

THE LOCAL AUTHORITY PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE

Association of Irish Local Government

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Vision for Public Library Service

A civic space facilitating a cultural meeting point both physical and virtual

A space that is open, inclusive and welcoming

A place to engage, share knowledge and learn

A space that is dynamic, innovative and defined by its users

www.libraries.ie



Wexford Town Library



Kilkee Library Co. Clare



Kilkenny City Library



Waterford City Library



Carlow Town Library



Thurles Town Library



Listowel Town Library



Kilmallock Town Library



Core Guiding Library Principles:

An ethos of social inclusion and customer service

Commitment to providing equality of access and diversity in all services

Work to build relationships and cultivate partnerships with the wider community and other stakeholders

Hollyhill Library Cork City



Hollyhill Library Cork City



Moyross Library Limerick



Mobile Library Co. Kerry



Mobile Library Co. Kilkenny



Mobile Library Limerick



Mobile Library Service



Mobile Library Stop

Profile of Public Library Services 2015

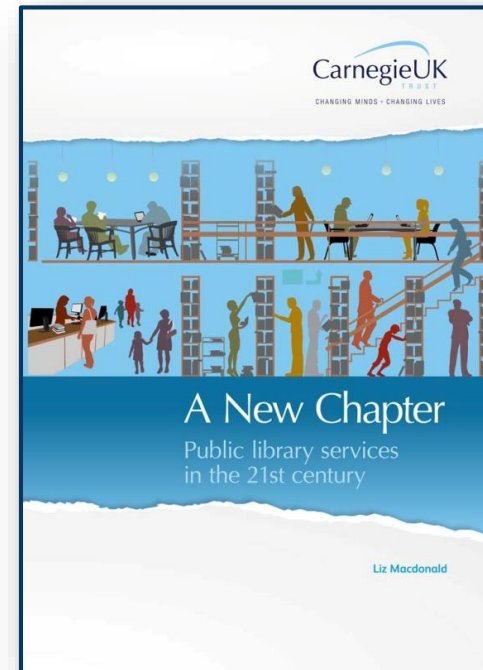
- **17.6 million** visits to libraries in 2015
- **903,000** registered members (20% of the population)
- **18.4 million** books, CDs and DVDs borrowed
- **2.3 million internet sessions** provided on 2,000 Internet access PCs and via free Wi-Fi

Public Libraries Overview 2015

- 336 branch libraries and 30 mobile libraries.
- Local Authorities spent approx. €129 million on library services
- Local Authorities spent approx. €8 million on stock

International Surveys

- **Carnegie UK Trust 2012-
Value of The Public Library to the community**
- **Ireland** **79%** (“very important” or “essential”)
- **Scotland** **76%**
- **Wales** **77%**
- **England** **74%**
- **Nth. Ireland** **65%**



