

<b>Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee</b>		
Title	The Lewisham Library and Information Service	
Contributor	Head of Culture and Community Development	Item 5
Class	Part 1 (open)	10 March 2015

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. Since 2010, libraries have been on a substantial transformation journey that produced a Service that is now a benchmark of good practice at national level and a Service with interesting potential to respond supportively to the challenges that the local authority is facing.

## **2. Purpose**

- 2.1. This report offers background information on the changes implemented by the Service, it illustrates its current structure and offers an update on its performance with particular regard to the provision of library services in community venues.
- 2.2. The analysis of performance is based on measures recorded between April 2014 and January 2015, and on the CIPFA Actuals for 2013-2014.
- 2.3. It should be noted that the Service is currently implementing a reorganisation that was sanctioned by Mayor and Cabinet on 11/2/2015, which will deliver £240k savings on the budget 2015-2016.

## **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1. Members of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee are invited to:
- note the content of the report, and
  - comment on the observations on performance.

## **4. Policy context**

- 4.1. Shaping the Future, the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy includes the following priority outcomes which relate to the work of the Library and Information Service and reflect the Council's aspirations for the service:
- Ambitious and Achieving – where people are inspired and supported to fulfil their potential.
  - Empowered and Responsible – where people can be actively involved in their local area and contribute to supportive communities.
  - Healthy, Active and Enjoyable – where people can actively participate in maintaining and improving their health and wellbeing.
  - Dynamic and Prosperous – where people are part of vibrant localities and town centres, well connected to London and beyond.
- 4.2. The Library and Information Service also contributes to the following Council Priorities:

- Community leadership and empowerment – developing opportunities for the active participation and engagement of people in the life of the community.
- Strengthening the local economy – gaining resources to regenerate key localities, strengthen employment skills and promote public transport.
- Active, healthy citizens – leisure, sporting, learning and creative activities for everyone.

4.3. The Quirk Review of community management and ownership of public assets was published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in May 2007. It found that while there are risks and practical challenges involved, there are no insurmountable obstacles to successfully transferring assets to community management and ownership. In July 2008 Mayor and Cabinet agreed an Asset Transfer Framework to provide a basis for identifying, assessing and making decisions on potential assets where ownership could be transferred in a way that is transparent, consistent and linked to wider strategic objectives.

## 5. Background

5.1. Library services across the country are experiencing substantial challenges linked to reducing resources available to the local authorities that run them, and to modernisation programmes that are developed by the individual authorities in the absence of an overarching national strategic approach.

5.2. In this context, the Committee will note that some confusion may still exist in relation to the provision of library services in the London Borough of Lewisham, following major changes implemented by the local authority since 2010. Reports in the professional and popular press, as well as online discussion boards, still refer to Lewisham library “closures”.

5.3. The following clarifies Lewisham’s story, vision, and strategy. This document comes at an important juncture in the history of this Library and Information Service, as it follows unprecedented transformation and looks ahead to new challenges.



### Lewisham in figures (Estimates 2014-2015)

- Population 286,200
- 13 libraries
- over 2 million visits
- 777k issues
- 40,766 residents (15%) borrowed a book
- 82,449 residents (28.8%) used library services
- Books gifted to 100% of under 5s
- Net Expenditure £20.59/head

## 6. A definition of Public Library Service and core philosophy

6.1. Lewisham recognises that the public library service exists to fulfil the local authority’s statutory obligations set out by the Public Library and Museums Act 1964. In law, it aims to provide “comprehensive and efficient” library services to citizens.

6.2. In practice, it is a service that universally strives to offer “unbiased access to information, learning, and works of creative imagination”. It is also a service that supports civic interaction through its openness, trustworthiness, and reliability.

6.3. Within Lewisham, the Library and Information Service sits within the Culture and Communities Services division of the Community Services directorate and contributes

towards the fulfilment of the borough's Sustainable Community Strategy, 'Shaping Our Future' and the borough's Cultural Strategy. The key themes within the latter are Place Making, Prosperity, Learning, Community and Health, which all feature within library programmes.

