

**“Libraries are more  
than just books  
... aren’t they?”**

Involving young people in the  
‘Your Library, Your Voice’  
Consultation

**Our Voice:** Review, Support & Change

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## Acknowledgements

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The group volunteered over 20 hours each in their enrichment time at Batley Girls High School to complete consultation with their peers and develop this report.

We would also like to say Thank You to the IYSS groups that took part in consultation sessions. They include Batley, Skelmanthorpe, Netherton, Central Stars, Slaithwaite, and Phoenix at Holmfirth.

Finally we would like to thank the Libraries team for their help and support. To Alison for commissioning the project, to Jane for providing resources and information, to Amy and Chris for their work with the lead group, and Judith, Amanda and Olivia for helping facilitate consultation sessions.



# Executive Summary

This commission aimed to involve young people in the 'Your Library, Your Voice' consultation and asked:

- What times would young people like to use the library
- What libraries should 'look and feel' like
- What resources young people would use
- What activities or events young people would attend at the library
- The best ways to 'reach' young people with marketing and publicity
- Any of their ideas to increase young peoples use of the library/ create revenue.

Various methods were used to collect the information in this report. The lead group of 13 young people met for sessions on a weekly basis. They completed discussion based, written and practical tasks.

- They participated in a total of 12 sessions dedicating over 20 hours of work each.
- They spoke to 217 of their peers about preferred opening times in an excercise which mirrored the adult consultation.
- They visited Dewsbury Library to gain an enhanced knowledge of what was on offer and visited Leeds Library to see any other examples of best practice.
- They designed the consultation session 'mood board activity' which was then delivered by an IYCE Officer to collect information from other young people across Kirklees.

A total of 276 young people completed the opening times consultation (see appendix 1).

The 'mood board activity' was completed by 46 young people from open access youth clubs in Holmfirth, Slaithwaite, Netherton, Skelmanthorpe, Central Huddersfield and Batley (see appendix 2). The Batley Girls steering group included representation from Heckmondwike, Batley and Dewsbury. The visit to 'Central Stars' Youth Club also ensured the views of young people with disabilities were included.

26 males and 20 females participated in total, they were all aged between 12 and 19 and of differing ethnicities.

"I'm definitely more aware now about what is on offer in my local library. I never knew there was such a wide range of resources available such as DVDs, CDs, historic documents as well as books."



There is a lot on offer that people just don't know about"

-Our Voice Crew Member

### The key messages young people told us about opening times were:

- That weekends suit them the best. Saturday and Sunday between 12 noon and 5pm were the most popular times that young people said they would visit the library.
- That on week days, afternoons and evenings between 3pm and 6pm were the times they would be most likely to visit. The peak time within these hours was 4-5pm.

### Young people felt libraries should have:

- Brighter decoration, using less 'clinical colours'.
- Comfy seating areas with sofa's, coffee tables and bean bags.
- Easy to read, clear signage. Some young people struggle locating things.
- Specific adult, teen and children's sections, if the library doesn't already have them.
- A way for young people to give their ideas and input when resources, such as revisions guides, CDs and technology are purchased, this way they can ensure it's useful/pertinent.
- Magazines. All of the groups who participated in a consultation session had young people present who preferred magazines to books. Popular genre's included Sport, Music and Celebrity.
- More short reads and online journal subscriptions.
- Technology which is fast enough to meet their needs. They did not feel particular brands of equipment were necessary, but did not want to be waiting around for pages to load up.
- Areas where talking is allowed and quieter areas that have clear signs.
- Community events and 'skills based workshops/ activities', which would allow them to gain new experiences and use their leisure time productively.
- Clear 'targeted' publicity, which tells them what is happening and when.

### Some of the barriers to young people using the library included:

- The perception that library cards are difficult to obtain.
- That books are available in the school library, which is easier to access.
- That attending the library can be seen as 'geeky'.
- That transport in to town can be expensive. Some young people explained that once their local library was closed, they never started attending an alternate one.
- That the books, CDs and DVDs are not what they would choose, so they would buy, download or rent elsewhere.





# Suggestions For Change

The most popular ideas young people had to increase library use and generate income included:

- Better publicity of what is on offer. Young people often are not aware of the variety of services and resources available in our libraries. They may 'miss out' for this reason.
- 'Myth bust' some of the stereotypes. The young people who met the Librarians as part of this process admitted they learnt lots about what the library offered and had some of their 'preconceptions altered'.
- Sell food and drink. Young people really liked the 'Waterstone's Model' where they can sit and drink coffee whilst reading. Cafe's were their main preference, but vending machines were suggested too. Young people feel affordable refreshments are priced between 50p and £2.
- Consider introducing Free Wi-Fi. Although this has a cost attached the young people felt they could use their own electronic devices. This could save money as it would alleviate issues of the libraries providing expensive technology which soon becomes out dated.
- Hold more 'social' activities in the library, such as art based workshops, skill sharing sessions (for example teaching each other to play instruments), informal 'book/film clubs', more author book signings and intergenerational projects. Young people seemed to be happy to pay up to £5 for something they felt was good value and worthwhile, especially if they got to work alongside a professional artist or business person.
- Develop young people's volunteering opportunities. This would free up Librarians time, as well as helping young people become 'ready for employment'.
- Consider selling 'cheap' stationery items like biros, pencils and note pads.
- Consider different way of issuing library cards, such as merging them with school ID cards, bus or leisure passes.