International Surveys

‘Ireland’s Vital Signs 2013’ –

Most important issues affecting quality of life in order of priority

Libraries and reading scored 5th in a list of 119 options



International Surveys

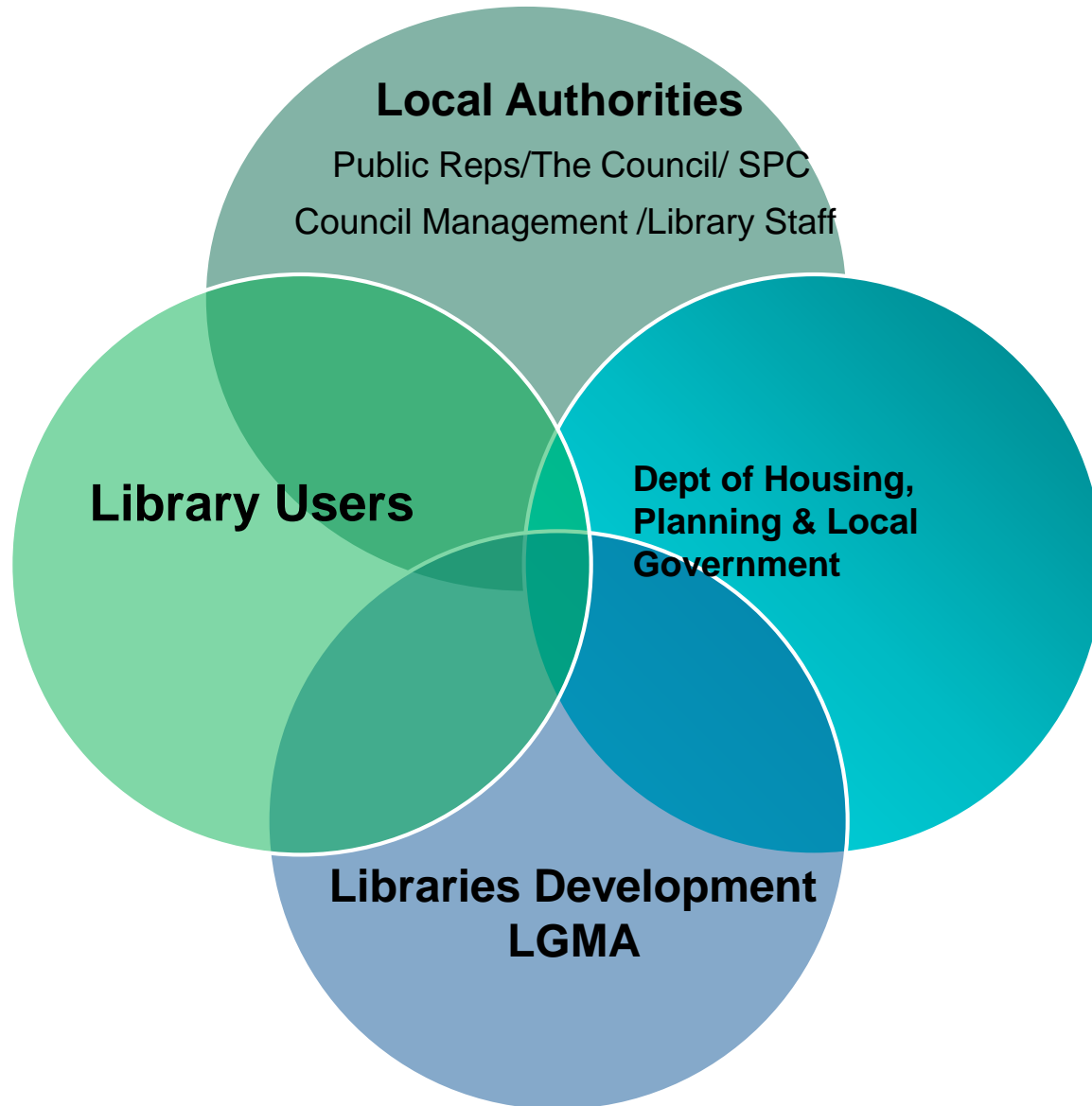
Ireland's Vital Signs 2015

Survey question: Satisfaction with life in Ireland and what was important

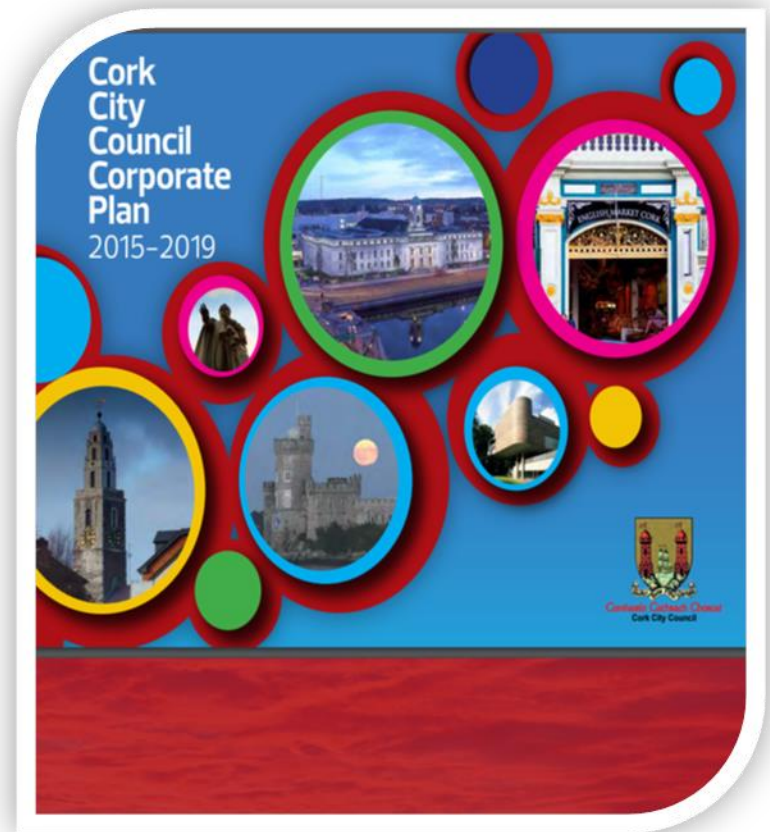
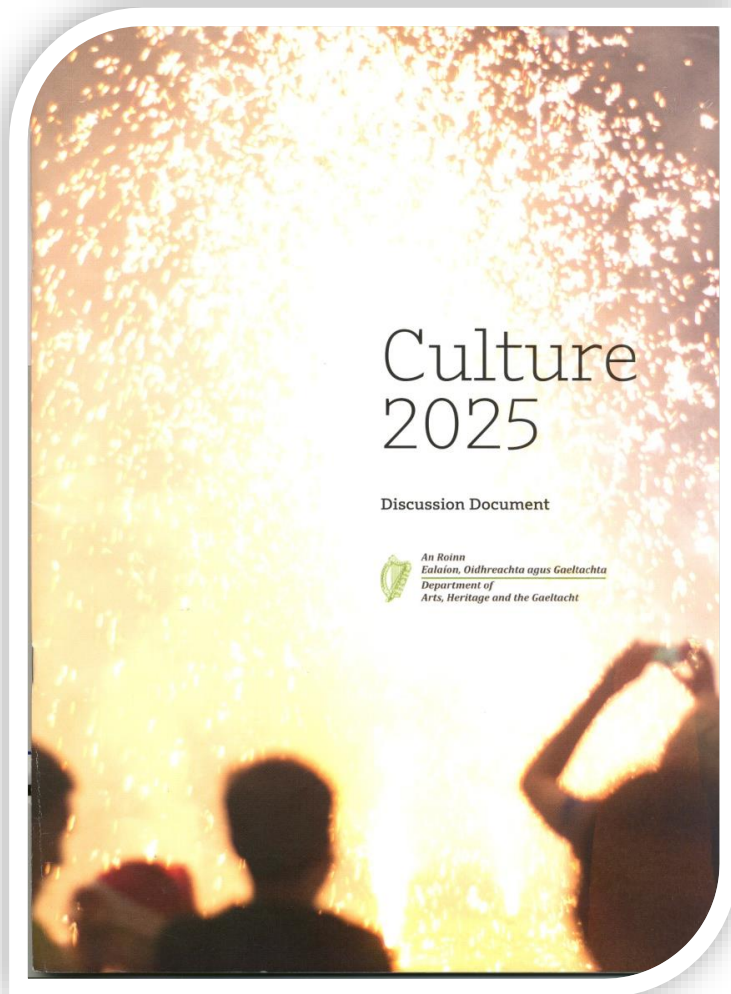
Library services were given a 'B' grade, (good but with some improvements needed)



Key Stakeholders



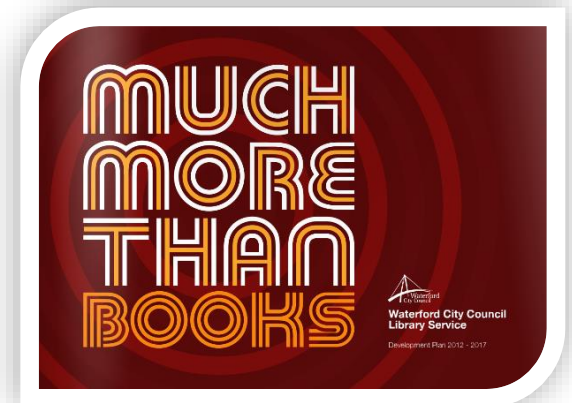
Wider national & local policies & plans



Reserved Functions

Preparing a Library Development Plan

- an outline of the existing library services
- the development objectives and priorities
- the measures taken or proposed to be taken to secure objectives
- the financial or other implications of the library programme



