Appendix B: Evidence framework

Introduction
This evidence framework report presents findings from phase 1 of the study. It provides a comprehensive synthesis of the evidence gathered from a thorough literature search, and served as a basis on which to build in phases 2 and 3 of the project. Traditional keyword searches in the academic and grey literature, and the wider internet, uncovered relatively few sources of relevant material. This led the research team to adopt a ‘snowball’ approach to literature searching, in which information and evidence gathered during the KOL interviews and from members of the project steering group and other contacts were followed up in order to obtain a comprehensive review.

The aims of the evidence framework are as follows:

• To provide a clearer understanding of the focus of activities relating to health and well-being
• To gauge the extent to which the areas of health and well-being are being addressed by library authorities
• To determine whether public libraries may contribute to the government health and well-being agenda, and how
• To identify the extent to which the potential work of public libraries in the areas of health and well-being is being taken at strategic planning level

The main objective of the evidence framework is to provide elements for a sound understanding of the current public library offer in the areas of health and well-being. The evidence framework does not attempt to map detailed activity currently taking place in public libraries. This will be achieved through a survey of library authorities in England, in phase 2 of the project; evidence of individual authority activity uncovered during the literature search will be incorporated at that stage. Therefore, the evidence framework is generic in form, focusing on capturing published evidence relating to the public library health and well-being agenda, including evaluation of individual schemes and activities. It should be understood as a guide providing an overview of the various foci which health-related activities may have, as well as how this is addressed at policy level, both by library authorities and the health sector.

Evidence has been gathered from various sources. The research team conducted a thorough literature search, looking at academic and professional literature, especially within two professional journals (Public Library Journal and CILIP
Public library activity in the areas of health and well-being:
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Library and Information Update), as well as grey literature such as reports from the Department of Health, the health sector, health charities, and public libraries’ case studies. The Key Opinion Leader interviewees and Project Steering Group also pointed the research team towards useful sources and reports. In addition, the research team conducted a thorough examination of regional and local authorities’ strategic plans, including strategic health plans and library plans where available.

It is significant to note that several key health documents examined in the literature review provide context for the research but make little or no mention of public libraries. These include:

- The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2010/11, (December 2009), Department of Health
  
  [Website](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/@sta/@perf/documents/digitalasset/dh_110159.pdf)
  
  Sets out key priorities and vital signs against which performance of PCTs is measured. Many of these indicators require underpinning by information for patients and the public, but libraries are not mentioned.

- Putting the frontline first: smarter government, (December 2009), Office of Public Sector Information / The Stationery Office
  
  [Website](http://www.hmg.gov.uk/media/52788/smarter-government-final.pdf)
  
  This white paper sets out how the Government will improve public service outcomes while enabling the economy to grow. It focuses on the digital delivery of more cost-efficient and effective public services. Since the success of this approach depends on people having access to digital resources, there is a key opportunity for libraries to support access to these resources.

- NHS 2010-2015: from good to great. Preventative, people-centred, productive, (2009), Department of Health
  
  [Website](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/publicationsandstatistics/publications/publicationspolicyandguidance/dh_109876)
  
  Although libraries are not mentioned specifically, the report discusses the benefits of partnership working and refers to the challenge of the information age, which has a relevance to libraries.
• Towards transformation: exploring the impact of culture, creativity and the arts on health and well-being, (September 2007), A Kilroy, C Garner, C Parkinson, C Kagan & P Senior, Arts for Health – Manchester Metropolitan University


This report looks at the potential impact of arts activities on public health and well-being and offers an evaluation of a selection of health and well-being-related projects. Again, public libraries are not mentioned.

• Health Challenge England - next steps for Choosing Health, (October 2006), Department of Health


The reports builds on the 2004 white paper Choosing health: making healthy choice easier, which sets out an agenda and strategic plan for change in public health and offers a strategic plan to tackle change. Steps to achieve change in public health are spelt out, notably the development of partnerships between local government, health, industry and voluntary sectors. Whilst the report notes the important role local authorities can play in improving the health and well-being of local communities through supporting and fostering collaborative working, there is no specific reference to (public) libraries.

Table B.1 outlines (in the first two columns) the categorisation which has been applied to the evidence uncovered. The table has been used as a research tool to inform the thematic structure of the framework, and although it is not intended to be a comprehensive description of public library work in the areas of health and well-being, it is indicative of the major areas of involvement which have been included in this phase of the project. It will also serve as the basis for activity mapping in phase 2, when examples of activities with specific audience focus will be incorporated.
Table B.1: Categorisation of evidence, with examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health focus</th>
<th>Areas of general / broad focus</th>
<th>Examples of areas with specific audience focus:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Older people</td>
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<tr>
<td>General/public health/health information</td>
<td>Support for Patient Choice</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Health information provision</td>
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<td>Signposting</td>
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<td>Smoking/drug abuse</td>
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<td>Healthy Living Centres</td>
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<td>Specific physical health issues</td>
<td>Cancer</td>
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<td>Diabetes</td>
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<td>Obesity</td>
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<td>Long-term condition</td>
<td>Services for housebound</td>
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<td>Services for visually impaired</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Self-help groups</td>
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<td>Mental health</td>
<td>Books on prescription</td>
<td>Alzheimer’s Reminiscence work</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Creative work with designated therapeutic purpose</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wellbeing (as it relates to health)</td>
<td>Support for carers</td>
<td>Bookstart Surestart Looked-after children</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Reading group activity</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bibliotherapy</td>
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<td>Skills development</td>
<td>Skilled for health</td>
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<td>Library as place (provision of space/facilities for health related activity by others)</td>
<td>Health MOTs</td>
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<td>Clinical interventions</td>
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<td>Clinics in libraries</td>
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<td>Head massage</td>
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<td>Yoga sessions</td>
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<td>Policy</td>
<td>Partnerships</td>
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<td>Funding arrangements</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Responsibility level</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Scope**