The 'mood boards' showing the young peoples ideas in detail, can be seen in appendix 2.

**The key messages that came from this consultation are:**

- Publicity: Some of the things young people would like to see in libraries are already on offer, but the young people are unaware that it is there.
- Volunteering/Skills Sharing: Young people are keen to play an active role in their community and want to develop skills for employment.
- Food: Selling refreshments in libraries would make the library more attractive to these young people and generate income for the library.
- Branding: Think how events, activities and how the space is decorated can give the feeling of a 'community hub'

# Appendices

Opening times consultation results

1

Mood boards from consultation sessions

2

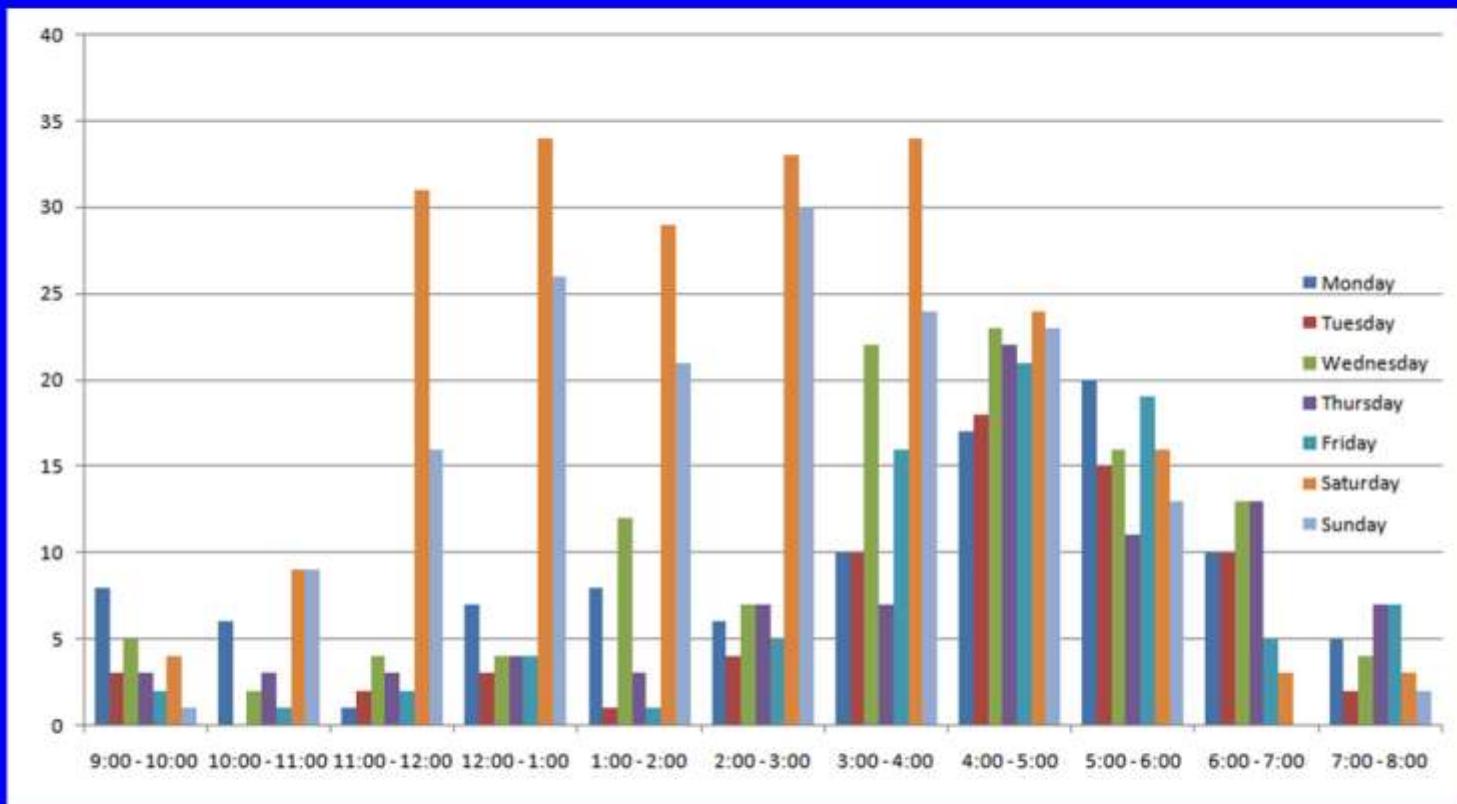
Summary of Batley Girls Session's with a timeline and future plans

3



## Appendix One:

# Opening Times Consultation Results



-276 young people completed the 'sticky dot' exercise to say what time they would visit the Library.

