



## **Children and Young People's Promise in Public Libraries**

This Children's Promise sets out the experience children and young people should have through public library services

### ***Vision:***

- *Children and young people visiting our libraries should be inspired by a welcoming, inclusive, exciting and accessible library, with a range of fiction and non-fiction books that mirrors the diversity of our world and make reading irresistible.*
- *They should be enabled to engage with imaginative digital opportunities, building their skills, literacy, knowledge and creativity.*
- *They should be encouraged to take part in formal and informal learning opportunities*
- *They should be able to take part in a wide range of creative cultural experiences including reading and book-based activities.*
- *They should benefit from targeted library service activities that address disadvantage and improve their health and wellbeing.*
- *They should be actively involved in decisions about library service developments and are offered opportunities to volunteer.*

## **Children's Library Journeys**

Public Libraries welcome children from the very earliest months of life, helping parents and carers to support them as they grow and learn. Working with schools, schools library services and school librarians and local and national partners, libraries provide a range of activities, programmes and initiatives which introduce, extend and refresh the library experience to children and support automatic library membership programmes. ASCEL have drawn these together into a single '[library journey](#)' that every child can enjoy– all focused on the best outcomes for the child.

At what stage in a Child's Journey?	What does this look like?	Outcome
Pre-natal to birth	Involvement in pre-natal projects and programmes. Inspiring parents to read and share rhymes and songs with their baby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing life outcomes for children aged 0-2</li> <li>• Supporting attachment, resilience, emotional health and wellbeing, speech and language</li> <li>• Parents confident about using books and rhymes to support their child's development</li> </ul>
Pre-school	<p>Inspiring parents to read and rhyme with their child and form a lifelong reading habit, Bookstart</p> <p>Giving parents space and time to spend time bonding with babies and building parental confidence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing life outcomes for children aged 0-2</li> <li>• Supporting attachment, resilience, emotional health and wellbeing building resilience and character, speech, language communication development; early literacy and school readiness</li> </ul>
Transition to primary school	Partnerships with schools, including class visits to libraries and digital offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting literacy and language development, reducing the literacy gap in poverty hotspots.</li> <li>• Tackling rural isolation</li> <li>• Providing opportunities for looked after children/young carers</li> </ul>
Out of school engagement with primary aged children	Children have the opportunity to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge and other reading, learning, digital and cultural activities throughout the year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting literacy and language development raising aspiration</li> <li>• Closing the literacy gap in poverty hotspots.</li> <li>• Tackling rural isolation</li> <li>• Providing opportunities for looked after children/young carers</li> <li>• Building community and family cohesion.</li> <li>• Reducing digital inequalities</li> <li>• Digital fluency –(citizenship, STEM Agenda and supporting information literacy)</li> <li>• Supporting emotional and mental health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Stimulating imagination and creativity</li> </ul>
Transition to secondary school	<p>Supporting learning</p> <p>Helping nurture a lifelong love of learning that may impact positively on exam success.</p> <p>Providing an opportunity for young people to engage with libraries via a digital platform.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for young people to improve their technical skills – STEM agenda National Curriculum - IT curriculum / digital fluency</li> <li>• Tackling rural isolation</li> <li>• Contributes to raising young people's aspiration and achievement, supporting GCSE /A level success and has a long term economic impact</li> <li>• Supporting transition</li> </ul>

At what stage in a Child's Journey?	What does this look like?	Outcome
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Character education</li> </ul>
Out of school engagement with secondary school children	Participation in volunteering opportunities and accreditation, Reading Hack activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boosting self-esteem and aspiration, increasing confidence, improving employability skills and reducing NEETS</li> <li>• Reducing inequality and improving economic wellbeing</li> <li>• Community engagement, cultural and creative skills /participation/social cohesion</li> <li>• Improving and supporting young people's mental health and wellbeing?</li> </ul>

## Our partners

Libraries work with a range of local and national partners to deliver the Children and Young People's Promise. National partners include The Reading Agency, Booktrust, National Literacy Trust, Arts Council England, The School Library Association and CILIP Youth Libraries Group and School Libraries Group, Achievement For All, Fair Education Alliance, NSPCC, Beanstalk, Inclusive Minds and Empathy Lab.