Reserved Functions

Annual Budget

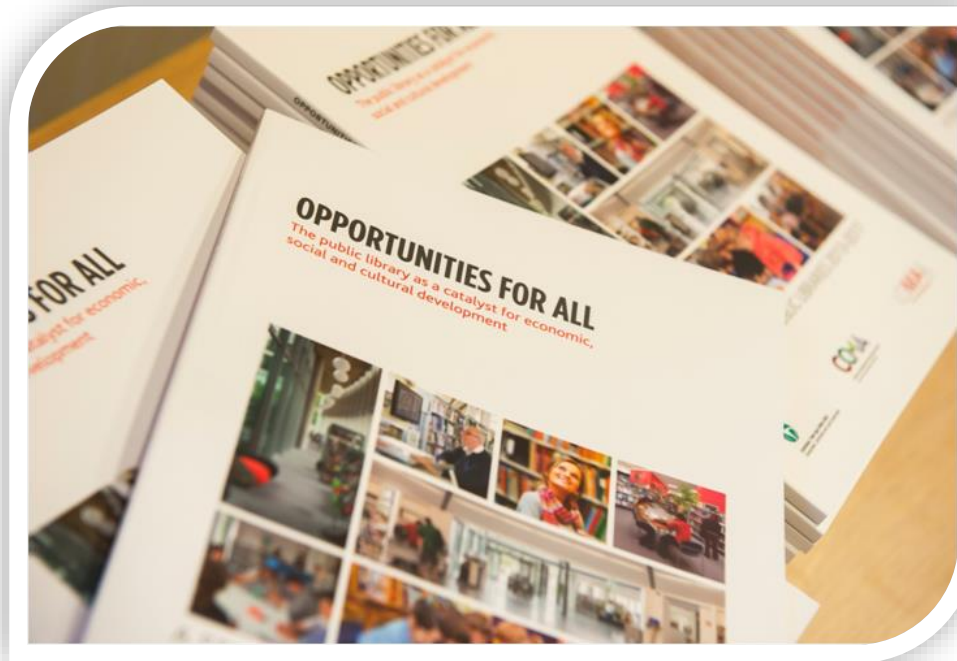
- Each local authority prepares an annual budget for library service.
- The annual budget is a key element of the library plan for the year.
- Book Fund: the average spend is currently €1.68 per capita.

The national standard and benchmark target is €3.77 per capita.



Public Library Strategy

- Opportunities for All, 2013-2017
- Ambitious strategy for library service development and innovation
- Positioning the library service in the broader local authority strategy



National Policy Framework 2013-2017

Vision

Ireland's public libraries will promote:

- Community cohesion and well-being
- Economic growth and cultural identity
- Enable learning
- Deliver information and skills
- Animate culture, both in the community and online

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL


The public library as a catalyst for economic, social and cultural development



A STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES 2013-2017

1. Buildings & Service Provision

Aims:

- 
- To provide a **high quality** public library branch network
 - To deliver universal **free access** for all
 - To deliver a **consistent service** nationally
 - To provide leadership in local authority **community engagement**
 - To provide **optimal opening hours** for the community

1. Buildings & Service Provision

Actions:

- New Capital Programme for libraries announced
 - €22 million for 16 new libraries
- Free library membership is now available across Ireland from January 2016
- Books are central to a library service. The Department has set a per capita stock fund target of €3.77

Capital Investment Programme

includes:

□ Clare	€3.0m
□ Kilkenny	€2.45m
□ Limerick	€2.0m
□ Tipperary	€0.25m
□ Wexford	€0.25m
□ Kerry	<u>€0.25m</u>
Total	€8.2m