The focus of the evidence framework is on work which aims to fulfil and deliver health and well-being objectives from the outset, or which has been found to have demonstrable and substantial health and well-being impact. For this reason, we have deliberately set to be outside the scope of the enquiry activities which are not
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primarily directed to deliver health outcomes, although we acknowledge that these activities may generate health and well-being benefits.

Examples of activities outside the scope of this study include:

- Work with schools/education
- General outreach services (e.g. to socially excluded communities)
- General reader development
- Children’s activities (e.g. homework clubs, rhyme times, etc)

The search was restricted to documents published within the last five years, i.e. since 2005. Earlier work may have been conducted under differing policy constraints, or been superseded by more recent evidence.

Evidence identified

This section lists the sources discovered, together with web links (where available) and provides a brief summary of each. We have not undertaken any systematic review or analysis of the evidence. Documents have been grouped under the broad headings outlined in Table B.1, cross referenced where necessary. Within each section, evidence is presented in order of publication, with the most recent first. All web links were accessed on 03.02.10.

1. General/public health/health information
   a. Supporting health and wellbeing through reading - East Midlands survey, (November 2009), Lynn Hodgkins


   Summary:
   This report presents the findings of a mapping exercise carried out by Libraries and Information East Midlands (LIEM) in autumn 2009 in the East Midlands region. This activity mapping exercise aimed to gauge the extent and nature of initiatives focusing on reading activities to improve health and well-being taking place in local public libraries at the time. The report considers how these initiatives were funded and whether they were the result of partnership working, and investigates whether the activities have been formally evaluated and a positive impact identified. Finally, the document looks into the various responsibility levels for delivering health agendas.
b. MLA Research Briefing 8: Promoting health literacy in libraries, (October 2009), Silvia Anton

http://research.mla.gov.uk/evidence/documents/MLA%20Research%20Briefing%208%20Health%20literacy%2020091104.pdf

Summary:
Libraries play an important role in the promotion of health literacy skills. This briefing describes how some libraries have targeted their services, some in partnership with local health/social care providers, with encouraging signs of success in improving health literacy skills in younger and older people. The continued success relies on effective partnership arrangements that can ensure appropriate funding and that specific health information needs are met. Evidence suggests that there is greater scope for libraries to play a more proactive role in health promotion activities in the future. There is a consensus view among many users that libraries not only present good locations for skills-based training, but also provide for a friendly, supportive and unthreatening environment for other health promotion activities.

c. Health and well-being promotion in Suffolk Libraries

www.suffolk.gov.uk/LeisureAndCulture/Libraries/HealthInformation/MentalHealthandWellbeing/

Summary:
This is an example of proactive promotion of health and well-being in public libraries. The Suffolk Public Library Service has a webpage dedicated to health and well-being. The health information link appears on the homepage of the library.

d. Health Information Week activities in the West Midlands

www.equip.nhs.uk/custom/healthinfo.aspx

Summary:
Describes an initiative across the West Midlands to improve access to health information by means of partnership working between public libraries, local authorities, the NHS, the voluntary sector, and independent information and advice centres. Annual reports from 2005 onwards are available on the website. These are based on feedback from staff involved in the initiative, who are asked to comment on feedback from users, how many people the activities reached, new partnerships, lessons learnt and suggested improvements.
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e. Health Link’s library specific website

www.healthlinklibraries.co.uk/

Summary:
Based on the Health Link survey carried out in 2008, this site gives a description of the areas where public libraries get involved to promote health and well-being:

- Activities aiming at getting healthy – exercise classes, walking groups, eating advice, smoking cessation, blood pressure checks etc.
- Activities aiming at staying healthy (target audience: vulnerable people or those with long-term conditions) – information, leaflets, support groups, one-to-one sessions etc.
- Activities aiming at emotional well-being
- Activities supporting NHS choice – help to obtain online information, use of NHS choice, use of Choose and Book (target audience: disadvantaged people or non IT literate people)

A series of case studies is available on the website, including:

- Waltham Forest - Taking libraries to health: pilot site for the Partnership for Patients scheme aiming at training librarians to help patients to choose a hospital and book an appointment online
- Hackney - Taking health to libraries – Partnerships for Patients scheme
- Stockport & Derbyshire - Good neighbours – development of a training programme and interactive tool for librarians using NHS Choose and Book
- Haringey - Health pioneer - Partnerships for Patients scheme.

f. Gateshead Central Library Big Lottery Redevelopment Health Impact Assessment – Summary of Evidence [Draft], (September 2009), Jenifer Maughan

