



Children and Young People's Services Policy

Date: *19 January 2017*

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Policy Title	<i>Children and Young People's Services Policy</i>
Policy Number	<i>POL025</i>
Policy Author/Owner	<i>The Head of Themes with responsibility for Children's and Young People's Services</i>
Committee	<i>Services</i>
Date Approved	<i>23 February 2017</i>
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Related Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Culture and Creativity Policy</i> • <i>Heritage Policy</i> • <i>Reading and Reader Development Policy</i> • <i>Safeguarding Policy</i> • <i>Stock Policy</i>
Date Set For Review	<i>January 2020</i>

Libraries NI Children and Young People's Services Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Libraries NI recognises that the most significant opportunities to improve people's health, wellbeing and life opportunities exist in the form of early interventions, particularly, though not exclusively, designed for children and young people.
- 1.2 Public libraries have traditionally contributed to children's cognitive development by providing opportunities for pre-school children and their parents and carers to engage in early learning activities. The development of a love of reading and of literacy skills is a key early intervention and an important element in equipping children and young people to do well at school and to provide them with skills for later life. Research clearly shows that reading well is essential to tackling the effects of poverty on children. Free access to books, other reading material and information, whether in hard copy or online, together with opportunities to develop a love of reading from an early age engages children and young people in positive and enjoyable activities, improves literacy skills and facilitates lifelong learning, which in turn contributes to breaking the cycle of deprivation and educational under-achievement.
- 1.3 Libraries NI can support parents in their role as their child's first educator from the earliest opportunity.
- 1.4 Public libraries can provide opportunities for children and young people to engage with activities and programmes making use of new technologies, including those focused on the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) agenda. Digital inclusion is essential for the social, economic and educational advantages of life in the modern world.
- 1.5 Libraries NI can support non-formal education in the community by facilitating and or delivering programmes to contribute to improving early childhood development and support for parents.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure a consistent approach to services for children and young people.

3. Policy

- 3.1 Libraries NI will:
 - ensure its services are accessible to children and young people
 - provide a safe, welcoming space for children and young people and their parents/carers

- provide a range of accessible stock, activities, services and programmes for all children and young people to support and foster a love of reading, literacy and learning
- ensure that staff have the necessary skills and training to support and deliver children's and young people's services

3.2 In doing this it will:

- recognise the importance of early learning activities in contributing to cognitive and language development
- provide support for formal and non-formal learning for school aged children
- provide opportunities for family learning to take place
- provide opportunities, through partnerships, to support other government agendas.

4. Authority

Policy Sponsor: The Assistant Director with responsibility for Children's and Young People's Services is the Policy Sponsor.

Policy Owner: The Head of Themes with responsibility for Children's and Young People's Services is the Policy Owner.

Policy Contact: The Senior Themes Manager for Children and Young People's Services is the Policy Contact.

5. Related Documents

Policies

- Culture and Creativity Policy
- Heritage Policy
- Reading and Reader Development Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Stock Policy

Procedures

- Procedures for Children's Events