- 6.4. The Lewisham Library and Information Service operates from seven buildings that the Council owns and manages, and from six community venues in which a peripatetic library service is available to residents.
- 6.5. The public library service offers truly public spaces, where people visit to interact, use and take away tools for their personal, family and community's development, and find ways of expressing themselves. This is on offer to all citizens without a requirement for affiliation, ownership, and/or payment.
- 6.6. In an era in which more and more services move to the 'cloud', the public library service offers an opportunity for positive human interaction, whilst also embracing and promoting the virtual world. Indeed, in this context, public library services are ideally positioned to become community hubs, as local authorities increasingly deliver services from fewer premises.
- 6.7. The Service has sought increased integration with other Council departments to better respond to current and future corporate priorities. Lewisham libraries are supporting the eAdmission process (for primary schools entrants), the Registrar, the Parking permit distribution, the Be Active scheme, for leisure concessions, and most recently, the Concessionary Awards Team (for Freedom Pass renewals), and ongoing changes in the implementation of the new Universal Benefit system. Libraries work closely with MARAC team (all libraries are Hate Crime Reporting centres) and are members of the FGM subgroup. Libraries are represented on the Jobs Fair working group. Libraries work with Public Health sharing the C Card Scheme, hosting Health Promotion Team and Shape Up Programmes, Nutrition workshops, and every library is a Breastfeeding Friendly Centre. The Service also have worked for many years in close partnership with Community Education Lewisham to deliver the Reading Agency's '6 Book Challenge' and 'Adult Learners Week'.

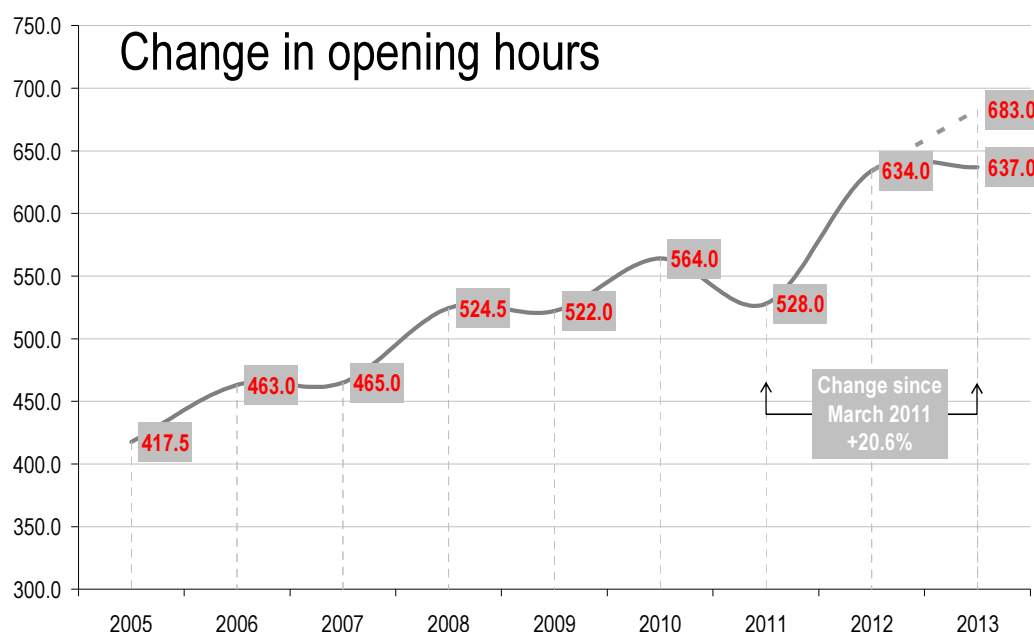
## **7. The transformation journey**

- 7.1. During 2011-2012, the Service went through profound transformation. The level of change and the speed in which was delivered are truly unique, and have made Lewisham into a benchmark for effective transformation in the library sector, particularly in relation to the transfer of assets and the interaction with local communities.
- 7.2. Lewisham has been on the path to change for a few years.  
In 2006, the opening of the Downham Health and Leisure Centre introduced new staffing models, co-location with health and leisure providers and the adoption of self-service technology.  
In 2007, the Quirk Review offered the blueprint for the transfer of public assets.  
In 2009, the Mayoral Commission on Libraries and Adult Learning set out the political and corporate vision for the transformation of the Service.  
In 2010, the Comprehensive Spending Review, acted as the catalyst and the accelerator for change, delivering the asset transfer and a full reorganisation.  
In 2014-15, the Service reorganised again.
- 7.3. In the last few years, at a strategic level, Lewisham has joined the London Libraries Consortium, has introduced a new Library Management System, has introduced

Collection HQ, a new piece of software that will analyse Lewisham's collections of stock comparing them to those of the rest of the country, and has restructured the Service four times.

