reading for pleasure and enjoyment. This paper summarises Plymouth Schools Library Service (PSLS) activity since the last report to the panel in November 2012 and outlines proposals for the 2013-2014 offer.

Resources

- We have continued to invest in DVDS and costumes following the successful introduction of these multi-media resources in 2010
- We have introduced artefacts to our resources collection to enhance the costume provision
- We now offer schools who subscribe to our standard package a free subscription to a leading resource supplier, Curriculum Visions
- We continue to add downloadable advisory support on our website
- We are curating a collection of online resources to support teaching and learning

Training and advisory work – to support school staff and improve the quality of libraries in schools

- We continue to provide bespoke training to individual primary schools and staff as requested. This is complemented by our “Happy Hours” at the PSLS Centre giving school staff the opportunity to view our resources and learn how they can get make the best use of us
- We have run two very successful events for secondary school librarians
- We continue to hold run the Plymouth Librarians Advisory Network (PLAN) themed training sessions which are well attended.
- We gave bespoke advisory support and advice to 36 schools in 2011- 2012

Staff

The service has now been fully integrated into the Library Service and is managed by the Library Manager (Customer Services).

Strategic value

The service effectively offers individual schools consortium advantages. Through us schools have access to a wider range of resources due to the higher discount on book purchase through the South West Library buying consortium. They can lease books to support the curriculum or wider reading for the period required rather than purchase them outright and the resources we supply are continually updated and refreshed saving individual schools considerable staff time.

A wider range of current and attractive resources encourages greater engagement with curriculum topics and reading for pleasure contributing to greater pupil academic attainment, developed emotional and social skills and higher aspirations.

School subscriptions 2012-2013

74 of the 92 Plymouth schools subscribe to Plymouth Schools Library Service (80%)

Of these:

84% of the primary schools subscribe	58 out of 69
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71% of the special schools subscribe	5 out of 7
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69% of the secondary schools subscribe	11 out of 16
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47 schools buy into our standard package and 27 schools buy into our light package

Future Business Models

We continue dialogue with colleagues from Devon and Cornwall School Library Services to explore joint working opportunities and as a lead into possible mergers in the future. We are currently exploring joint service delivery with the Plymouth Museum Education Service as they develop a traded offer to schools.

PSLS is in discussion with the Primary Heads Association regarding the transfer to a co-operative trust governance model closely aligned with the Primary heads Association. If this is successful it is anticipated that take-up levels will be increased and the service will continue to be sustainable.

Proposals for 2013/14 Service Offer

The subscription rate is being reduced for standard package 3 year subscribers and the offer to all standard package subscribers extended to include no limits to borrowing and the inclusion of 2 ebook package offers

Light package subscribers will benefit from the inclusion of a half day library health check and 1 ebook package offer at no extra charge.

All subscribers will be entitled to borrow resources from their local public library during class visits to the library.

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