Summary:
This report looks at how the renewed library, due for completion in mid-2010, could impact on the health and well-being of the local community. It describes the approach taken to conducting a Health Impact Assessment using the methods of community profiling, summarising existing data relating to health
inequalities and considering evidence from project consultations with local people.

g. **Capturing the Impact of Libraries: Final report**, (January 2009), BOP Consulting/DCMS


Summary:
Reports on a study commissioned by DCMS to inform their Library Service Modernisation Review by identifying existing data and synthesising research on capturing the impact of libraries on local communities. Chapter 7 focuses specifically on health and well-being and discusses policy context, health information provision, health support programmes and the well-being effects of participation, literacy and learning. In relation to health and well-being, the report concludes that, although libraries make a significant contribution to the health and well-being agenda, ‘the evidence is too piecemeal and insufficiently articulated in the emerging language of the field….libraries need to understand more about the effectiveness of their, now widespread, health support and information activities in helping users to ‘co-produce’ their own health’ (p. 3).

h. **The state of consumer health information: an overview**, (2009), S Smith and M Duman


Summary:
This article provides a review of consumer health information in a policy context. It concludes that ‘libraries have an emerging and potentially significant role to play as providers, and potentially producers, of health information’ (p. 276).

Self Health@Your Library’, a collaborative project between Stockport PCT, Stockport Public Health and Stockport Libraries, is described. This aims to ‘empower patients and library users to manage their psychological or physical problems and to improve their mental well-being’ (p. 274). Early in the project, mental well-being collections were collated and placed in highly visible locations in libraries, and the initiative has since been expanded to include material for children and young people and their carers, bibliotherapy reading

groups, computerised cognitive behavioural programmes and reminiscence sessions for people with dementia. Self Health collections are now available in 15 libraries in Stockport, and that these have seen a large increase in usage – with the number of titles available exceeding 1000 and the number of loans rising by over 100%.

There are plans to expand the project by adding more resources for children and young people and more spoken word materials.

i. **Patient choice scheme set to roll out across England**, (July/August 2008)

*CILIP Update 7(7-8), p.5*

**Summary:**
This news item reports on the recent success of the Partnership for Patients pilot in public libraries aimed at supporting the NHS’s Choose and Book patient referral service. The pilot scheme is detailed in the DoH’s report ‘Choice Matters’\(^2\). The keynote of the report is that there is a key role for public libraries in facilitating patient choice through the provision of health information, online access to health information and the provision of IT support for non-IT literate patients. The report highlights the key role of public libraries in reaching out to usually hard-to-reach audiences in relation to healthcare.

j. **Better health – but no cash found**, (July/August 2008)

*CILIP Update 7(7-8), p.8.*

This news item reports on the ‘Skilled for Health’ (SfH) pilot project which took place in five London boroughs. The SfH scheme aims to reduce health inequalities where poor health levels have been identified. The keynote of this project is the evidenced correlation between poor health and low skill levels and the key contribution of public libraries in increasing health awareness and introducing users to a healthy lifestyle. However, despite being a huge success, and positive receiving feedback from participating users, funding to develop the pilot scheme has not been secured from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and local authorities have been left to find potential sponsors/partnerships themselves.

\(^2\) *Department of Health (2006) Choice matters: Increasing choice improves patients’ experiences*  
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k. **Health websites: this year’s best**, (July/August 2008)

*CILIP Update* 7(7-8), p.45.

**Summary:**
Given the increased role public libraries play in patient choice, as recently demonstrated by the Partnership for Patients project, this article sets out to provide a list of health websites specifically of interest for public libraries.

l. **Local Area Agreements**, (May 2008)

*CILIP Update* 7(5), p.17.

Health is listed amongst the most cited 20 local priorities (each local authority has a list of 35 priorities) identified by local authorities in their LAA.

m. **Choice matters: working with libraries** (April 2008) Department of Health


**Summary:**
The report describes the role both public and health libraries can play in helping patients to make informed decisions about health and care. The Partnership for Patients pilot project is presented and evidence given for the contribution of public libraries in helping patients. Public libraries have been identified by patients as a potential source of information and support (notably support for the use of computers and access to online information) to make informed decisions about health care.

The Partnership for Patients project was piloted in 10 local authorities (21 libraries) presenting different population and location characteristics, in order to make comparison of the use of the Patient Choice by type of population and location possible. The pilot was in three strands: referral by a GP – visit to the library by the patient – evaluation. Case studies are available in the report.

**Examples:**
Partnerships for Patients project pilot conducted in 2006. Aim of the project: local partnership between public libraries and health sector to support patients in Choice. Summary report available at:
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www.healthlinklibraries.co.uk/pdf/Partnership_for_Patients_Project_Report_Summary_22nd_April_2008.pdf

Library staff can support patients who need to access up-to-date online information using the ‘People’s network’ (founded in 2004 and aiming at providing 30,000 broadband-enabled computers in PLs). See www.healthlinklibraries.co.uk/pdf/Choice_Matters_-_Working_with_Libraries_DH_083957.pdf

The project was evaluated by LISU, Loughborough University (see 1n).