At an operational level, Lewisham has opened the refurbished Torridon Road Library co-located with a Children's Centre, decommissioned Wavelengths Library and opened Deptford Lounge, has decommissioned and re-commissioned the service provision for six community buildings and has introduced the new scalable and replicable Community Library model.

Overall, this has led to a 20.6% increase in library opening hours, 10% increase in online reference enquiries, and 100% increase in eBook loans.



- 7.4. Lewisham has earned the status of model for the delivery of library services across the Country, interacts with London Councils, Arts Council England, the Greater London Assembly, it sits on the Development Groups of the London Libraries Consortium, is the past chair of the Association of London Chief Librarians, and represents London at the Society of Chief Librarians. Lewisham has worked with colleagues across the country to present its model of service delivery.

## 8. The Service – The structuring processes

- 8.1. Since 2010, the Service went through four restructuring processes. The main reorganisation in 2011 changed the way in which the Service is structured substantially, introducing a flatter organisation, introducing generic and flexible job roles, increasing the front line, and maintaining key professional roles.
- 8.2. It allowed for flexibility and growth, to support developments through increased collaboration with other library services, other council departments, and with community groups.
- 8.3. The Service was divided into two teams, the Business Development Unit and the Business Delivery Unit. The first works to develop products and audiences, the second to deliver them to customers.

- 8.4. Two further minor reorganisations of the Logistics and Administration Teams delivered efficiencies and streamlined operations.
- 8.5. More recently, in 2014-2015, the reorganisation process decreased the number of senior roles still increasing the resilience of front-line operations. This restructuring is still under way and should come into effect fully to deliver savings in the year 2015-2016.

## **9. The Service – The Community Library Model**

- 9.1. As part of the Council's £88 million savings programme, Lewisham Council decided to pursue the option of transferring five "library buildings", to the community and to reorganise the remaining provision.  
By transferring the buildings to the community the Council saved ca. £240k on upkeep and maintenance, and by reorganising the service it saved ca. £755k on salary costs. Including the reduction in costs on IT maintenance and software, the Services contributed ca. £1M of savings.
- 9.2. This approach created an opportunity for community groups and organisations to acquire and develop alternative services within the former library buildings with minimal or no rent, as long as they committed to maintaining the building and keeping them open to the community. Crucially, the community library model has also meant that the Council can still provide Council library services from the building, even after it has been transferred.
- 9.3. The Council remain responsible for the books, for the shelving, for the self-service terminals and for the library catalogue. It maintains the stock to the standard it applies to all its collections. It promotes reader development programmes and trains the staff and volunteers at the community libraries.
- 9.4. The Council never transferred its statutory responsibility to deliver library services to third parties (i.e. volunteers). The community library provision is the responsibility of the Library and Information Service as any other outreach programme it delivers. However, the Service benefits from the commitment of the anchor / host organisations to promote books and reading and offer access to library services in the buildings they are responsible for.
- 9.5. In May 2011, the Council transferred four library buildings to community groups and relocated one to a community venue. Crofton Park, Grove Park and Sydenham have been leased at no cost to Eco Computer Systems, a social enterprise that works recycling technology and delivering training. Age Exchange, a charity based in Blackheath, asked and obtained £200k of funding to match over £500k of money they had raised to support the refurbishment of their Reminiscence Centre. A group of local residents, New Cross Learning, joined up with the social enterprise Bold Vision, to run the New Cross building.
- 9.6. In all cases, the third party, as well as signing a lease or funding agreements with the council, committed to supporting the provision of library services in their buildings at no cost to the council.
- 9.7. The Service has worked with Axiell UK and the Community Libraries to roll out OG Touch. This is a bespoke IT solution which allows volunteers restricted access to the Libraries' database and enable them to more fully support users in accessing services (e.g. searching the catalogue, placing reservations). OG Touch has gained significant interest from other authorities keen to adopt a system for similar use.

