

# Minutes

# **English Public Libraries Stakeholder Working Group (EPL)**

Date Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022

Time 15:00 – 16:00 Location Virtual Meeting

Present:

Sophie Lancaster Senior Manager, Libraries, ACE (Chair)

Isobel Hunter Chief Executive, Libraries Connected

Lauren Lucas Advisor – Culture, Tourism and Sport, Local

Government Association (LGA)

Leah Mason Policy Officer Apprentice, Libraries, ACE

(Minutes)

Nick Poole Chief Executive, CILIP, The UK library and

information association

Liz White Head of Public Libraries and Engagement, British

Library (BL)

Sue Wells Chief Executive, Lincs Inspire

Apologies: Prof. Steven

Broomhead

Chief Executive, Warrington Borough Council

Sue Williamson Director, Libraries, Arts Council England (ACE)

Julie Griffiths Library Strategy & Development Manager, Halton

Borough Council

Nicola Hawdon Communications Manager (My Planned Care),

NHS England

# 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

**Action** 

- 1.1 Sophie Lancaster welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies were noted from Steven Broomhead, Sue Williamson, Julie Griffiths and Nicola Hawdon.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 There were no interests to declare.

#### 3. FINANCIAL RESILIENCE UPDATE

- 3.1 Nick Poole presented CILIP's update on Financial Resilience following the workshop on 19<sup>th</sup> April. Nick asked for comments and questions.
- 3.2 The comments from members of EPL were positive and felt that it is very clear and a good vision.
- 3.3 It was suggested that EPL is the preferred board for active stewardship.
- 3.4 Sophie Lancaster suggested to take this to <u>SOLACE</u> and the HoS Sounding board to test. Suggested action: contact SOLACE to get this on the agenda for next relevant meeting and hold a webinar with HoS Sounding Board in order to get support.

Nick Poole lain Moore

- 3.5 Isobel Hunter suggested taking this to the LC board's next meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> June, for them to see developments on this.
- 3.6 It was suggested that the word 'stewardship' was to be reviewed, to reflect the function of EPL membership, to look at what innovation means, and reflect on best practise.
- 3.7 The future funding framework by LC and the ethical framework related to the financial resilience work were discussed.
- 3.8 Lauren noted that the 'Shared Productivity programme' by LGA links in with this work, as there is an ethical focus. Lauren actioned to look at possibility of LGA colleague from this programme to come to EPL as example of best practise.

Lauren Lucas

3.9 The possibility of LGA testing with political members via the Councillor Sounding Board was discussed, as this was felt to be an appropriate group to present to. Lauren Lucas actioned

Lauren Lucas

- to have Financial Resilience on the Agenda for the July Councillor Sounding Board meeting.
- 3.10 Sue Wells commented that she agreed with previous comments, she highlighted the importance of relationship management with councils, showing that value for money is very important in LAs. She raised that there could be a more *entrepreneurial spirit* through the messaging in this work, that would allow and encourage library services to look at wider opportunities. Other members agreed and thanked Sue for her outlook.
- 3.11 Liz White raised that there is a potential for the BL to host a guest speaker on this at the 'Living Knowledge Network'.
- 3.12 Sue Wells raised there is potential for this to be taken to Community Leisure UK, to explore the learning and potential overlaps.
- 3.13 Sophie Lancaster suggested that other services across LA services are entrepreneurial in terms of financial income and delivery; possible learning could be a good idea, to use skills and training in place in other departments within the LA.
- 3.14 It was actioned that all members were to take slides to their boards and stakeholders and at the next EPL meeting, look at feedback and discussion.

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#### 4. MY PLANNED CARE

- 4.1 Apologies from NHS colleagues on this item.
- 4.2 This to be on next meeting's Agenda.

#### 5. ASSESSMENT STRATEGY

- 5.1 Nick Poole shared his presentation on the assessment strategy.
- 5.2 Liz White raised how important data can be to BL's Single Digital Presence and said BL would be happy to join the workshop.
- 5.3 Lauren Lucas raised how LGA would be keen to be involved in this work, but after the data strategy has been created, once initial objectives have been achieved.

## 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 6.1 Sophie Lancaster asked for AOB.
- 6.2 Liz White mentioned there is a new monthly newsletter for the Single Digital Presence. The group were asked to contact Liz to sign up to this.
- 6.3 Sophie Lancaster raised that ACE are at the pre-market testing stage for the Comms Strategy and fed back to the group that comments from those tested so far, are diverse. Sophie actioned to update EPL after market testing has been reviewed and the ITT has been re-drafted.

**Date and location of next meeting:** Tuesday 5th July 15:00 – 16:00, Virtual Meeting

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