We work closely with Libraries Connected, and the **Children's Promise** links to the Universal Offers and Six Steps Promise:- **See appendix**

**The Children and Young People's Promise also reflects the principles of Arts Council England's [7 Quality Principles](#) for work with children and young people.**

- striving for excellence
- emphasising authenticity
- being inspiring, and engaging
- ensuring a positive child-centred experience
- actively involving children and young people
- providing a sense of personal progression
- developing a sense of ownership and belonging

## Delivering on the Children's Promise

ASCEL's work to deliver on this promise includes:

- Marketing and advocacy
- Developing the skills of library staff
- Sharing best practice
- Research and development

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[www.ascel.org.uk](http://www.ascel.org.uk)

## Appendix

### Universal Library Offers

The new Universal Library Offers aim to connect communities, improve wellbeing and promote equality through learning, literacy and cultural activity.

- [Culture and Creativity](#)
- [Health and Wellbeing](#)
- [Information and Digital](#)
- [Reading](#)



The Universal Library Offers also aim to ensure that all aspects of public library provision are accessible and therefore each offer is underpinned by the [Six Steps Promise](#) to ensure access for people with visual impairments developed by Share the Vision and [The Children's Promise](#) developed by The Association of Senior Children's and Education Librarians (ASCEL).

The Universal Offers were launched in 2013 to demonstrate the power of public libraries to enrich the lives of individuals and their communities. Two of the offers (Reading, and Health and Wellbeing) are delivered in partnership with The Reading Agency.

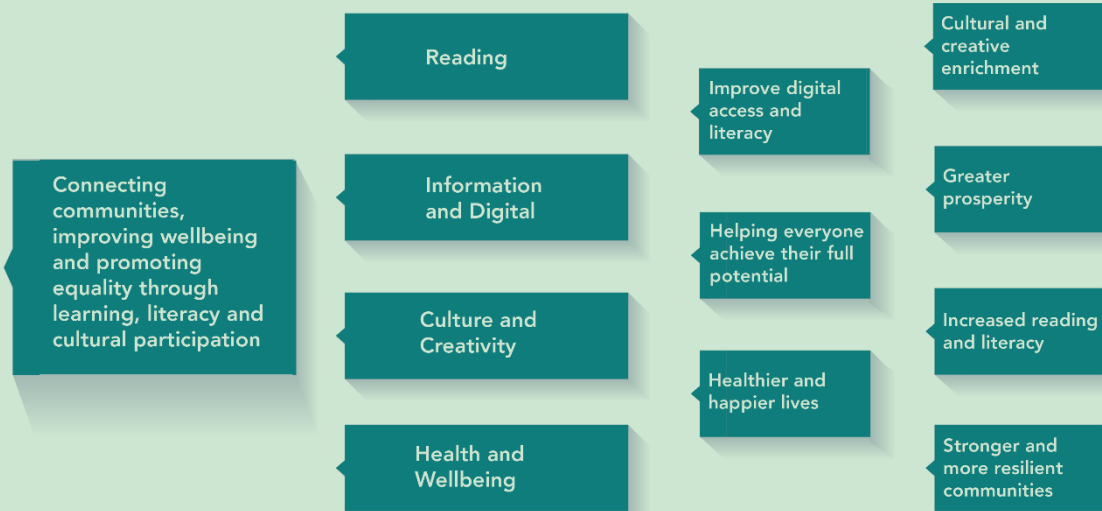
The offers were reviewed with the public library sector and stakeholders in 2019 and relaunched to create a new streamlined and consistent framework. The framework will ensure that the offers remain central to our aim to support the core public library offer and to drive library innovation and development.

# Universal Library Offer Framework

What societal needs do libraries meet - mission

What libraries do - Universal Library Offers

What libraries offer - outcomes/measure



Community confidence, planning the transition to physical events

Increasing the integration between physical and online events

Social Distancing and- events and activities how to run safely in library spaces

Online cultural and creative activities and commissioned partner events  
#LibrariesfromHome

Supporting the recovery of the local cultural economy

National Calendar events

Capitalising on current interest in reading

Ensuring access to books and reading opportunities

**CULTURE AND CREATIVITY**

**READING**

Helping people in financial hardship and boosting the economy

Universal Library Offers in recovery 2020 -2021

Children's learning and literacy

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

**INFORMATION AND DIGITAL**

Mental health support - online events and information

Emergency and recovery community support

Health information online

Employment skills  
Adult learning online opportunities

Single digital presence  
Information literacy

Digital skills  
Digital equipment

Staff creative digital skills  
Business and information

Supporting Vulnerable and isolated people

Ability to access physical and online services