- 9.8. In addition to the five provisions above, the Community Library model was formally extended to Pepys Resource Centre in the Evelyn ward in December 2013 through the introduction of RFID enabled stock and OG Touch.

## 10. Performance

- 10.1. In spite of the substantial changes implemented in recent years, Lewisham's is one of the most successful library services in London. The most recent Comparative Profile published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting – responsible for monitoring the performance of library services nationally – demonstrates Lewisham's achievements against the comparators' downward trends in 2013-2014. The comparators include Barking & Dagenham, Brent, Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, Greenwich, Hackney, Haringey, Hounslow, Islington, Lambeth, Newham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, and Waltham Forest.
- 10.2. CIPFA say that Lewisham has closest to the "highest number of libraries" within the comparator group, it serves the "7th largest" population, and, in relation to active borrowers, "is in the higher quartile suggesting that the library service engages well with the population when compared to the other authorities". It shows the highest number of volunteer hours as a proportion of volunteer hours plus employee hours. Lewisham registers the third highest number of visits to libraries per 1,000 population. "Lewisham comes out as being at the middle of the comparison" in relation to Revenue Expenditure per 1,000 population. The service costs £20/year or 38p/week per resident. The recent budget savings and the expected growth in population are likely to bring this cost down further.
- 10.3. Lewisham's visits to libraries continue to grow, being 1.5% higher than last year (over 2 million/year). Visits to the seven council-run libraries grew 1% and visits to the community libraries grew 4%. The average number of visits to our Deptford Lounge grew from an average of 31,000 to almost 36,000 per year. The availability of Wi-Fi has made this building particularly attractive to younger users, and its links to the Albany Theatre has made it into a key local cultural venue. For a detailed breakdown of Visits and Issues please see Appendix 1.
- 10.4. However, CIPFA's analysis shows that book issues are below the median of the comparative group and our expected performance for 2014-2015 shows an expected decrease in issues of 6%. While the emphasis is shifting away from book issues the Service realise that there is work to do in improving the collections of books, particularly of Adult Fiction and Non Fiction. However, the success of Children's Fiction books should be noted.
- 10.5. The community buildings are also thriving, both as local hubs and as libraries, through new activities and funded programmes in their spaces. A range of different activities continue to be delivered alongside library-themed programming. These include work clubs providing information, advice and access to IT to help residents return to work, business start-up advice, computer training to residents, sit down exercise classes for the elderly, and a range of other cultural programming, such as film screenings and poetry performances.
- 10.6. For the year 2014-2015, we expect Visits to the Community Libraries to increase by 4% although Issues have decreased by 5%.
- 10.7. Following last year's positive performance, Blackheath has seen a decrease in both Visits (-4%) and Issues (-14%). At the opposite end of the spectrum, Sydenham has

seen a growth in Visits (+34%) and Issues (+9%). Crofton Park, Grove Park, and New Cross all register growth in Visits but not in Issues.

- 10.8. Anchor/host organisations have helped a number of their volunteers into work and continue to provide opportunities to develop their skills.
- 10.9. For highlights of the programme delivered through council-run and community libraries, please refer to Appendix 2.  
Two years on, the Community Libraries are fulfilling the potential that the Council saw in them. The Service is engaged with local people who care passionately about books and reading and are involved in their communities' future.

## **11. Futures**

- 11.1. In 2015-2016, the Service will implement its latest reorganisation, it will concentrate on improving the quality of its stock, and will focus on revenue generation.  
It is expected that the reorganisation will come into effect in June.  
An analysis of stock is currently under way and resources are being reallocated to better respond to the expectations of our audiences, particularly in promoting Adult Fiction and Non Fiction stock as well as eBooks.  
New contracts and income generating activities will come into being from March 2014, including the re-opening of the Lewisham Library Café and a renewed emphasis on the marketing of hireable spaces, particularly at Manor House.
- 11.2. The local authority is working to respond to substantial challenges that will see its resources reduce further in years to come. In this context, the Service has a role as a trusted and open service that continues to offer opportunities to the Council to efficiently engage with residents.

