

Warrington Libraries Network Forum Meeting

5th November 2024, 10.00am till 11.30am

Culcheth Library

Meeting Notes

In attendance:

Cheryl Siddall (CS) – WBC Livewire Services Manager
 Eleanor Blackburn (EB) - WBC - Head of Inclusive Economy, Leisure, and Culture
 Rachel Ralston (RR) – LiveWire Strategic Library Manager (WBC)
 Amanda Juggins (AJ) – WBC - Deputy Head of Business Intelligence
 Garry D’Arcy (GD) – WBC, Partnership and Commissioning Project Manager
 Peter Lewenz (PL)
 Gary Borrows (GB)
 Philip Forshaw (PF)
 Janet Evans (JE)
 Gill Mortimer (GM)
 Andrew Mortimer (AM)
 Jim Billington (JB)
 Christine Smith (CSM)
 Albert Hartley (AH)
 Susan Morris (SM)
 Patricia Barlow (PB)
 Linda Riley (LR)
 Clancy Mason (CM)

	Actions
1. <u>Welcome</u>	
2. <u>Minutes and Matters Arising</u> None – minutes agreed	
3. <u>Terms of Reference</u> The following points raised by EB. - The TOR will help the forum to become an active voice for local people. - The forum will not be used to run the day-to-day library service. - The forum will receive participation data. - Library issues in Warrington are being replicated across the country. Agreements from the meeting - It has been agreed that the name of the group will change to Warrington Libraries Network Forum, and it the meetings will be three times a year. - The meeting will be moved around the libraries on a rotational basis and hybrid where needed.	
4. <u>Guest Speaker – Libraries Connected Regional Development Manager – Clancy Mason</u> CM gave a presentation. CM talked about	



- Libraries Connected look after public libraries, private libraries have its own body. School libraries covered by local councils, prison libraries with Local Councils contracts from Justice department. - GB talked about the low number's of 8/13 years old reading, improving this is Libraries Connected objective to improve. CM suggested working with schools more to buck the trend. - CS referenced work with Libraries Connected to gain funding to improve work with schools and to improve school access to the children. - GB talked about the need to look at project sustainability. Action – CM to send over links to all organisations mentioned in the meeting.	CM
5. Library Service Update – RR gave a presentation. General suggestions from forum - Work with schools to try and engage with young pupils to stop drop off from reading. - The service is looking to engage with school libraries to offer a 2-way support system. - Suggestion to use Oprah book club and influencers to help teenagers to read more. - A suggestion for a future meeting to focus on young people, and to look to gain feedback from young people. - Currently only six schools engaged, suggestion to target school governors.	
6. Strategic Update EB gave a strategic update. - Budget statement which awarded local councils 3.2 budget increases. - Key priorities from the government, homelessness, road maintenance, social care and SEND services. - Themes from government, public sector reform, and technology. - WBC waiting to see what comes out of the spring statement. - The council budget deficit to be covered by reserves. - WBC cabinet looking at savings opportunities for coming years. - Going forward it will be important to have open minds for libraries in looking at what services are provided.	
7. Future meetings ideas. - Culture and libraries - Micro grants up to £5000 through Libraries Connected. - Julia to be the first day in the life of a library member, Julia covers the theme Digital and Health for the library team.	
8. A.O.B. None	