Also – Open Libraries projects nationally €2.3 million

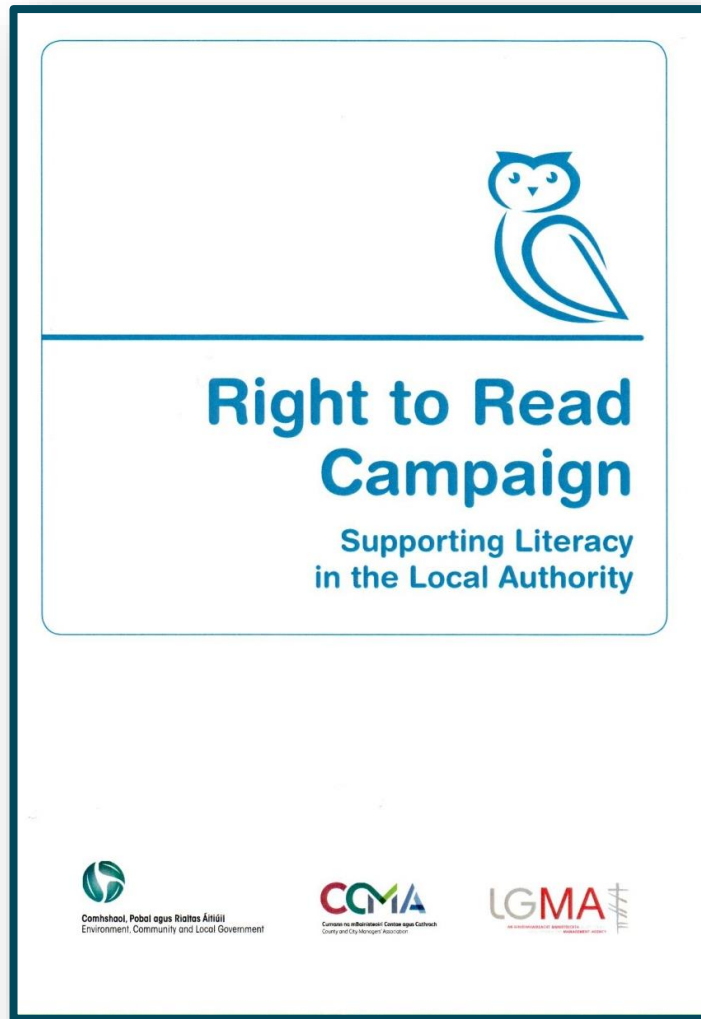
2. Learning, Skills & Enterprise



Aims:

- To provide opportunities for individuals to develop as **literate, informed citizens**
- To support **lifelong learning** and return to learning
- To provide **literacy support** for children and adults with learning difficulties
- To support **local economic initiatives** and developments particularly supporting the information and research needs of local based entrepreneurs and SMEs
- To act as a support network for those **seeking employment**

Right to Read



- Support children's literacy, numeracy & communication skills
- Aligned with Dept of Education's National Literacy & Numeracy Strategy
- Integrated approach to support people of all ages with literacy problems
- Review best practice in Literacy & implement through the Library Service

Business, enterprise & employment supports

- Working with LEOs
- Providing online and print resources
- Information for job seekers, entrepreneurs
- PCs, printing, databases, meeting rooms
- Networking events, business talks



3. Culture & Community

Aims

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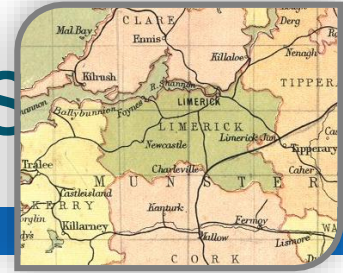
- To foster **reading** and literary appreciation
- To support **social inclusion**
- To provide a **cultural space** for people and communities
- To provide **economic stimulus** through learning and creativity
- To provide access to **reliable and authoritative information**

3. Culture & Community

Actions:

- Build on collections of local studies and family history
- Facilitate groups and community activities - PPNs, LCDCs
- Build on the libraries role in delivering information
- Continue to make available cultural meeting spaces
- Provide a high range of cultural programming

Local History & Archives



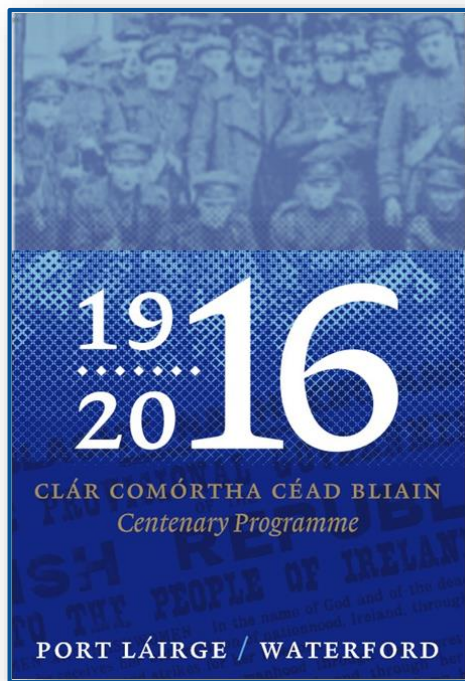
- ❑ Collects and preserves and makes available information on the history, culture & heritage of the local area
- ❑ Collection comprises books & journals, maps, newspapers, AV materials, online resources
- ❑ Acquisition and preservation of archival Items
- ❑ Organising Exhibitions / Conferences

Local History Research



1916:2016 Programme

1916
CLÁR COMÓRTHA
CÉAD BLIAIN
Centenary Programme



- Many County/City Librarians are 1916 Co-ordinators
- Many library venues nationwide hosted Centenary events.
- Library local history departments supported 1916 research