## **12. Legal implications**

- 12.1. While there are no legal implications to this update, it should be noted that the Lewisham approach has had no impact in relation to TUPE or PLR legislation. The reorganisation of staff was based on a service-wide de-layering approach. Public Lending Right provisions continue to apply to the stock owned by the Council, whether this is placed in the hub libraries or in the community libraries.

## **13. Financial implications**

- 13.1. There are no specific financial implications to this report. The community libraries use the book stock purchased by the Council and occupy their premises rent-free but otherwise receive no financial support.

## **14. Equalities implications**

- 14.1. There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

## **15. Crime and disorder implications**

- 15.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

## **16. Environmental implications**

16.1. There are no environmental implications in this report.

## **17. Conclusion**

17.1. This report updates the Select Committee on the performance of the Library and Information Service and the provision of community library services in particular.

### **Background Papers**

1. May 2011 Report + EIA:

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=1443andISATT=1#search=%22library%22>

2. Mayor and Cabinet Report from HCSC 18 January 2012

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=7306>

3. HCSC report 14 December 2011

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=6983>

4. Mayoral response to the comments of the Healthier Communities Select Committee on the Library and Information Service

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s8101/Response%20on%20Community%20Libraries%20to%20Healthier%20Communities%20SC.pdf>

For further information please contact  
Liz Dart, Head of Communities and Culture on 020 8314 8637.



## Appendix 2

### Highlights of Activities in the year 2014-2015

The Service is working to support the Society of Chief Librarians, The Arts Council and The Reading Agency in implementing the Universal Offer for Reading, Information, Health and Digital. These four key areas form the fundamental framework that underpins a 21<sup>st</sup> century library service.

#### 1. Reader development

- 1.1. 2014 was another successful year for the annual **Summer Reading Challenge**. 3,783 primary aged children started, with 2,013 children reading 6 books and completing, up 3% on 2013.
- 1.2. In 2014 Libraries participated in the Reading Agency's **6 Book Challenge** for adults learning to read in English, in partnership with tutors from Community Education Lewisham and LeSoCo (now Lewisham Southwark College) and celebrated approximately 400 completing the challenge. In recognition of this, a Lewisham group was commissioned to review the latest Linda La Plante quick read title, and were profiled on the Reading Agency site.
- 1.3. Ampersand Media run a twice-monthly newspaper reading group at Deptford Lounge foyer, a **social reading initiative** targeting less confident speakers and readers. The actors create a monthly show based on participants ideas.
- 1.4. **London Cityread 2014** featured a public performance Frontline Letters, first ever joint venture with Lewisham's creative writing groups, who plan to come together again in 2015. All the Lewisham reading groups came together for a Quiz event to celebrate the end of Cityread 2014.

#### 2. Information and learning

- 2.1. Borough-wide **First World War commemoration**. The borough has committed to commemorating the First World War over the next 4 years. The Service delivered a rounded autumn programme of First World War theme activities looking at the Great War from a variety of perspectives, including that of the conscientious objector, soldier in the trenches, and that of BAME soldiery. Some of this activity took place in the week prior to Remembrance Sunday and on the evening of Armistice Day itself. This formed the first stage of a 4 year programme of heritage talks and exhibitions to commemorate the War which was launched at People's Day.
- 2.2. The **Heritage Team** is working with Lewisham Youth Theatre on a Heritage Lottery Funded oral history and street theatre project to record and dramatise residents' memories of Catford. Young people have visited the archives, selected material and recorded oral histories and will perform the final work in Catford this summer.
- 2.3. Work with young people has included participation in the **Apprenticeship Programme**. The Service was extremely privileged to have a young apprentice selected to attend the National Apprenticeship Awards. He was presented with a Highly Commended award.
- 2.4. The **work experience programme** has provided an opportunity for local young people to work in libraries. Last year a total of 60 students gained experience of work in libraries.
- 2.5. The Windrush Foundation **Making Freedom exhibition**, hosted by Downham Library, effectively opened the Lewisham BHM 2014 programme in September and

was viewed by 33,799 residents. Collaborative working with a range of stakeholders, engaging the Council's BAME Staff Forum, the community-based expertise and insights of the Windrush Foundation, LEMP (Lewisham Ethnic Minority Project) and academic expertise within Goldsmiths University and associated organisations led to platform sharing at conferences and academic expertise on hand at public library events.