www.healthlinklibraries.co.uk/pdf/Patient_Choice_evaluation_summary.pdf

Summary:
An evaluation of the Department of Health-funded Health Link pilot project was carried out by LISU and the Department of Information Science at Loughborough University. The Partnership for Patients pilot project aimed to investigate the potential contribution of public libraries in the delivery of, and access to, health information. The evaluation of the pilot scheme consisted in a quantitative approach supplemented by a qualitative investigation in order to capture all stakeholders’ perspectives (general public, public libraries and health sector). Despite a low uptake of the pilot scheme, findings suggest that the contribution of public libraries in the development and support of the Patient Choice is relevant, and the scheme should therefore be rolled out nationally as it helps reducing inequalities in terms of access to health information.

o. Report of a national review of NHS health library services in England: from knowledge to health in the 21st century, (March 2008), Peter Hill

www.library.nhs.uk/nlhdocs/national_library_review_final_report_4feb_081.pdf

Summary:
This report describes ways to develop patient choice and support the government Patient Choice agenda in relation to health information provision and accessibility. The report argues that library services play a central role in the access to, and delivery of, health information, thus enabling patients to make informed choice about their health care. It indicates that public libraries have always been an access point to knowledge and information and the
Development of IT facilities in public libraries will make them even more relevant in the digital information landscape, not only in terms of providing access to online information but also in supporting users in their use of the technology as well as in their information search. In the same way as health librarians are seen as ‘navigators’ for NHS patients and staff, public librarians can play a crucial role in helping patients and the wider general public to navigate through the ever-growing health information environment and access up-to-date health information. Partnerships with the NHS sector, such as the training of public librarians by NHS health librarians, are key elements in the level of services provided by public librarians in relation to health information. However, although public libraries are seen as ‘key allies’ in the NHS choice agenda, concerns are raised about the risk of lack of engagement of the public librarian community. Recommendation 49 of the report states that it is the Department of Health’s responsibility to lead and develop further the work with the public library sector (within 6 months).

p. **Fit to read**, (January/February 2008)

*CILIP Update*, 7(1-2), p.4.

Three Sefton libraries have set up the ‘Active Kidz’ scheme as part of their ongoing Fit To Read scheme. This activity takes place under the umbrella of a wider programme, the Active Sefton programme, launched by the Sefton borough. This Fit to Read scheme aims to focus on Children’s health by encouraging them to read a certain number of books and to try a certain number of sports. Children are delivered a certificate and prize when they have achieved the objectives set up by the Fit to Read programme.

q. **Mental health awareness for LIS staff**, (January/February 2008)

Summary:
See 4f, page 17.

r. **Access to health information in the South East: A survey of activity in libraries**, (May 2007), Sue Lacey Bryant

Summary:
This report presents the findings from a survey of health activities in public and NHS libraries in the south east of England. It details activities being undertaken at the time, and describes a range of partnerships, including work with Inspire and a variety of regional networks.
s. **Searching for health information: a rapid literature review**, (May 2007), Sue Lacey Bryant

Summary:
Provides a review of literature in relation to searching for health information. The review was commissioned by the South East Health Information Partnerships (SEHIPS). The document helps to gain a better understanding of the needs of the public with regard to health information. It also highlights current barriers to a better access to health information by the general public. Partnership working is described as a crucial element in the delivery of health information.

t. **MLA South East Health Information Toolkit**, (2007), MLA South East

Summary:
This toolkit, designed to help librarians provide health information to the public, brings together examples of good practice identified by the survey (see 1r), along with guidance on evaluating popular health websites and advice on handling referrals between libraries.

u. **Regional Health Activity Report for EEMLAC**, (2006), Julie Heathcote


Summary:
This report describes the type of health related activity being undertaken by a cross-section of museums, libraries and archives in the East of England region. It provides basic information on the driving forces behind health activities across the domains, indicates the health partners involved in the examples highlighted, and explores how health activities are being delivered.


Summary:
The study identified health and social care information providers in the public sector (public libraries, PCTs and social care departments), and the range of information provided. By identifying examples of good practice, the study also developed a model structure for future regional co-ordination and collaboration in the provision of health and social care information. Lack of resources was cited by survey respondents as the main barrier to health and social care
information provision, although the study also points to a lack of awareness, both within and between organisations, of the resources available. Appendix 7 gives examples of health information provision within libraries.

w. Libraries Impact Project, (2005), LASER Foundation


Summary:
This report found that libraries contributed significantly to wider government priorities, especially government objectives on patient and public involvement in health. Two case studies, in Gateshead and Newham, were aimed at demonstrating the impact of their library services on health (data available p.77-81).

Libraries’ contributions to the health agenda may come through new forms of primary care such as access to health information (in line with the informed patient choice objective). A clear demand from public library users for health related book stock was identified.

Central policy drivers pushing the health agenda were thought to be:

- Patient choice in health care (from 2005)
- NHS gateway (24-hour nurse advice + health information service)
- Public health: 4 main areas (smoking, drugs, drinking, obesity)

The Gateshead case study is also described in Public Library Journal: Making an Impact (2005) 20(3), p. 15-17. This article reports that 48% of survey respondents had used the library for health information. Of these, 38% said library service had contributed to their health. 57% of all library users felt that the library service contributed to their general well-being. Gateshead Council has been working in partnership with local health services and established a Health Improvement Team. The library has worked with this team to assist in the delivery of public health messages and provision of information and referral services. Other outcomes included library staff having a better understanding of the health promotion role of libraries.