-Saturday and Sunday were the young people's most popular choices. The majority of these results were collected by students from Batley Girls High School. These results are more representative of young people living in North Kirklees (primarily Dewsbury, Batley and Heckmondwike). This 'skew' needs to be taken into consideration when reviewing the results.

-The consultation sessions completed by the IYCE team in IYSS provisions, showed weekdays to be the other young people's first choice. They preferred Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 4-5pm

#### Thinking about **RESOURCES** in our libraries:

"I think young people like magazines.  
The popular ones are Fashion, Sport (Extreme and football),  
TV reviews and Music. We don't particularly read books  
any more"  
about giving it a go"

How to involve **YOUNG VOLUNTEERS** in our libraries:  
"I'd like to help teach younger people to read"  
"4 out of the 5 male young people expressed  
an interest in volunteering  
about a go"

"We would never go to Central  
Library in Huddersfield!  
It costs £2.50 on the bus!"

What **TECHNOLOGY** really matter?  
"People all have their own technology now, don't they?  
If you had free WiFi then they could bring that along"  
"People love internet bars/ cyber cafe's. You could  
look at branding young people's library sessions, that way"

Thoughts on **GENERATING INCOME** in our libraries:

"Food! If you had food for sale, that was affordable  
people would buy it."  
"Using the buildings for other purposes like a cinema"

Ideas for **ACTIVITIES** in the Library included:

"I think a pop up Cinema would be ace, if you  
want it to be successful you can't just use the  
building as a library"  
"Gaming sessions on consoles could be good,  
some people probably still wouldn't go though"

Offices and Work Room

Archives

Offices and Store Rooms

# Your Library, Your Voice Young People from Skelmanthorpe's Views

Toilets and Fire Escape

Entrance

Outside  
Space

We asked a group of  
5 young people to plan their  
'dream library'

Here is what they said...

What should the **DECOR** and **SURROUNDINGS** be like?

"It needs to be painted in nice colours, less dull,  
you know, make it a bit more desirable"  
"I think libraries look really nice when they are old  
fashioned looking, with Chesterfield sofa's and nice lamps"  
"They should definitely have sofa's and comfy chairs to  
relax on. Bean bags are really good too"  
"you should have art work and canvases on the wall"

Word of mouth **MARKETING** works best:  
"I'm most likely to do something if my mates  
tell me about it. If they think it's cool or say  
something's good, then I'd usually think  
about giving it a go"

Thoughts on **OUTSIDE SPACES**:  
"Skelmanthorpe libraries entrance is around the side  
usually an entrance is at the front"  
"There should be places that have shelter outdoors  
you know where you can sit and read"

Thoughts on **NOISE**:  
"You should have areas that people can  
talk and places where it's quiet"

Thoughts on **LAYOUT**:  
"The signage isn't clear"  
"I don't really understand the  
way the sections work"

"They need bringing up to  
speed libraries really.  
They don't 'really' seem  
modern"

What about **FOOD** and **REFRESHMENTS** ?  
"The library should have a Cafe joined on. I think  
young people would be far more likely to  
go if you could get food"  
"Drinks should cost between 50p and £1.50 with  
affordable food like sandwiches for £1.50"  
"Look how many people visit Shelley Garden  
Centre for food and then buy other stuff while  
they are there"

"I think the best thing they can do  
is work on how they brand the  
library  
You know make it seem more  
attractive to young people"

## SOCIAL MEDIA

should be used to "advertise what is on and tell people what is available"

**MARKETING** is best:

"By advertising in schools"

"You could put information about events in the local newspapers"

"By sticking posters up at the youth club or telling the youth workers"

"By handing out fliers in the community"

## TECHNOLOGY

really matter?

"E-readers"

"I prefer real books!"

"IPADs"

"Notebooks and Laptops"

"TV"

"Free WiFi should also be available and places to plug in! charge your own equipment"

## Thinking about RESOURCES in our libraries:

"You should be able to book rooms as groups"

"I need short snappy reads because of my dyslexia,

I don't really read big books and prefer magazines"

"We like gossip, magazines and celebs"

"Autobiographies of people like Cheryl Cole and JLS"

"There should be a recommendations board"

"What about a revolving display of recommended books?"

"more magazines!"

"I read daily and like science fiction and fantasy"

"I would like to see more graphic novels and comics"

## How to involve YOUNG VOLUNTEERS in our libraries:

"I'd like to help teach younger people to read" 4 out of the 6 male young people expressed an interest in volunteering and all 4 of the female participants said they would access volunteering opportunities.

## OUTSIDE SPACES:

"A reading garden would be good with places to sit and eat!"