- 2.6. Lewisham Libraries are one of 7 boroughs to launch **The Library Press**, creative community publishing, with a first publication (Community Patchwork Project) and a festival of workshops from February 2015.

### 3. Supporting health and wellbeing

- 3.1. The **Be Active** and **Free Swim** programme has grown by a 33% over last year Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 approximately 18,000 residents made over 80,000 visits to Lewisham leisure centres, using their library card to access free and concessionary leisure services. Leisure providers 1Life and Fusion reported 47% of their memberships are unlimited Be Active memberships.
- 3.2. Libraries have hosted sessions from **The Sacred Bodies** project, which empowers young African women at risk of FGM. This is facilitated by the African Advocacy Foundation who work with African communities in Lewisham, Lambeth and Southwark.
- 3.3. Lewisham launched the new **Reading Well Books on Prescription dementia series** in February 2015, with books available in all library branches and promotion through all Council and health partners.
- 3.4. Community cohesion: Exemplifying creative responses in Deptford. In September 2014's **Bring The Happy** programme, Invisible Flock visually mapped moments and memories of happiness in Deptford. Memories were re-interpreted as live performances and are to be added to the Borough's growing digital archive.
- 3.5. Established all library branches as **Hate Crime** reporting sites and implemented training to all library staff; regularly host partners from police and other agencies promoting safety and awareness.
- 3.6. Home Library Service staff's work with **Healthwatch Lewisham** provides a voice for their client base who consist of some of the hardest to reach households and most isolated residents within the borough. In 2014, this fed into Joint Commissioning consultation regarding the Adult Integrated Care Programme. A paper was co-presented to Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) identifying realisable service improvements to our Reading Well offer. It positions the Home Library Service, the library service and the CCG partners to impact even more positively upon the health and well-being of homebound residents, residents with mild dementia and mental illness through pooled expertise.
- 3.7. Lewisham Libraries supported **Freedom Pass** renewals programme from November 2014, and helped over 500 (4% overall) senior residents renew online.
- 3.8. Manor House Library is now an established venue for **ceremonies** and weddings . In the last year it has hosted 8 ceremonies and raised valuable income.
- 3.9. In partnership with **Public Health** a programme on aspects of health have been offered. These have included Shape Up Programme and Health Checks for 45+. Pilates, yoga, mindfulness and other events aimed at improving and sustaining health have been offered by community groups and local businesses.

- 3.10. **Black History Month** reach extended through Shopping Centre photographic installation. A co-produced promotion focusing on local memories of the SE London music, fashion, social scene and tensions of the late 1970s was delivered by the Service in partnership with Lewisham Shopping Centre and Autograph ABP. John Goto, the photographer whose work was the focus of much of the campaign and their Company Director Mark Sealy MBE have strong associations with the borough. This promotion was enjoyed directly by over 160,000 Shopping Centre visitors and was manifest at local bus stops, in facilitated opportunities for local secondary and primary schools and 'contemporary reminiscence' work with older residents. Active participants included, Valerie 'Trish' Miller, the sister of Peter Miller, one of John Goto's photographic subjects. She is a former Catford resident who runs a Skype-based reading group in New York, to which John Goto linked up live during BHM.
- 3.11. The **BOLD** festival of arts and older people (September 2014) and POSAC funded **LGBT History Month** to IDAHOT Day promotions encourage all ages and elders themselves to challenge stereotypes. BOLD was a short festival by and for older people as well as audiences and participants across the generations, provoking residents to think about ageing differently. The Service led work on LGBT cultural programming from 2014 is evidenced within the CES action plan submission to the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index. Art forms are being combined again in 2015 with a touring photographic installation, spoken word, comedy and social media activity. Local artistes and local stakeholders, including the Metropolitan Police and Community Safety Team have been engaged throughout.

