

Libraries Opportunities for Everyone Innovation Fund

Successful applicants



| Applicant Name | Area | Amount (Resource) | Amount (Capital) | Total amount awarded | Project summary |
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| London Borough of Merton | London | £63,150 | £79,461 | £142,611 | Merton Council will deliver a new literacy, arts and cultural programme to increase young people's engagement and reduce inequality in the borough. Over 5,000 11 to 18 year-olds will take part in activities including a reading challenge, a mentor scheme and multi-disciplinary activities designed by young people with professional support. Newly developed spaces in Mitcham and Wimbledon Libraries will showcase the young people's work. |
| Cultural Community Solutions Ltd - Harrow | London | £43,310 | £48,896 | £92,206 | London Borough of Harrow has been awarded £92,206 to lead Books Beyond Words Plus, an art, drama and literature project to provide a designated space and expert library service for people with learning difficulties in Croydon, Ealing, Hounslow and Harrow. Partners in adult social care and education will deliver a programme of activities for adults with different learning abilities, encouraging creative expression, and leading to increased literacy, social confidence and well-being. |
| Greenwich Leisure | London | £35,121 | £90,000 | £125,121 | Greenwich Leisure and Royal Borough of Greenwich have been awarded a total of £125,121 to create Story Book Play: an indoor soft play facility built around the theme of children's literature. Modelled on the outdoor play area in the Bibliotekshaven, Copenhagen, this will be the first of its kind in this country, installed in Eltham Library, Greenwich. The Story Book area will bring play into the world of the library, recognising and expanding the role of play in children's development. |
| Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure | London | £69,610 | £139,379 | £208,989 | Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure has been awarded a total of £208,989 to create The Discovery Lab. An underused part of the Library will be transformed into an open plan makerspace and technology lending library. Local tech businesses, educators and digital artists/organisations will deliver a programme of activities to increase skills and improve life chances for over 120,000 people, including children, young people and families in local neighbourhoods. |

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| Lewisham Library and Information Service | London | £40,000 | £20,000 | £60,000 | Lewisham Library and Information Service has been awarded £60,000 for its innovative new Summer School. Librarians, journalists and educators join forces to lead a programme which will teach disadvantaged young people in the borough to source, critically interpret and remix news stories using mobile devices and editing equipment, creating a lasting web resource that tells the stories of their communities. |
| Staffordshire County Council | Midlands | £32,300 | £20,000 | £52,300 | Staffordshire County Council will receive £52,300 for Ready Steady Library (RSL) a project to help families with young children in areas with low-levels of nursery attendance. These families will be supported by workshops to improve key areas of learning currently identified by the Early Years Foundation Curriculum (EYFS). The workshops will contain both digital and physical resources, with designers and illustrators commissioned to produce artwork and create educational material for young children. This will develop parents' confidence, encouraging them to play a bigger role in their children's early education. |
| Lincolnshire County Council | Midlands | £140,450 | £90,630 | £231,080 | Lincolnshire County Council will receive £231,080 for a project that will create 13 library <i>techno</i> labs in several areas, including Horncastle, Spalding and Gainsborough. The library labs will provide arts and skills workshops for young unemployed people which will improve their health and well-being as well as enhancing IT and employment skills and strengthen communities by reducing isolation and loneliness. 200 learning sessions on a wide range of artistic and business subjects will be delivered by professional trainers and artists. |
| Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council | Midlands | £43,140 | £42,700 | £85,840 | Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council will receive £85,840 towards a project providing libraries with digital equipment - this will include iPads, Virtual Reality headsets, robotics and 3D printing - to deliver digital literacy, inspire creativity and create new learning opportunities within the Black Country. The <i>Tech Suites</i> will be based in larger libraries but will be transported to other smaller libraries as required. Partner organisations will deliver activity sessions to specific groups, such as the elderly, local authority housing residents, children and young people. |
| Telford and Wrekin Council | Midlands | £15,176 | £34,824 | £50,000 | Telford and Wrekin Council will receive £50,000 to test a learning club for the whole family across libraries and venues in the borough. This programme aims to engage parents and carers, challenging these groups to think about the technology that their children are using and if it could be shared to benefit their own learning and employment opportunities. The programme will be based in some of the most disadvantaged parts of |