"It could have rolling displays of slides that give you information about the library"

The signs should draw people in - they could be symbols"

**"Self service is loads better than having to que at a counter. Being able to renew books online is cool"**

Thoughts on **GENERATING INCOME** in our libraries:  
"You could sell new and old books"

## ACTIVITIES in the Library included:

"Beauty events"

"Movie days/nights"

Craft activities for older teens"

"young writers" workshops where you can showcase your own books"

"a movie or cinema club"

"games console tournaments"

"Puppet shows are good for younger kids"

"Activities should develop skills that you already have an interest in"

## What about FOOD and REFRESHMENTS ?

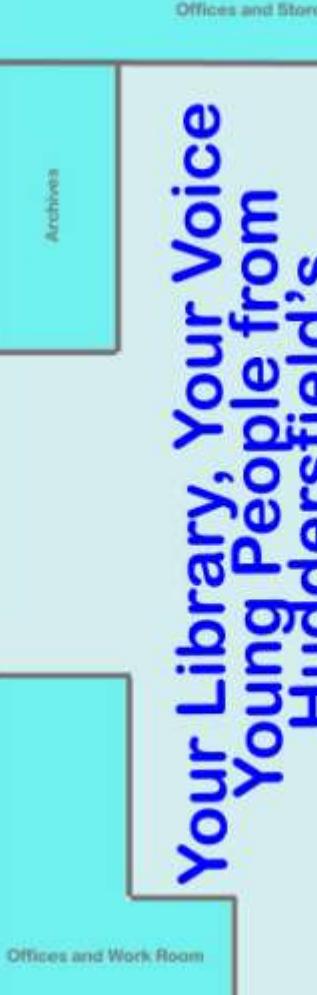
"Vending machines with a cafe and somewhere to sit"

"Drinks like tea and coffee that cost no more than £1"

"There should be a nice cafe, with cappuccino for 90p-£1.50 and nice sandwiches for £1"

"Vending machines should sell chocolates"

# Your Library, Your Voice Young People from Huddersfield's Views



Thoughts on **NOISE**:  
"You could have a loud zone"  
"There should be a quiet study area"  
"It should be half quite and half loud,  
a bit of both"

"Having a Cafe would make the Library loads better,  
I'd be more likely to go in if I could drink brews and read"

"We asked a group of 10 young people to plan their 'dream library'  
Here is what they said..."



## What should the DECOR and SURROUNDINGS be like?

"Bright colours, photographs and modern art should be used"

"Different themes/designs could be used to separate up different areas"

"Images showing the librarians at work with the young people would be good"

"There should be a mixture of sofas and coffee tables"  
"I like relaxing colours like green and turquoise, I think there should be a mix of local talented artists and more well known art"

"Explaining where things are could be done with audio or short films"

**"There shouldn't just be loads of books. You should be able to choose from magazines and comics too"**

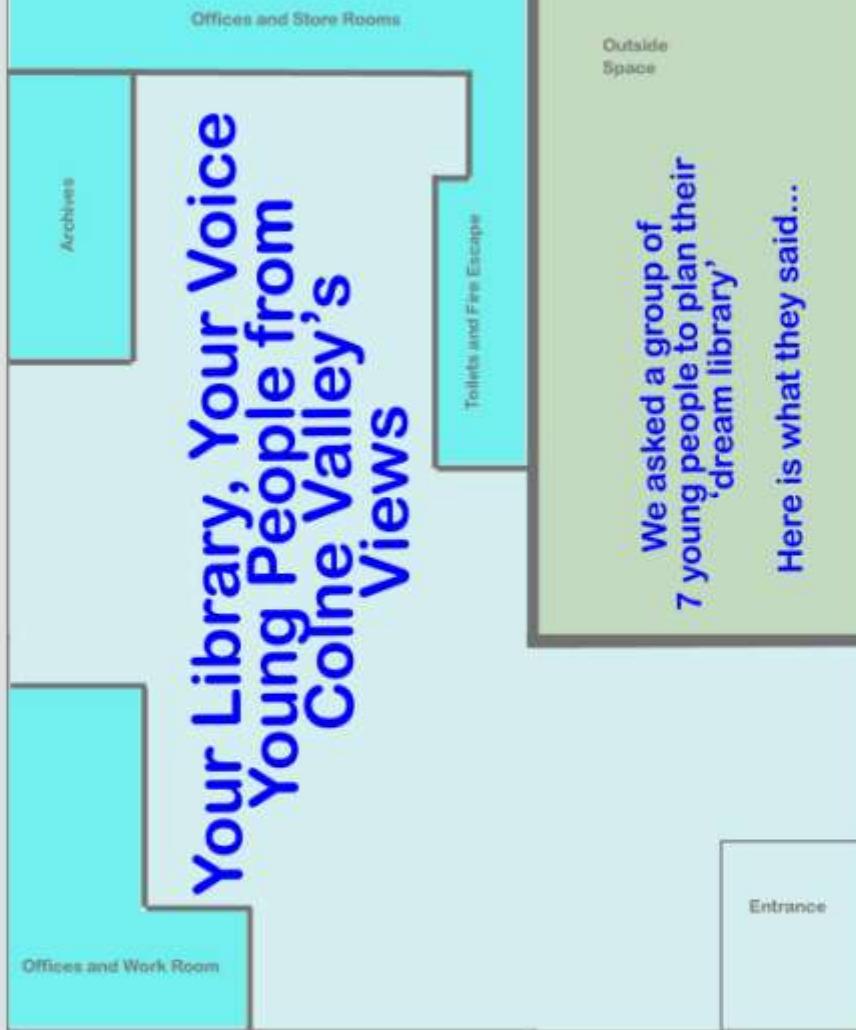
How to involve **YOUNG VOLUNTEERS** in our libraries:  
"Doing work in a library would be quite cool actually-like putting away all the books and checking things in and out"  
"I wouldn't want to run a project there, I would want to actually do something, like our McMillan Coffee morning"  
"Helping children read would be really good"

