

Gwasanaeth Datblygiad Cymunedol / Community Development Service
Pennaeth Gwasanaeth / Head Of Service - Marianne Jackson



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Communities, Equality & Local Government
 Committee
 National Assembly for Wales
 Cardiff Bay
 CF99 1NA

Gofynnwch am / Please ask for: **Marianne Jackson**

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Ein Cyf / Our Ref: **MJ/ALW/kg**

Eich Cyf / Your Ref:

Dyddiad / Date: **15th April 2014**

Dear Sirs

RE: Inquiry into Public Libraries in Wales

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee's enquiry into Public Libraries in Wales.

Conwy's response is as follows:

<p>- has your local authority undertaken equality impact assessments when considering the potential closure of libraries in your area, and if so, please can you provide details;</p>	<p>Conwy County Borough Council has undertaken Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) as part of a rigorous process undertaken to develop a Strategy to Modernise the Library Service. The Strategy was agreed in Cabinet 13-12-2011 Item 637 (http://modgoveng.conwy.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=171&MId=2713&Ver=4) The document library for these assessments is available at (http://modgoveng.conwy.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sched=doc&cat=13417&path=13416)</p> <p>Work is currently ongoing to implement the Strategy. One of the proposals in the Strategy is to establish an area library for Conwy / Llandudno Junction / Deganwy. EIAs are being undertaken as part of a detailed options appraisal. Once proposals for the area library have been finalised, the existing libraries at Conwy, Llandudno Junction and Deganwy will be closed.</p>
<p>- has your local authority consulted with local representatives of vulnerable users when considering the potential closure of libraries in your area, and if so, please can you provide details; and</p>	<p>As part of the process to develop a Strategy to Modernise the Library Service (agreed in Cabinet 13-12-2011 Item 637) as above, extensive public consultation via questionnaires and Stakeholder workshops was undertaken. The Service actively engaged with representatives of vulnerable groups and some attended the workshops, as well as responded individually to the questionnaires. The feedback was integrated into the development of the agreed Strategy. The responses received to these public consultations and feedback is available at (http://www.conwy.gov.uk/doc.asp?cat=8955&doc=28826&Language=1)</p> <p>Further consultation has been undertaken during the implementation of the Strategy, in particular regarding opening hours of libraries and reviews of the Mobile and Home Library service. This has included engagement with vulnerable groups to determine their views and to ensure the services are targeted to customer demand. As part of the outreach programme for the service, staff have regular opportunities to discuss the needs of specific user groups and integrate these to service delivery to protect services</p>

<p>what links are there between education services and public libraries in your local authority.</p>	<p>There are no formal links between the education services and the public libraries in Conwy. However, the service regularly works with schools on partnership projects. For example, in 2014 Conwy is hosting the North East Wales Books Quiz, a partnership between the North East Wales Schools Library Service, the public library services of Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham and schools in the 4 counties. The Quiz aims to raise the profile of books and reading in schools</p>
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Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Marianne Jackson
Head of Community Development Service