2. Specific physical health issues
No evidence was found in this area
3. **Long-term sickness/disability**
   a. Health Link’s library specific website: [www.healthlinklibraries.co.uk/](http://www.healthlinklibraries.co.uk/)

      Summary:
      See 1e, page 7.


      Summary:
      Looks at the impact of ICT training for visually impaired users. Impact on health and well-being is threefold:

      ◦ Encouraging healthy lifestyles and contributing to mental and physical well-being
      ◦ Supporting care and recovery
      ◦ Supporting older people to live independent lives.

4. **Mental health**

      Summary:
      See 5a, page 18.

   b. ‘Reading is good for you – spread the word’, (October 2009), Debbie Hicks

      Summary:
      See 5e, page 20.

   c. Natural Partners, (Autumn 2009), Caroline Barker

      Public Library Journal, 24(3), p.15

      Summary:
      This article reports on the work of the partnership between BBC Learning, library authorities across UK and The Reading Agency, set up in 2005 (Memorandum of Understanding). In particular, it deals with their last initiative aiming at tackling people’s perceptions of mental health and well-being issues.
The Headroom campaign, launched in 2008, aims to help people to improve their mental well-being. Amongst the many mental health issues which are dealt with on the Headroom information website (which constitutes the core of the Headroom project), special attention has been placed on the following mental health issues: Alzheimer's disease, nervous breakdown and self-harm.

Libraries are contributing to the Headroom project through outreach activities and information provision and delivery. A pilot was run in 2008 in 12 libraries; these libraries worked in close collaboration with the Headroom team to deliver activities supporting the work of Headroom, including creative writing, yoga, poetry, mood doodles classes, as well as an activity based on papier-mâché work.

Further information about Headroom and libraries is available on the Headroom website at www.bbc.co.uk/headroom/newsandevents/libraries.shtml.

d. **New Horizons: Towards a shared vision for mental health**, (July 2009), Department of Health

www.newhorizons.dh.gov.uk/assets/Reports/NewHorizonsConsultation2407_A CC.pdf

This is a consultation document from the DoH aimed at providing Government, local communities and services pointers for developing ways to improve public mental health and mental health care. The document looks at prevention of mental illness and early intervention through the implementation of innovative services and partnership working.

The report contains one mention of ‘libraries’ (p.50) where the Get Into Reading project commissioned by Wirral PCT in 2005 is described as an example of services which can help to improve mental well-being through lifelong learning (see 4e, 5b). The GIR project was extended to Mersey Care PCT in 2007.

e. **A reading revolution on the Wirral**, (Autumn 2008), Jane Davis, Jen Tomkins and Stephanie Roberts


Summary:
This gives personal accounts of the well-being impact of Get into Reading
activities, notably in the areas of mental health, learning difficulties and skills development. Some of this work is delivered in partnership with the library service.

f. Mental health awareness for LIS staff, (January/February 2008), Roslyn Byfield

CILIP Update, 7(1-2), p.54

Summary:
This article reports on a course aimed at public library staff to help them become more aware of mental health issues, since statistics indicate that mental health illness is experienced by one in four people at some point in their lives, and spending relating to mental health difficulties is constantly rising. The course aimed to help library staff provide better services for people with mental health problems. A number of library authorities working in partnership with PCTs regarding mental health awareness are mentioned. Although equality training is often provided for public library staff which aims to cover all various aspects of disability, mental health and learning difficulties are not always covered by training programmes. The article concludes that the current provision of training for library staff is patchy and diverse: some library authorities have set up partnerships with local NHS mental trust, others with local mental health charities (e.g. Rethink), and some have not taken any action at all. The article also indicates that The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) provides a mental health awareness course targeted at information providers such as public library staff.

g. Bibliotherapy and information prescriptions: a summary of the published evidence-base and recommendations from past and ongoing Books on Prescription projects, (2008), D Chamberlain, D Heaps and I Robert

Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing, 15, p. 24-36,

Summary:
This paper gives a detailed summary of the published evidence relating to bibliotherapy and Information Prescription projects, together with findings of a survey of library authorities about Information Prescription projects. It presents the experience and recommendations of projects described in the literature to inform future practice.

Summary:
See 1r, page 12.

i. Medicine for the soul' Bibliotherapy and the public library, (September 2007)

Summary:
See 5k, page 22.


[www.scmh.org.uk/pdfs/mental+health+futures+policy+paper.pdf]

Summary:
There is a demand from mental health services users to access health-related services in multi-purpose community buildings such as libraries. The 2015 vision sees libraries playing a role in the delivery of mental health services by including these services in their community services. This also requires libraries to provide support to users with mental health problems to use their facilities and services.


Summary:
See 5n, page 23.