Wexford Remembers 1916



Diarmaid Ferriter – 2016 Public Lecture



Libraries as Cultural Spaces

RTÉ String Quartet – Lunchtime concerts



Libraries as Cultural Spaces

Freddie White – Lunchtime Concert



Children's Drumming Workshop



Story Time in Kerry Libraries



4. The Virtual Library



Aims:

- To achieve the most **effective and cost-efficient** IT library systems and services
- To **increase** national and local digital collections
- To **extend** eLearning opportunities available in public libraries

Library Management System(LMS)

- ❑ National tender
- ❑ By 2017 all library authorities using Sierra
- ❑ Single catalogue
- ❑ Borrow from any library in the country
- ❑ Access online resources



eResources

National tender

- ❑ eMagazines/Journals
- ❑ eBooks
- ❑ eAudio
- ❑ eNewspapers
- ❑ eOnline Courses
- ❑ eLanguages

Funding model based
on population



Borrow, download
and enjoy here
Your library in one app.



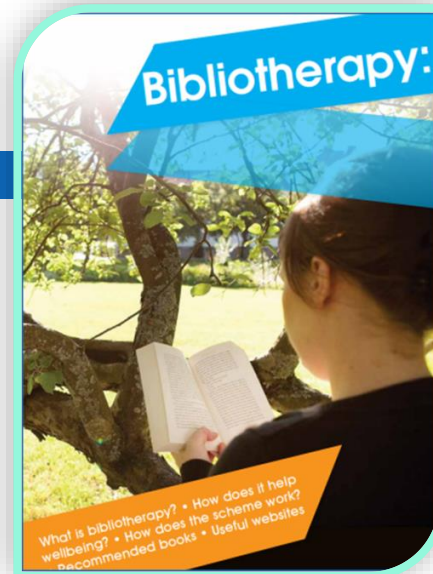
Online Resources

- Online resources in place across Ireland to support literacy, numeracy and digital skills, and lifelong learning



5. New Initiatives

□ Bibliotherapy



□ Open Libraries

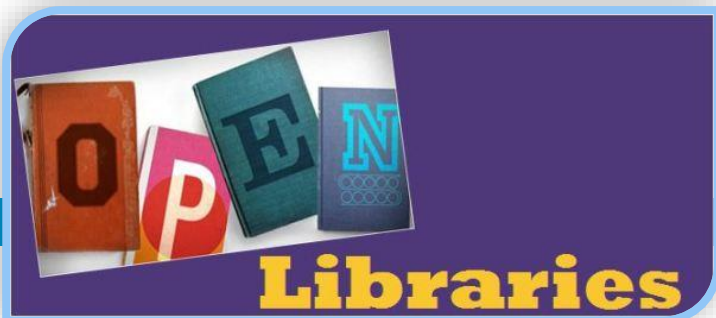


Bibliotherapy

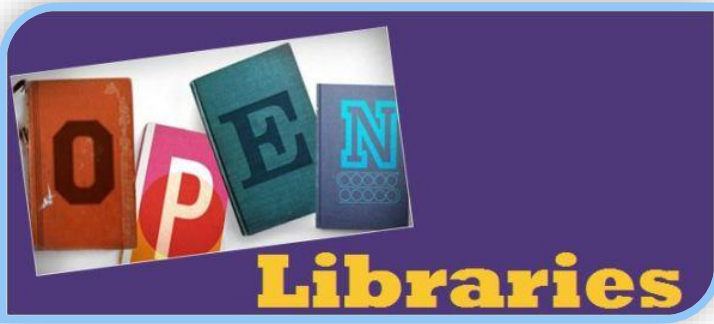


- Bibliotherapy refers to the beneficial effects of reading with a therapeutic outcome in mind.
- An example of the Compassionate Communities Project is Moyross library working in partnership with Milford Care Hospice Centre to develop a bibliotherapy section in the library
- This initiative includes a dedicated collection of books and materials on all aspects of coping with loss and bereavement.





- Additional opening hours for public – not staffed
- 8am – 10pm, 7 days per week – 365 days a year
- Pilots in Tullamore, Banagher & Tubbercurry
- Self-service, study, internet, wifi, community meetings
- Open Libraries membership (over 16s)



- Very successful abroad, particularly in Scandinavian countries
- Reaches a broader range of customers
- Access available when it suits customer
- Very few incidents



Recommendations:

- ❑ Extend on incremental basis
- ❑ Minimum of 1 model per local authority
- ❑ New projects to have Open Libraries integrated into plans
- ❑ Complement and enhance service offer

Questions