"I wouldn't go to the library if people saw you going in it would be proper embarrassing...its geeky"

Thinking about **RESOURCES** in our libraries:  
"I don't like books. They are long and boring. I need shorter things to read"  
"Popular teen fiction like 'The Hunger Games' and 'Twilight' that's what I would read"  
"The DVDs have to be less than 3 years old."  
"I like comedy DVDs"  
"I like Dub-Step CD's"  
"I think it should be half and half...some books some e-readers"  
"Being able to rent camera equipment would be good"

Thoughts on **GENERATING INCOME** in our libraries:  
"At the moment I would buy CDs of popular books so really they could sell those"  
"It would be good if you could pick up gig tickets there"

Ideas for **ACTIVITIES** in the Library included:  
"I'd go to book signings or meet authors, but they need to be people we have heard of"  
"If sports people or people who invent things came to talk to you, that would be good"  
"They need to market it differently-rather than a 'library event' people would be more likely to go then."



Thoughts on **OUTSIDE SPACES**:  
"There should be some outside space"  
"Can't the library run activities outdoors"  
Our thoughts on **LIBRARY CARDS**:  
"You should only have to get one card, like a bus pass, KAL card and library card combined"  
"Actually going out and getting the card is a pain"

Thoughts on **NOISE**:  
"There should be a loud section and you should be able to talk. You can't stop teenagers talking"  
"On films librarians are always saying 'Sssssh' I guess that's why everyone thinks you have to be quiet"

What about **FOOD and REFRESHMENTS** ?  
"I'd go in more if there was a cafe"  
"A cafe should serve buns, pannini's and pizzas"  
"Sandwiches should be fresh and nice, like Subway"  
"I'd buy milkshakes and smoothies"  
"Meal deals should cost between £2-£2.50"  
"The Cafe should be separate to the library"  
"Cakes and cookies should cost £1"

"I'd volunteer if it meant I could get experience working with children, that would help me in my future career"



#### Thinking about **RESOURCES** in our libraries:

"I didn't even know the library had films to borrow"  
"You need a variety of stuff. Young people like magazines, you know, ones on Football, Sports, Fashion and Teen Issues."  
"People would stay a lot longer if there was more than books.  
It would need to feel more like a community centre"

**"A cafe would make the library far more trendy"**

How to involve **YOUNG VOLUNTEERS** in our libraries:  
"I'd maybe volunteer with a friend. You really would need to advertise the opportunities well though...  
Assemblies in schools would work, maybe you could have posters around the Youth Club too"

#### What **TECHNOLOGY** really matters?

"Maybe E-Readers"  
"Having Free Wi-Fi that works"

Offices and Work Room

# Your Library, Your Voice Young People from Holmfirth's Views

Thoughts on **GENERATING INCOME** in our libraries:  
"If you sold food. People would spend money if there was a cafe, tuck shop or vendors"



#### Word of mouth **MARKETING** is best:

"We all go to school—that's a good place to start!"  
"I think we do look at the posters on the wall in the Youth Club, especially the ones made by young people"

We wouldn't go! **BARRIERS** to using the library:  
"New Mill was my local library, now that's closed it's too far to bother with Holmfirth"  
"If I'm going to read, I get books from the school library or just buy them"  
"I'd go somewhere instead where I can get food. Then I could sit and read with my snack and coffee"  
"I don't really like reading"  
"the library isn't exciting really, is it?"

#### Thoughts on **NOISE**

"If you're with your mates, you need to be able to chat"

Thoughts on **LAYOUT**  
"There should be a definite teen space. You don't want to disturb people while you are chatting"

We asked a group of  
7 young people to plan their  
'dream library'

Here is what they said...

Outside Space

Entrance

What should the **DECOR** and **SURROUNDINGS** be like?  
"I think it's a bit too formal. Sofas, bean bags and coffee tables are the best. You can sit and chat to your friends that way"

**"I buy books online. They are cheap and I don't have to wait until they are not on loan"**

What about **FOOD** and **REFRESHMENTS**?  
"There should be a place to buy snacks like pizza, panninis and drinks. They should cost between 50p and £2!"