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| | | | | | Telford and Wrekin where the proportion of families have at least one parent who is unemployed. |
| Warwickshire County Council | Midlands | £67,500 | £12,000 | £79,500 | Warwickshire County Council will receive £79,500 to develop two library-based <i>markerspaces</i> or <i>fab labs</i> that offer local communities unique access to technology and facilities for exploring ideas and creating things in new ways. This will allow people of all ages and backgrounds, not only to create together, but also to socialise and learn. <i>Markerspaces</i> will promote educational achievement, economic growth and the wellbeing of disadvantaged communities in northern Warwickshire. |
| Nottingham City Council | Midlands | £176,235 | £50,000 | £226,235 | Nottingham City Council will receive £226,235 towards <i>Storysmash</i> - a 12 month programme of activities for disadvantaged young people aged between 11-25. The activities will include digital gaming workshops, creative writing sessions and author led discussions. The sessions aim to inspire learning and individual expression through the medium of gaming. This opportunity has been created through a partnership between Nottingham City Libraries and The National Videogame Foundation and will empower those taking part participants by developing literacy, confidence, and digital skills, transforming the way libraries engage with disadvantaged communities. |
| Liverpool City Council | North | £58,500 | £17,000 | £75,500 | The 'Maker Difference' Project at Liverpool Libraries will provide creative learning opportunities for children and young people age 8-18 from four disadvantaged communities. Our investment will support these young people to engage with technology in innovative ways, helping to develop their creative and digital skills. These skills will include online information literacy, media literacy, and digital well-being and identity. This project will also encourage participation from disabled young people via on site clubs, weekly workshops, and participation in cultural events and creative digital festivals. |
| Sefton Libraries & Information Service | North | £75,000 | £24,000 | £99,000 | Aimed at adults in Bootle who are socially isolated or living with poor mental health, Sefton Libraries will create a 'human library' where people can 'gift' their talents and experiences to someone in need. A series of creative programmes will uncover local talents and, in turn, this will build a sustainable bank of volunteers who can pass their 'gifts' on. Gifts might range from hosting a community meal to 1:1 sessions with people living with mental health conditions. Our investment will also allow training for volunteers and staff in social prescribing techniques including Making Every Contact Count. |

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| Barnsley Libraries | North | £41,201 | £11,709 | £52,910 | This investment will support Barnsley Libraries to provide mobile access to technology for a targeted group of local residents at high risk of digital and social exclusion. They will do this through the creation of 'Digital Makerspace Boxes'; portable multi-media kits containing IT equipment to be used in the community. The boxes will be used for outreach work such as delivering digital skills sessions for people in sheltered accommodation, a job club in a community centre, and IT access and skills support for community groups and small businesses – all of which will help build a more digitally confident community. |
| Bradford Libraries | North | £74,692 | £ - | £74,692 | Bradford Library Service in partnership with specialists including Purple Patch Arts will develop a programme to engage children and adults with special educational needs and disabilities in 'immersive' approaches to literature. Twelve 'immersive literature kits' - sensory and immersive adaptations of well-known pieces of literature which can be used for 1:1 reading or as group activities – will be created. As part of the project, key staff and volunteers will be trained in how to use these, and accompanying creative workshops will be delivered. Our investment will also support the libraries to embed these innovative reader development approaches across the service. |
| Hull Culture and Leisure Ltd | North | £25,955 | £217,828 | £243,783 | This investment will allow Hull Culture and Leisure to create a space within the Central Library where anyone can explore their creativity in the arts, science and technology – whether independently or collaboratively. Building on the enthusiasm and excitement of Hull City of Culture, this space (called a 'Makerspace') will have state-of-the-art digital and electronic equipment, skilled staff providing support, and workshops with the space to make, think, collaborate, explore and exhibit. To ensure all residents have the opportunity, the project will also include a mobile element with pop-up 'Makerspaces' happening across the city. |
| Libraries Service Unit Tameside | North | £60,660 | £ - | £60,660 | In partnership with Stone Soup, a local leading creative industries organisation, Tameside Libraries will deliver a creative and innovative literacy project across four of Tameside's public libraries in collaboration with The Lowry, Salford and the Hallé Orchestra. Through creative workshops and experiences, families from disadvantaged areas will be supported to embrace reading, develop literacy skills and create a series of published books for family audiences. Once the books are published and printed, there will also be an accompanying resource pack that supports |

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| | | | | | creative activities that can be led both by Library staff and families themselves. |
| Stockton Library & Heritage Service | North | £51,200 | £45,900 | £97,100 | This investment will support the creation of two Innovation Stations within Stockton Central and Thornaby Central Libraries, providing people with access to facilities and resources that are currently not available to the communities of Stockton-On-Tees. These flexible spaces will cater for people to develop high-end digital skills using 3D technology, learn about coding and game design, and experience immersive storytelling. Individuals, groups and organisations from across the Tees Valley will share their knowledge and expertise, which will benefit the people living in the most deprived areas of the Borough. |
| Manchester City Council | North | £218,985 | £31,000 | £249,985 | This project – Big Ideas Generators – will support innovation and enterprise across 10 Greater Manchester library authorities. A unique customer service will be delivered by one team working across the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, a first for the city region. It will deliver personalised one-to-one business information surgeries, 'How to' sessions, workshops and informal networking opportunities, as well as specialist training in skills such as 3D printing. With a focus on reaching women and BAME audiences, participants will gain vital information and digital support to navigate their entrepreneurial journey and develop new skills. |
| Middlesbrough Libraries | North | £52,260 | £39,150 | £91,410 | My Town: My Future is a digital media project involving 120 local people from disadvantaged backgrounds, which will use and build on a rich collection of local historic images. The investment will support the participants to receive practical skills training in a range of digital media applications. This will help them to create a web based resource reflecting their experience of living in 21st century Middlesbrough. The participants will also produce images and stories which reflect the, often overlooked, social history of their communities and the personal contributions they have made to them. |
| Kent County Council | South East | £70,283 | £33,836 | £104,119 | With £104,119, Kent County Council will create Digital Playgrounds – each designed to enable children aged 8-11 to explore their creativity through technology. Dedicated spaces will be set up in libraries across Kent, creating safe, fun and stimulating environments for a wide range of activity involving latest digital learning technologies. Activities will include workshops on coding, robotic modelling, digital image making and circuit building. The project will be open to all, but have a strong focus on |

