

Library Plan & Update

Date: Thursday 26 October 2023



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



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Presentation Summary

- Restoration and Refurbishment
- Before and After
- Opening Day
- Key Performance Indicators
- The Library Plan
- Schools' Packages
- Reducing the Equalities Divide



— Restoration & Refurbishment

- Originally opened in 1885 with a later extension in 1933.
- Beautifully restored, refurbished and reopened in 2023.



— Adult Lending Library - BEFORE



— Adult Lending Library - AFTER



— Children's Library - BEFORE



— Children's Library - AFTER



— Reference Library - BEFORE



— The Study – AFTER (re-branded)



— eLibrary - BEFORE



— The Hive – AFTER (re-branded)



— The Centre for Local Studies - BEFORE



— The Centre for Local Studies - AFTER



— The Foyer - BEFORE

- The original foyer before and the entranceway to the previous eLibrary.

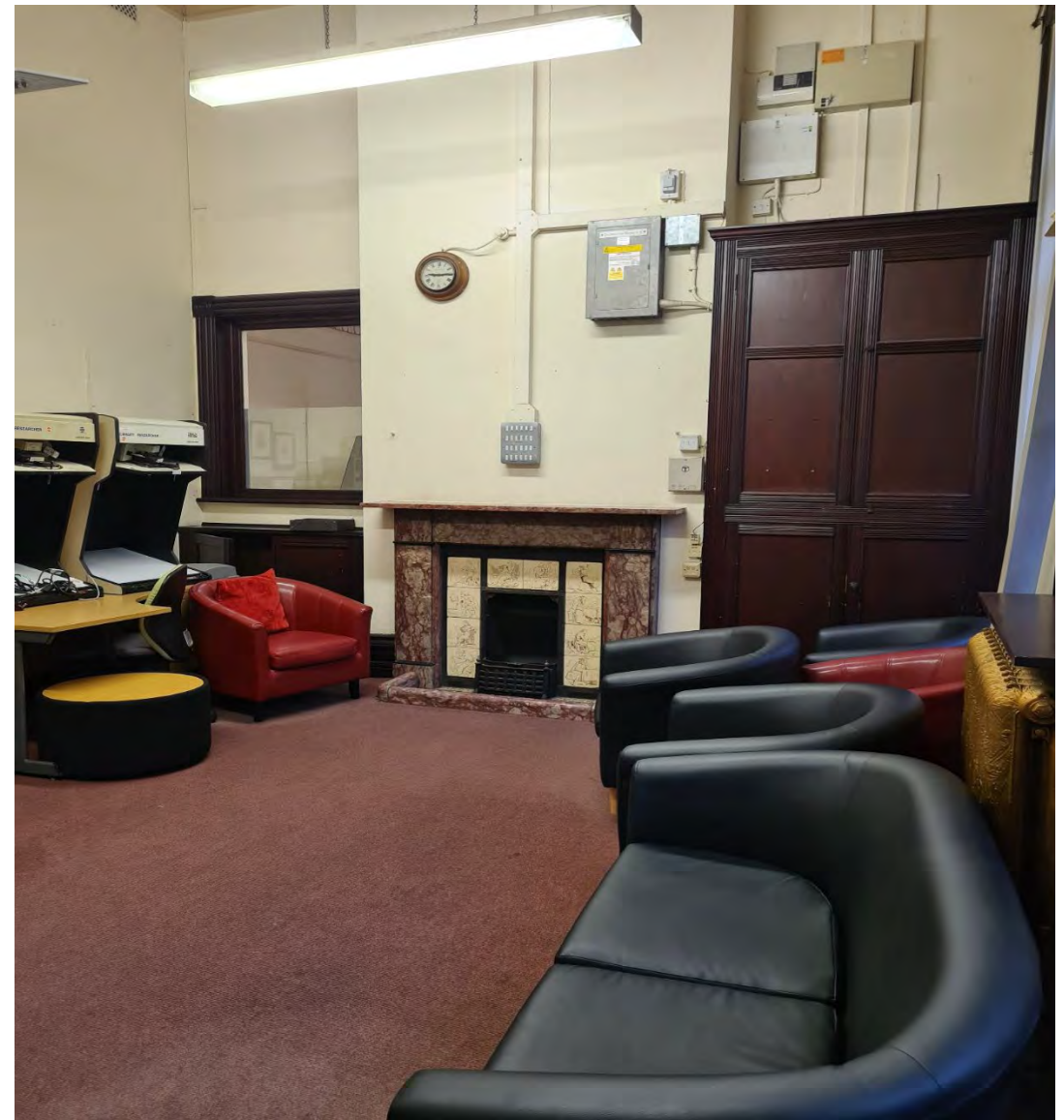


— The Foyer - AFTER



— Office Space/Reading Room - BEFORE

- Originally, the 'Ladies Reading Room'; more recently an office.



The Reminiscence Room – AFTER (Re-branded, created for older people and/or those with Dementia.)