**Kirklees**  
COUNCIL

How to involve the **COMMUNITY** in our libraries:

"There should be a range of stuff happening  
A chance for culture and debate as well as  
forums for young people to openly discuss  
their feelings and thoughts."

"You could have meetings and courses there"

"Community languages and helping people speak  
different languages would be good"

"Library cards should be easier  
to get hold of. Could you get them in  
school or at college or even on line?"

"There should be lots of books from all genres. If  
you have a wide range then it will be accessible  
to everyone"

Thinking about **RESOURCES** in our libraries:

"I think at the moment there is some really good stuff, some of  
it just needs updating"

"There should be lots of books from all genres. If  
you have a wide range then it will be accessible  
to everyone"

What **TECHNOLOGY** really matter?  
"E-readers are really good You should be able to try  
a kindle or e-book"

"All libraries should have free Wi-Fi!"

It's the speed of devices that's important  
you don't need posh tablets-as long as the PCs are fast enough"

All **SOCIAL MEDIA** should be available  
"Not everyone can access this at home,  
it's important"

What **TECHNOLOGY** really matter?  
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a kindle or e-book"

"All libraries should have free Wi-Fi!"

It's the speed of devices that's important  
you don't need posh tablets-as long as the PCs are fast enough"

Our thoughts about **GENERATING INCOME**:

"I'd definitely by cheap stationery there, places in  
town are really expensive, so biro pens, note pads and  
cheap items like that would be good"

"Selling the old books would be a good idea aswell  
as being able to buy new ones. I know some books  
are cheaper in the supermarket, but more specialist  
or unusual ones could be sold there"

Ideas for **ACTIVITIES** in the Library included:  
"There should be groups that teach children to read  
and write"

"I'd do arts and crafts classes if they ran at cost  
price. Young people can't really afford more than £5  
for an activity"

"There should be Author visits and young writers classes  
where you can discuss your work...Not just book clubs"

"The more computers the better...  
You can't always get a free one at school  
or college."

Lots of information can be accessed on there  
They are a really important resource"

What should the **DECOR and SURROUNDINGS** be like?  
"It needs to be more modern, with warm and inviting  
colours, yet calm. There should be more plants!"

There should be comfy seating to lay back in. It should  
be a space for lounging. The seating should be good  
for your back!"

What about **FOOD and REFRESHMENTS**?

"A coffee shop area would be amazing. It would need to sell a  
good latte though. Drinks should be cheaper than in town to  
attract people in.

Drinks and snacks should all be under £2 to make them  
affordable. The areas to eat and drink should be separate  
to the reading areas to make them more of a social space."

# Your Library, Your Voice LGBT Young Peoples Views

Offices and Store Rooms

Archives

Offices and Work Room

Toilets and Fire Escape

Outside Space

We asked a group of  
5 young people to plan their  
'dream library'

Here is what they said...

Entrance



Some young people said accessing the library would be easier if people understood more about their disabilities.

We tried to explore this further but in this short session it was very difficult for the young people to express what they meant.

This could be something which is developed further in the future. The young people would need more time to prepare their answers

What would help you **ACCESS** the Library more?

"I really like reading books, it would be great if I could access more things to read on the internet"

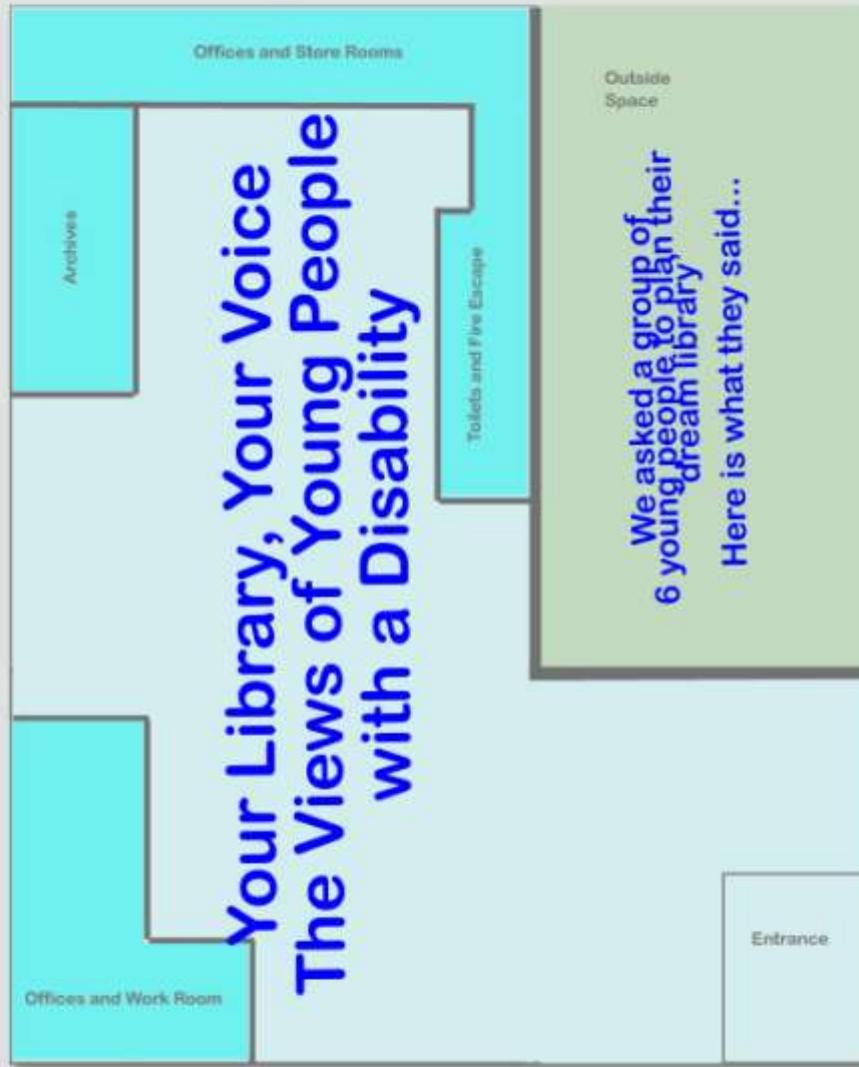
"You need to be able to get there by bus"