5. Well-being (as it relates to health)


[www.cilip.org.uk/membership/benefits/informed/practical-guides/pages/bibintro.aspx] [CILIP membership required]

Describes the bibliotherapy schemes in operation today:

- Self-help bibliotherapy such as BoP (prescription often involved, in the UK mostly operated by public libraries with NHS partnerships – no details given on partnerships) – mainly aimed at psychiatric, psychological and emotional problems or patients on long waiting lists awaiting treatment. Example of
Cardiff Library authority given - better self-management and better GP/patient relations. Three models are commonly used:

- The GP prescriber model
- The supported self-help model (often involves primary care mental health workers)
- The self-help library model (no prescription involved – libraries devise a collection of self-help books for their users). This is the most common scheme operated in the UK

- Creative bibliotherapy – more diverse than self-help bibliotherapy. Evidence points to health benefits including reduced stress levels and improved mental agility in older people. Three models are described:
  - Library-based bibliotherapy model
  - Reading group model, e.g. Get into Reading – successful at Mersey Care NHS trust and mental health practice
  - Poetry therapy

The report also gives information about funding/partnerships, referrals and target audience. For example:

- BoP generally targets mild or moderate mental health problems with little or no risk. Fewer cases for moderate to severe mental problems.

- Creative bibliotherapy is aimed at mild to moderate mental health problems (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations)

Evaluation is often based on number of books issued, leaflets taken by users or amount of drugs prescribed before the start of the scheme, during the scheme and after the end of the scheme.

b. Get into Reading project website

[http://reachingout.thereader.org.uk/get-into-reading.html](http://reachingout.thereader.org.uk/get-into-reading.html)

Summary:
Describes bibliotherapy activities in Wirral Libraries aimed at targeting hard-to-reach audiences from Wirral, such as elderly people and those with physical and learning difficulties, mild to moderate mental health problems and dementia. Get into Reading at Wirral obtained the support of many local GP practices. Activities include weekly reading groups, health information and self-help material provision, book recommendation and support to use books.
Other initiatives are:

- Riverside Day Centre (Birkenhead) for adults with learning disabilities
- Pensall House (Pensby)
- Age Concern Day Centre for people with Alzheimer's disease
- Devonshire Resource Centre for people suffering with dementia (Birkenhead)
- Union St Mental Health Day Centre (Wallasey)
- Plus a one-to-one session with a client from Alternative Futures who has cerebral palsy.

The project is also discussed in an article in *Public Library Journal*: **Regeneration through reading** (2007), Julie Barkway, 22(1), p13. Although no formal evaluation is described, evidence of benefits is highlighted. Project workers have access to library premises and resources, plus specialist help. Wirral librarians know that a love of reading is being fostered in places that have traditionally been hard to reach. The project Director runs training sessions for librarians and staff from other organisations (Read to Lead).

See also 4e (page 16), and 5l (page 22) for a published evaluation of the scheme.

c. **Sure Start programme** Department for Children, Schools and Families  

Government programme aiming at providing the best start in life for children through early education, childcare, health and family support. Public libraries have a role to play in meeting these aims, and many have used Sure Start to build local partnerships.

d. **Health Link's library specific website**: [www.healthlinklibraries.co.uk/](http://www.healthlinklibraries.co.uk/)

   Summary:  
   See 1e, page 7.

e. **Reading is good for you**

   Wikireadia website:  
Summary:
Comprises a set of notes on reading and health developed by the National Year of Reading. Although libraries are not specifically mentioned, this resource, which includes a section on how reading can contribute to strategic health priorities, would support libraries in positioning their work.

f. ‘Reading is good for you – spread the word’, (October 2009), Debbie Hicks


Summary:
Reports on a national programme developed by The Reading Agency and the Society of Chief Librarians. Launched in September 2009, it aims to raise the profile of libraries’ work in promoting the health benefits of reading, develop partnership building between libraries and the health sector, showcase examples of good practice and provision of new mental health services, as well as strengthen the evidence base. Increased government spending for mental health illnesses is triangulated with current government public health policy (prevention now coming to the fore) and libraries’ contribution in achieving local outcomes and impact to support bibliotherapy initiatives taking places in local public libraries.

g. *The Reading Cure*, (March 2009), Karen Brown

Therapy Today, www.therapytoday.net [subscription required]

Gives an overview of the healing benefits of books and the bibliotherapy landscape, including Books on Prescription and The Reader Organisation 3.


Summary:
See 1g, page 8.

The Reading Agency

Presents the findings of recent research mapping the provision of reading groups linked to public libraries in England and Wales.

3 http://thereader.org.uk/

Summary:
See 4g, page 17.

k. Medicine for the soul' Bibliotherapy and the public library, (Sept 2007), MA dissertation, Elizabeth Brewster


Summary:
The document investigates the attitudes and opinions of library staff regarding the introduction of bibliotherapy in public libraries to help people deal with their physical or mental health problems. The study shows that the most common form of bibliotherapy available in public libraries is the Books on Prescription scheme through the use of self-help book collections. The study also suggests that the use of creative bibliotherapy is less widespread.

The study reports that library staff generally tend to show a high level of engagement vis à vis bibliotherapy as it is seen as an extension of services they already provide with readers’ groups and reader development. The study also stresses the importance of partnership working in the provision of bibliotherapy services. The fact that there is little evaluation of this form of health-related services offered by public libraries is also stressed by the author.


l. Reading between the lines: the experiences of taking part in a community reading project, (2007), S Hodge, J Robinson and P Davis

Medical Humanities, 33, p.100-104

This paper reports on the findings of a study exploring people’s experiences of participating in Get into Reading reading groups. The findings indicate that the groups have a primarily literary purpose, and whilst they do not have a targeted therapeutic function, reading offers ‘non-specified, but individual therapeutic benefits’ (p.100).