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| | | | | | creating exciting new opportunities for disadvantaged children living in Kent. |
| West Sussex County Council Library Service | South East | £101,885 | £76,945 | £178,830 | With £178,119 from the Arts Council, West Sussex County Council will ensure more people have access to digital technology by establishing a collection of tablets and laptops that can be loaned out to the local community. The project will have an emphasis on meeting the needs of disadvantaged groups within the council's communities – such as older people or adults with learning disabilities. Each of the laptops / tablets will be pre-loaded with digital content designed to support people as they learn essential digital skills and access library services. |
| East Sussex County Council | South East | £98,128 | £29,925 | £128,053 | Advantage East Sussex will introduce a range of new initiatives across libraries in the county, all designed to support some of the county's most disadvantaged residents and groups. With the support of £128,053 from the Arts Council, Advantage East Sussex will include new technology to increase accessibility for those with visual impairments, Wellbeing Boxes to support mental health and wellbeing, and personalised IT training to improve skills and confidence. Further activities will include coding clubs and dual language Rhyme Time and Story Time sessions. |
| Essex County Council | South East | £145,586 | £ - | £145,586 | With the support of £145,586 from the Arts Council, Essex County Council will create Library First – a new initiative that will place Chelmsford Library at the heart of family support and enrichment services in the city. The new Library and Family Hub will be a flexible space, where library and healthcare professionals can work together to ensure the local community has access to a full range of services, including learning, health, wellbeing and cultural enrichment. |
| Luton Cultural Services Trust | South East | £88,855 | £63,000 | £151,855 | With the support of £151,855 from the Arts Council, Luton Culture will develop Library Makers – a network of volunteer community advocates who will support library development and ensure it meets the needs of vulnerable users / non-users. As part of the project, Library Makers will be challenged to co-design spaces within Luton Central Library, as well as develop new and engaging activities for library users – both in and out of the library. |

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| Norfolk Library and Information Service | South East | £98,020 | £ - | £98,020 | With the support of £98,020 from the Arts Council, Norfolk County Council will work with volunteers to support emergent readers aged 8+ to develop their skills. The project will use a one-to-one phonics based teaching tool to help non-readers to become fluent readers in six months or less, providing people with a skill that will support them at all stages of their life – whether it is for education, work or recreation. |
| Devon Libraries | South West | £235,530 | £9,800 | £245,330 | Libraries Unlimited has been awarded £245,330 to rollout innovative services to rural communities across Northern Devon, providing access to a range of literacy and digital literacy facilities. A 'Fab Lab PLUS' centre will be built at Barnstaple Library, offering the use of specialist digital machinery as well as high-quality training. A new outreach programme will also be developed, taking digital tools and opportunities to key community locations with a 'mini Fab Lab'. The new facilities will open up employment prospects, encourage entrepreneurship and engage new and existing members. As a result of this funding, these innovative library services and activities will provide opportunities to improve health, wellbeing and overall life chances for families and communities across Northern Devon. |
| Hampshire County Council | South West | £178,324 | £60,000 | £238,324 | Hampshire Library Services have been awarded £238,324 to support a 3G enabled, tablet computer lending service to help address issues of digital literacy, social isolation, and health and wellbeing amongst disadvantaged communities. Eligible residents will be identified through newly appointed Library Coordinators working with Public Health. Literacy and reading will be encouraged via the digital device scheme by engaging new customer groups with other library resources, services and activities. Participants will be provided with training and be supported with learning digital skills to maximise opportunities that will help to reduce social isolation and digital exclusion across the region. |
| Bournemouth Borough Council | South West | £136,846 | £ - | £136,846 | Bournemouth Library Service has been awarded £136,846 in partnership with five Local Authorities, Literature Works, The Reader and South Western Regional Library Service (SWRLS). Shared reading activities, a programme of cultural and creative events, a digital app and online resources will address disadvantage in literacy and digital skills. Volunteering and engagement opportunities across Bournemouth, Wiltshire, Dorset, Poole, South Gloucestershire and Bristol will be created. The programme of activities will involve communities, ease social isolation and promote mental health and wellbeing. |

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| Plymouth City Council | South West | £50,026 | £6,000 | £56,026 | <p>Plymouth City Council's Library Service has been awarded £56, 026 to work with CATERed to provide increased and targeted access to library services and provide a healthy meal during the summer holidays. The partnership aims to engage with 7000 disadvantaged children and families especially in areas of low library usage. The scheme will provide a free meal and book to feed both body and mind. Through digital-making workshops, the Summer Reading Challenge and storytelling sessions the library service will encourage reading and improve access to technology and cultural activities. CATERed are the country's only schools-led cooperative school meal trading company jointly owned with the council.</p> |
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