— Training Room - BEFORE



— The Hoskins Room – AFTER (re-branded: a hireable space)



— Darlington Library Reopens – Saturday 9 September 2023 (1/3)



— Darlington Library Reopens – Saturday 9 September 2023 (2/3)



- The Library opened between 12.00 – 4.00pm and two family friendly gigs were held on the evening. Over 1600 visitors were received on opening day.



— Darlington Library Reopens – Saturday 9 September 2023 (3/3)

Day	Visitor Number
Saturday 9 September	1605
Monday 11 September	878
Tuesday 12 September	902
Wednesday 13 September	811
Thursday 14 September	644
Friday 15 September	700
Saturday 16 September	1162



— Key Performance Indicators

- Items Borrowed (This includes physical stock, digital books/audio/magazines)
- Physical Stock borrowed from Darlington Library
- Physical Stock borrowed from Cockerton Library
- Number of physical visits to Darlington Library (Door count)
- Number of physical visits to Cockerton Library (Door count)
- Number of group engagements (Events/activities/groups – provided within libraries, at external venues and online)
- Number of group engagements at Darlington Library (Events/activities/groups within the building)
- Number of group engagements at Cockerton Library (Events/activities/groups within the building)
- Number of educational interactions (Visits to or from nurseries/schools/colleges/specific home school groups)
- Number of enquires directed to the Centre for Local Studies (To include enquiries in person and via telephone, post, email and social media.)
- Reservations - where an item is reserved from stock or from another library and is supplied within 7 days, shown as a %



— The Library Plan

The Library Plan outlines our mission as:

“Our mission is to deliver an aspirational library service; A customer focused, safe, and nurturing environment for adults and children of all ages, providing enjoyable opportunities to engage with reading, learning, digital, and cultural experiences.”



— The Library Plan

More than just books...

- Study space and research resources for all ages
- School support including visits, book loans and educational packages
- Baby and Pre-school activities to support health and educational development
 - Free book packs to support families and educational settings
 - Weekend activities for families
 - Holiday programme for school children
- A space and resources to support young children who may be neurodivergent
 - Adult workshops, activities and events
- Digital offers including books, audio books, newspapers and magazines
 - Children's digital platform to support learning within the home
- A space and resources to support older people and those with dementia
 - Home delivery service to those aged 60+ or those with mobility issues which may prevent library use.
 - Reading initiatives
 - An area dedicated to sparking interest in creativity, engineering, model making, coding (STEAM)



— The Library Plan

Bouncing Back

We recognise the challenge faced to us from the lengthy disruption to services caused by Covid and then our closure for restoration and refurbishment.

Our goal is to attract and retain audiences to Darlington Library.

We will do this by:

- Increasing discoverability by improving our digital presence
 - Providing an innovative digital offer to visitors
- Providing exemplary customer service within a safe, supportive environment.



— New for 2023: Schools' Packages

The HIVE STEAM Package

£275

- **3 x Animation and Coding Workshops**
Robotics (BBC micro:bit and Marty the Robot) or Stop Motion Studio
- **3 x VR Class Experiences**
Experiences available in all subjects
- **1 x VR Experience for SEND**
Specialist experiences for SEND students (Recommended for up to 10 students)
- **3 x Imagine, Design and Create Workshops**
3D printing, laser wood cutting and Cricut sticker designing

Workshops and class VR experiences based on a max of 32 students. All sessions will take place in the Hive at Darlington Library.



Literacy Plus Package

£295

- **Author/Illustrator Visit**
One assembly or class workshop
- **Writing Competition**
Assembly to launch and winning stories published on Borrow Box APP
- **Poetry Slam Competition**
Winning representatives from each school will attend final event at Darlington Library
- **3 x VR Literacy Experiences**
Inspiration for creative writing

If you are interested in our packages/ services, please register your interest by **Monday 18 September**.

Contact Us

- ✉ libraryevents@darlington.gov.uk
- ☎ 01325 349633
- 📍 Darlington Libraries
Crown Street
Darlington
DL1 1ND

Our FREE Services

- **Bookahead scheme**
Termly delivery of a book box for nursery
- **School Book Boxes**
Termly delivery of bookable topic boxes
- **Visit to the library**
Pre-organised class visits
- **100 book challenge**
Book reading challenge for Year 5
- **School Assembly**
Summer Reading Challenge Assembly
- **Entry in draw for NCBF**
Alongside the Northern Children's Book Festival, we organise authors to visit schools in Darlington. Cost of author is split across participating schools
- **Visit to Local Studies**
Pre-organised talks by our Local Studies department (max of 15 students per session)

All our services are subject to availability. Please complete the online form sent to your school admin to register your interest in our different services.

libraryevents@darlington.gov.uk



— Reducing the Equalities Divide

- We gift free book packs to children in deprived wards (with a high percentage of free school meals)
- We give special consideration to schools in deprived wards when offering free or subsidised library experiences.
- We offer many free activities to remove barriers for low-income families.
- Access to our libraries is free to all. Study space and computer use is free to all. Research facilities and staff support is free to all. Book and audiobook loans are free to all.



— Questions ?

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