This report provides feedback and evaluates the Bookstart programme set up at Sighthill Library and aimed at delivering services in deprived areas in the outskirts of Edinburgh, mainly Sighthill, Parhead, Soughton and Broomhouse. The report indicates that many positive changes have been noted and that parents and health visitors were very supportive of the Bookstart scheme. Findings also indicate that if a child participates in a Bookstart programme at an early age, this same child is likely to continue to visit his/her library.

- **Bookstart: Planting a Seed for Life - Final Report** (January 2005), Fiona M. Collins, Cathy Svensson, Professor Pat Mahony

The report summarises the key findings of the evaluation work of the Bookstart programme carried out by Roehampton University between Sept 2003 and Sept 2004. The evaluation consisted of a series of interviews with a cross-section of stakeholders (parents, children, library staff, Bookstart project managers and health visitors). The Bookstart programme links to the health and well-being government agenda, as it aims to provide children from a very early age with the best start in their life in terms of developmental health checks and literacy.

Findings indicate that partnerships between library authorities and the health sector were working very well where local authorities were putting much emphasis on the development of pre-school children, but partnerships also varied in the mode and quality of delivery across local authorities. Training needs for both library staff (re. health information) and health visitors (Bookstart programme) in the delivery of the Bookstart packages were identified in the evaluation work.


Summary:
The audit found that many diverse activities brought together under the term...
‘bibliotherapy’: from reader development and creative writing to self-help books and books on prescription.

Self-help books/reading and BoP are supported by the health sector – developing health and libraries partnership base. However, creative forms of bibliotherapy are less supported by the NHS – there is little evidence of partnerships with NHS.

Three mains drivers have been identified for NHS’ interest in self-help books/BoP:

- Development of policies such as promotion of healthy living and self-care
- Access to information by patients for better understanding and decision-making
- Effective use of resources

The report highlights patchy and unorganised evaluation of these schemes – there is a need for standards allowing comparison/aggregation.

6. **Skills Development**

a. **Building a society for all ages: Benefits for older people from learning in museums, libraries and archives**, (2009), Fiona Aldridge and Yanina Dutton / NIACE


Summary:
This report examines the activities of libraries, museums and archives that support the development of financial, technology, citizenship and health literacies among older people. With reference to health literacy learning, it underlines that there is a lot of work already taking place, and some examples are included in the report. It concludes that ‘libraries have an important role in Information Advice and Guidance services to provide older people with information about learning opportunities, health and other local authority and community services. There is a particular opportunity for libraries to consider how they will contribute to the emerging mid life health check being developed as part of the Government’s ageing strategy’ (p. 7). The report also considers the value of proactive partnership working.


Summary:
See 1g, page 8.

c. Skilled for Health in library services - Recommendations for rollout, (2009), MLA London


Summary:
The programme has enabled library services to provide a new service for their local communities, strengthening their role in supporting health improvement, adult skills and social inclusion agendas, and reaching out to new audiences. SfH contributes to two key government strategies – Choose Health and Skills for Life.

An independent evaluation of pilot projects undertaken by NIACE ‘undoubtedly established that libraries are effective settings for the delivery of the Skilled for Health materials…The courses have contributed to increased knowledge and understanding about health issues, the development of English language skills, increased confidence and improved aspirations around future learning’ (p. 6)

d. Skilled for health in libraries: helping people improve their health awareness and skills for life, (2007/08), MLA

Summary:
Objectives: To promote healthy living and improve confidence about access to health care through SfH classes set up in selected public libraries in boroughs where a strong correlation between low skills and poor health statistics has been identified.

Evaluation shows that SfH classes have had a positive impact on SfH learners and generally improved learning.
7. **Library as place**

   Summary:
   See 4j, page 18.

8. **Policy**
   a. Strategic Health Authority strategic plans/vision documents


   Summary:
   Four out of the ten SHAs mention libraries in their strategic plans/vision documents (North West, South Central, West Midlands and Yorkshire and Humberside). In the North West and Yorkshire and Humberside, these provide examples of work already happening in partnership with libraries, providing health information, and delivering books on prescription respectively. In the remaining two cases, libraries are mentioned in the context of delivering services against specific objectives, with no information provided about how this might be accomplished.

   b. **Public library plans**

   Summary:
   Library plans (or their equivalent) have been located for 48 out of the 151 authorities in England by means of searching the internet. Of these, 31 plans mention the terms ‘health’ and/or ‘well-being’ (or its variants), with this occurring between one and 54 times (Table B.2).

   Since it is no longer a statutory requirement for library authorities to produce service plans, the absence of authorities from Table B.2 does not necessarily infer that those libraries do not feature health and well-being in their planning.