"If people are more aware about the things I need you know, know more about people with disabilities"

"Doors that open a bit quicker, the ones at Huddersfield take ages! I sometimes feel like I'm stuck outside"

"I love Disney films and Harry Potter"

What should the **DECOR and SURROUNDINGS** be like?  
"Our favourite colours are Orange, Blue and Red"  
"There should be a mixture of chairs for babies, which should still be padded and bean bags"  
"I like pictures by artists better than ones drawn by young people"  
"Photos look nice too"



"I can't get to the Library since I moved house..."  
If we had book boxes at the club, we could take some books home"

How would you **TRAVEL** to the library?  
"-By car" was 4 young people's response  
"-By minibus"  
"-By service bus"

Would you go to the library **ALONE** or **WITH SOMEONE**?

"I usually go with my support worker"  
"-I'd go independently"  
"-My Mum and Dad would take me"  
"-My Parents"  
"-My sisters take me places!"  
"My Dad"



## **MARKETING** is a real challenge:

"Not everyone uses Facebook"  
 "I get so many invites to different things I ignore them. I only check the ones from friends"  
 "I use Facebook and think it's a good way to promote things"

"We all get told about things in College, that is a good place to tell young people things"  
 "It doesn't matter how good you promote something, if young people don't want to do it then they just won't go"  
 "Show people what is in there while doing a fun activity or use the space for an activity. That way people who might not visit the library see what's there and go back"

## Thinking about **RESOURCES** in our libraries:

"The CD and DVD section is good, but needs some more young people's bands like Connor Maynard, JLS or One Direction"  
 "The DVD selection is good, but there needs to be more for young adults, both boys and girls"  
 "Encyclopaedia books could be replaced by software versions"

**"Meeting Chris and Amy has really changed my opinion of library staff, I always thought they would be older and a bit mean : ( they are lovely"**

## What **TECHNOLOGY** really matters?

"Having Free Wi-Fi"  
 "Having technology like E-Readers to borrow and try out. I'm not sure how you would organise it though"  
 "Self service machines"

We wouldn't go! **BARRIERS** to using the library:  
 "Some of the resources are out of date.. Young people often use the computer now and so some of the books that are older could be replaced with online subscriptions or CD-ROMS to borrow"

"Young people can only use the library on evenings and at weekends. These hours need to be available as they can't go during the day when they are at school"  
 "Library cards aren't seen as easy to get. People use the school library instead because our ID cards at school double up as our library/lunch cards"

Thoughts on **NOISE**  
 "I thought you had to be quiet in the library, until Amy said it's ok to talk. Young people think you have to be quiet in the library"  
 "We like talking!"

Thoughts on **GENERATING INCOME** in our libraries:  
 "Food is the main thing I would buy. Snacks to eat and things to drink while I'm working"

"If you didn't have a cafe, a vending machine would work"  
 "You could sell small items like pens. I didn't know Dewsbury already sold cards and glasses"  
 "Try using the building for other things. Activities and events that people want to come to and will pay money for"

**"If I could see one big change from the project, it would be that more young people make use of the local library and visit them more often"**

Kirklees Libraries: The things we didn't know...  
 -We didn't all realise there was such a big careers advice session.  
 -We didn't all know you could use the internet to renew books and that some libraries have self service facilities.  
 -We didn't realise it's ok to talk.  
 -We didn't know about the events and activities such as author talks and book signings.

