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Your Ref./Eich Cyf. Mrs T. Jones
Head of Libraries

Contact:/Cysylltwch â:

14th April 2014

Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee
CELG(4)-13-14 Paper 10

Christine Chapman AM
Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Chris

Re: Inquiry into Public Libraries in Wales

In response to your letter dated 26th March 2014, I would like to confirm that Blaenau Gwent is not currently considering the closure of any library within the borough. Therefore, there have been no impact assessments undertaken or consultations within the community.

There are strong links between the library service in Blaenau Gwent and the Education Department. The Library Service currently operates under Learning Services, within the Leisure and Education Department.

The service has a specialist post of Children's Officer. This role is responsible for delivering a programme of school visits to libraries, promotion of national reading schemes for children, including BookStart and Summer Reading Challenge. Blaenau Gwent Libraries also provides a Library Service for Schools through a service level agreement with the Education Department. The service targets children, young people and their families through reading incentive programmes, including BookCrawl for babies and the Six Book Reading Challenge for reluctant adult readers.

We support informal and formal learning through a wide range of activities. We are instrumental in helping people re-engage with learning at all stages of their life. We improve access to books and engagement to learning through successful partnership working within the borough, including Families First, Language and Play, Blaenau Gwent Community Education, 'Get Blaenau Gwent On-Line, LearnDirect and Open University. Blaenau Gwent Libraries also contributes to the South East Wales Reading Strategy, in which there is a strategic element linked to libraries and learning.



We welcome correspondence in the medium of Welsh or English. / Croesawn ohebiaith trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg.

Blaenau Gwent recently hosted the national launch of 'Every Child a Member'. This project is led by CyMAL (Museums, Archives and Libraries Wales) and the Welsh Libraries Audience Development team. The initiative has strengthened the links between all primary schools and libraries within the borough. Blaenau Gwent libraries and primary schools are joining forces to provide every primary school child with a free library and the offer of promotional visits to the local library. This project is an excellent example demonstrating the beneficial advantages to strong links between local libraries and Education Departments.

From the Equality and Local Government Committee
QEGS(4) 13-14 Paper 10
From the 1st June 2014, Blaenau Gwent Libraries will be incorporated into the new 'Life Leisure' Trust. The strong links with education will continue under trust status. The vision and outcomes of the trust will be aligned to the vision and outcomes of the local authority, so that both organisations are working in partnership to deliver improvements for Blaenau Gwent.

If you require any further information, please contact;
Tracy.jones1@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



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