   **Table B.2: Library plans mentioning health and/or well-being**

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<tr>
<th>Library authority</th>
<th>Library plan (or equivalent) reference</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bath &amp; NE Somerset Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathNES/leisureandculture/Libraries/information/future/better.htm">www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathNES/leisureandculture/Libraries/information/future/better.htm</a></td>
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<td>Bolton MBC</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bolton.gov.uk/website/pages/Libraryinformationandadvice.aspx">www.bolton.gov.uk/website/pages/Libraryinformationandadvice.aspx</a></td>
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<td>Bournemouth Borough Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/Residents/Libraries/Info/More_about_Bournemouth_Libraries.asp">www.bournemouth.gov.uk/Residents/Libraries/Info/More_about_Bournemouth_Libraries.asp</a></td>
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<td>Bracknell Forest Borough Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/learning/learn-libraries/learn-libraries-information.htm">www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/learning/learn-libraries/learn-libraries-information.htm</a></td>
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<td>Brighton &amp; Hove City Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.brighton-hove-rpml.org.uk/Libraries/Pages/Librarypolicydocuments.aspx">www.brighton-hove-rpml.org.uk/Libraries/Pages/Librarypolicydocuments.aspx</a></td>
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<td>Cambridgeshire CC</td>
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<td>Derbyshire County Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/">www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/</a></td>
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<td>Devon County Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.devonjobs.gov.uk/attachments/.../LIB399%20BUSINESS%20PLAN.doc">www.devonjobs.gov.uk/attachments/.../LIB399%20BUSINESS%20PLAN.doc</a></td>
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<td>Dudley MBC</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dudley.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/libraries/plans-and-policies">www.dudley.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/libraries/plans-and-policies</a></td>
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<td>East Sussex County Library HQ</td>
<td><a href="http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/libraries/policies/plans/download.htm">www.eastsussex.gov.uk/libraries/policies/plans/download.htm</a></td>
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<td>Herefordshire Council Libraries</td>
<td><a href="http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/leisure/arts_and_crafts/3040.asp">www.herefordshire.gov.uk/leisure/arts_and_crafts/3040.asp</a></td>
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<td>Hertfordshire County Council</td>
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<td>Royal Bor of Kingston upon Thames</td>
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<td>Kirklees Metropolitan Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/community/libraries/policies/policyjune09.pdf">www.kirklees.gov.uk/community/libraries/policies/policyjune09.pdf</a></td>
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<td>Lancashire County Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries/borrower/0507Service%20plan%202007-2010.pdf">www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries/borrower/0507Service%20plan%202007-2010.pdf</a></td>
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<td>Leicester City Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council-services/education-lifelong-learning/leicesterlibraries-home-page/library-strategy/">www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council-services/education-lifelong-learning/leicesterlibraries-home-page/library-strategy/</a></td>
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## Public library activity in the areas of health and well-being: Appendix B – Evidence framework

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<td>Leeds City Council</td>
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</table>

c. **Capturing the Impact of Libraries: Final report**, (January 2009), BOP Consulting/DCMS


   Summary:
   See 1g, page 8.

d. **Healthy preoccupations**, (January/February 2008), Bruce Madge


   Discusses the then CILIP president Bruce Madge’s plan to bring information professionals closer to the health information agenda. Reference to Bob Gann, Head of Strategy for NHS choices, who ‘sees collaboration between health specialists and public librarians as crucial to the government’s public health education mission’ (p. 28).

   The article makes a few references to public libraries. The author would like to see:

   - more involvement of libraries (without specifying which type of libraries) in the fight against AIDS
Public library activity in the areas of health and well-being:
Appendix B – Evidence framework

- ‘High-level CILIP involvement in the UK’s NHS Choices and Choose-and-Book programmes, using public libraries as access points for the socially disadvantaged’ (p. 29).

e. **National Indicators**, (April 2008)

*CILIP Update*, 7(4), p.16.

The preamble to national indicator 9 (NI that public libraries will be judged on) says: ‘Public libraries can make an important contribution to a full and fulfilling life and provide unique personal and intrinsic benefits. The services they provide are capable of giving positive outcomes for a wide variety of enquiries and purposes, including promoting community cohesion, education and well-being’ (p. 16).

f. **Arts, health and well-being strategy**, (2007), Arts Council

[http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/media/uploads/phpC1AcLv.pdf](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/media/uploads/phpC1AcLv.pdf)

Only one mention is made of the word ‘libraries’ and its variants: p.13 ‘they have been instrumental in brokering a new agreement between five of the leading national cultural agencies’ and this is where MLA is mentioned.

g. **A prospectus for arts and health**, (2007), Arts Council and Department of Health


Libraries are mentioned in part 3, p.15 in relation to key factors contributing to delivering successful projects and programmes: ‘Building partnerships with all types of organisations both within the arts and healthcare sectors, and also with the private sector, local authorities, local libraries, educational facilities, transport services and community groups’.

Prospectus part 4 touches on academic research showing the benefit of the arts on a wide range of health outcomes (e.g. impact of singing on quality of life of people with dementia or music therapy), but does not mention libraries.

h. **Exploring opportunities for engaging with health and social care agendas**: **Report for MLA East of England**, (March 2007), Catina Barrett & Alison McCamley
This report investigates whether museums, libraries and archives contribute or could contribute to the government health and social care agendas. It maps out opportunities for the MLA sector to build partnerships with the health and social care sectors. It is suggested that pairing up the work of the health sector with the public library sector through partnerships would help in meeting national and local agendas. The report also highlights the need for library staff to have a clearer understanding of regional and local health strategies, to help them in the provision and delivery of health information to public library users.


   Summary:
   See 4j, page 18.


   Summary:
   See 1w, page 14.