**"I like Batley and Dewsbury better than Leeds because the inside area is more attractive. Also the youth area in Batley Library is bigger."**

## Your Library, Your Voice Young People from Batley Girls High School Views



**We asked a group of 13 young people to plan their 'dream library'**  
**We also took them to see Dewsbury Library and Leeds Library. Here is what they said...**

Thoughts on **LAYOUT**  
 "The signs would be clearer if they hung down from the ceiling"  
 "The books are hard to find"

What should the **DECOR** and **SURROUNDINGS** be like?  
 "More plants"  
 "More clean looking and bright"  
 "Lots of comfy seats to sit and read/reax on as well as the tables to do your work at"  
 "More colourful. The walls are dull"  
 "Paint it and have colours like red and purple for the chairs"  
 "The lighting needs to be better"

What about **FOOD** and **REFRESHMENTS**?  
 "Maybe get a cafe or vending machine? People like the option fo drinking tea and coffee whilst working"  
 "There should be an area where food and drink is permissible, as long as you don't make a mess or make loads of noise"  
 "The eating area needs to be like an internet cafe, so you can still work as you eat".

"A vending machine would be good near the entrance"



### Appendix Three:

## Batley Girls Summary and Next Steps

Sept 2012

The group complete their training and become 'Crew Members'. All receive their certificates and are entered for two AQA accreditations.



Oct 2012

The group meet Chris and Amy and visit Dewsbury Library, to see the kind of things on offer. They suggest creating some young people's events to 'attract' more young people to the Library. They successfully apply for an O2 'Think Big' grant and begin planning their activities. The group also begin collecting opening times feedback from their peers.

Nov 2012

The group visit Leeds Library and Art Gallery. They are asked by the Libraries team to help re-develop the local history room at Dewsbury Library into a 'Community Room'. They begin planning alongside creating a feedback session for decision makers explaining what young people have said in consultation sessions.



Dec 2012

The group visit furniture stores to research items/ decoration for the new community room. They practise their presentation and meet with decision makers on Dec 12th at Batley Library.



Jan 2013

After a well-earned break, the group have decided to continue work during their weekends, to plan their young people's activity sessions for delivery in the Library. They will continue to support the re-development project.

Feb 2013

The group aim to deliver their activity sessions this month. They will then provide feedback to O2 and do their evaluation.



March 2013

The group will complete the project and be formally recognised at the 'Our Voice' launch event. They will have the opportunity to access projects of their choice in the future.

*"I think I have grown in confidence since starting the project, It's exciting to see what difference we are making" Our Voice Crew Member*

Inputs	Outputs	Outcomes	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-13 young volunteers time.</li> <li>-1 Voice &amp; Influence Workers time to plan and deliver sessions.</li> <li>-4 Libraries staff to support the 45 minute consultation sessions.</li> <li>-A budget to support travel costs, refreshments for the young people, materials and resources for training, accreditation fees and a reward activity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-10 sessions with the lead group engaging all 13 young volunteers in a total of approx 260 hours work.</li> <li>-Consultation with 46 young people, from various areas in Kirklees using the mood board activity.</li> <li>-Consultation with 276 young people about opening times.</li> <li>-Visit to Dewsbury &amp; Leeds libraries with the lead group (resulting in new memberships and repeat visits).</li> <li>-A successful 02 Think Big Grant application for the lead group.</li> <li>-Visit to IKEA to source furniture/gain inspiration for the community room.</li> <li>-Feedback session with decision makers.</li> <li>-Report summarising all information collected.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Learning: All participants have an increased awareness of participation, engaging in consultation and influencing change (evidenced in session/evaluations and accreditations).</li> <li>-Staff/ young people rapport building: Libraries staff worked directly with young people's community groups as part of the 'Your Library, Your Voice' consultation. Allowing open channels of communication and 'myth busting' between professionals and service users. (evidenced in session evaluations and accreditations).</li> <li>-Change: Involvement of the lead group, in re-developing the community space at Dewsbury library. (Evidenced in the planning work produced by the group, 'shopping list' and purchases).</li> <li>-Sustainability: Training of two further cohorts of 'Our Voice' Crew Members as a result of the project (DDK &amp; Batley).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-A group of young citizens with an enhanced knowledge of decision making/ how to positively promote change. The skills developed throughout the project will be transferable. They will aid the young people from now until adulthood.</li> <li>-The collaborative work between the libraries team and young people has resulted in a new community space in Dewsbury Library. This will benefit a wider group of young people than those who participated in this project.</li> <li>-The process of the project, recorded outcomes and this report provide evidence of Kirklees Council's commitment to including Young Peoples's 'Voice' in the design and delivery of services.</li> </ul>



**People ask us what we think  
but what actually changes?**

Please share with us how you use this information and any changes  
that occur as a result of this report.

(These can be things as little as discussing it in your team meeting  
to something huge like trialling a new approach based on young people's ideas).

That way we can tell the young people how important their views are  
and show that we really do listen.

Thanks