#### 4. Digital

- 4.1. Lewisham piloted the **Access to Research** project, a Partnership between publishers and libraries to open up access to academic research making 1.5 million articles from 8,400 scholarly and academic journals available in 79 local authority libraries. This was launched nationally at Deptford Lounge by the Publishers Licensing Society with guest speaker, the Rt Hon David Willetts, Minister of State for Universities and Science.
- 4.2. Lewisham participated in the **Automatic Library Membership Pilot** funded by Arts Council England. 2,340 primary aged children in Lewisham received a new, innovative RFID enabled library card. It is envisaged that the project will develop to reach every child of school age in Lewisham.
- 4.3. **Incubating creative industries.** After a successful Autumn 2014 programme, Deptford Lounge is to host workshops demystifying the ways into creative employment and providing practical and inspirational exchanges between industry professionals and participants.
- 4.4. The **People's Patchwork** captured creative representations of residents thoughts and memories of the borough through physical patches, creative writing and sound. The content was gathered over a year and has developed with a number of digital strands. Working with the Arts Council funded Library Press project, images were used to digitally create books using a sample of the patches and stories that best reflected the essence of the project. These patches were adapted by digital media specialists Amplified Robot who created augmented reality versions of the patches and transformed them into images from the archive. The patchwork will tour the borough in 2015.

## 5. Community libraries – Blackheath

- 5.1. Age Exchange has piloted and formally launched a visionary creative support for people with dementia through the **RADIQL** programme. This supports people with dementia by helping them to access their long term memories to support their daily lives.

The pilot project was independently assessed by Royal Holloway University of London and was proven to provide positive results for those living with dementia, their carers, and staff working in care homes.

- 5.2. Their building – The Exchange in Blackheath hosts daily **activities** including; Pilates, a knitting group, art classes and rhyme time for pre-school children. The Library provision is entirely staffed by volunteers.

## 6. Community libraries – New Cross

- 6.1. New Cross Learning have carried out **significant works** to refurbish and remodel the building. They have secured crowd funding through kick-starter to build light boxes which enhance the redecorated space. The formal launch of its new look is to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

- 6.2. They continue to host a range of regular **activities** including Baby Bounce and Language Exchange along with drawing and writing workshops, performances and screenings.

## 7. Community libraries – Crofton Park

- 7.1. Crofton Park played a key role in **Croffest** – a celebration of the Crofton Park area for residents and businesses.

- 7.2. They also continue to host a café and a range of **activities** including Baby Bounce and storytelling sessions for under fives, and return to work support for job seekers. They hosted a range of events during Black History Month including an author talk by **Samson M Adeyemi** and music sessions with **Jacqueline Grant**.

## 8. Community libraries – Grove Park

- 8.1. Following its **complete redecoration and café installation**, Grove Park has continued to offer a range of support services including IT training and return to work advice.

- 8.2. They host regular table top sales and hosted both **Summer and Christmas fetes**.

## 9. Community libraries – Sydenham

- 9.1. The Friends of Sydenham Community Library worked with other local groups to secure funding to develop and launch a **Reading Piazza** in the underused public space next to the Library. They were successful in obtaining a grant of £37,500 from the Mayor of London's Pocket Parks Programme which gives grants to communities to improve streets, squares, parks, and canal and riverside spaces. Lewisham Council match funded the grant, meaning the project had total funding of £75,000. There are a range of literary based events taking place to promote the space – one hosting a range of authors to be held in March 2015.

- 9.2. Sydenham hosts a range of regular **activities** including sessions for under fives and activities for adults. These include the reading group, sit-down exercise, bridge group

and return to work support for job seekers.

## **10. Community libraries – Evelyn (Pepys)**

- 10.1. Since re-launching in December 2013, Pepys has continued to develop its offer for residents. Alongside the IT and the café, they offer a range of **activities** for all ages. These include weekly handicraft sessions for adults, story and song sessions for under fives, code club for school-aged children and employability advice and support for young people. Keys Saturday School also runs every Saturday morning from the space
- 10.2. During Black History Month they hosted a seminar given by **Nigel Pocock**, MPhil looking at the effects of Caribbean slavery on modern populations.