



**Libraries
Connected**

2022

2023

**Yorkshire Humber (LCYH)
Annual Report**



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Chair's Overview

April 2022 – March 2023

It is a great pleasure to present the first Libraries Connected Yorkshire Humber (LCYH) Annual Report that has been produced as part of our new governance framework.

Thankfully 2022 was the start of a return to something approaching normality following the pandemic. During the year covered by this report, the region has continued to focus on activity which has proved that by working collaboratively together we can deliver objectives that cannot be achieved on our own.

As an example of this, the region delivered an impressive programme of activity for the Queen's 60th Jubilee celebrations when we curated an innovative itinerary of activity. This included, for example, the production of specially commissioned jigsaws which featured book covers from the Big Jubilee Read booklist. Whilst on one level this activity created a unique legacy project, the fundamental objective was to bring people together, especially those who might otherwise be at risk of loneliness and isolation. Further information about the Jubilee programme is covered in this report.

The year also saw the conclusion of a root and branch review of LCYH governance which incorporated the updated national guidance on regional governance.

We continued to develop our work on shared services, working, for example, with Activist Group (a consultancy providing support with strategy, planning and research) focussing on the benefits of a fully integrated regional Library management System (LMS).



Another theme to emerge during the period has been the benefit of working not only as a regional network but also at a sub-regional level. West Yorkshire Libraries have, for example, been particularly active as a sub-region.

LCYH is recognised by the national network for the strength of its approach to mutual collaboration and support and we have an ambitious programme of activity planned to drive our work forward as part of the Annual Strategic Plan for 2023/24.

Key Activities

2022 / 2023

Shared Services

Library Management System (LMS)

In 2022, LCYH commissioned Activist Group to research and produce a business case on the options, benefits and recommendations for taking forward LCYH's ambitions for a fully integrated LMS. Activist Group used the Treasury '5 Case Model' to produce the business case and concluded that re-procuring the framework would be the most effective way forward.

Now that the existing framework is coming to an end, LCYH has agreed to re-procure a new framework contract that enables

a completely integrated system using a single shared database for any of the 15 authorities who wish to join. To support with capacity, we are now looking to appoint a project manager to lead this procurement project.

Doncaster Libraries led by Nick Stopforth, Head of Culture and Commercial, has been appointed lead Authority for the procurement exercise. Nick will undertake day to day line management of the project manager post, and work with Doncaster Council's Procurement, IT and Legal leads as required.

Book Supply Contract Yorkshire Book Consortium (YBC)

The YBC was formed in the early 2000's by a small number of library authorities and is a long-standing successful collaboration agreement.

The YBC is now a **36 strong group** comprising all **15** Yorkshire and the Humber local authorities, **20** North West authorities and Stoke on Trent. Participating authorities serve a population in excess of **10 million** and issue nearly **36 million** items per annum.



The YBC working with the North West Library Consortium manages the procurement of library materials in the most cost efficient way for all.

The current procurement exercise is being led by Rotherham MBC and a team of four representatives from the North West and Yorkshire and Humber. The newly procured contracts for Fiction Adult and Children Non Fiction Adult and Children's and Reference materials are expected to start on 1st August 2023 for three years with an option to extend for a further two years.

 Image: © Opening The Book

Jubilee Celebrations

Libraries across the country were awarded funding from Arts Council England (ACE) to host activities to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. LCYH agreed to combine these monies to facilitate a regional programme of activity which would complement activity at an authority level.

Consultant Sarah Tyson from Books Up North was commissioned to work with us on producing and co-coordinating the programme of activity which included:

Bespoke jigsaws using book cover artwork from the books on the Big Jubilee Read booklist

A total of 224 puzzles were produced with each authority receiving ten puzzles at no cost: many authorities elected to order additional jigsaws. From the evaluation feedback this activity was regarded as the most popular of the four regional activities.

“The puzzles were put out on display for customers to piece together. There was rivalry and competition amongst libraries on who could complete first.





Panel Event TWIXT T'COVERS

Inspired by the popular BBC programme 'Between the Covers' presented by Sara Cox, our version had guests that represented Northern readers. This activity included the production of several teaser films and a [promotional video](#). Arts Council England's Director of Libraries, Sue Williamson, author James Nichols, publisher Jeremy Ponting from Peepal Tree Press and Librarian, Cheryl Hesketh, Library Development Manager, Conwy who discussed their favourite title from the list.

Over 100 people remotely joined the audience from the live event in Harrogate Library.

The event was recorded and edited with subtitles added. [This recording serves as a legacy to the regional project.](#)

Other events in the Jubilee programme included setting up a reading recommendation noticeboard to encourage sharing and discussion about favourite fictional reads amongst communities and the screening of films of the books on the Jubilee Read booklist in local libraries.



Reading Pictures Seeing Stories (RPSS) Visual Literacy Festival

Following the success of the RPSS festival in 2018 which was led by the regional Association of Senior Children's and Education Librarians (ASCEL) further funding was secured again by ASCEL from Arts Council England (ACE) with additional financial support from LCYH to deliver a second festival of visual literacy.

After a delay to the start of the programme due to Covid restrictions, RPSS was successfully delivered across Yorkshire and Humberside during April and May 2022.

Planning for the festival was informed by research on how to best engage with

schools post pandemic. This evidenced an appetite across the board for activities delivered face to face in school settings.

The Festival was also supported by staff development opportunities including Autism Awareness and, in response to feedback that staff teams were lacking confidence in delivering live events, Herd Theatre Company were commissioned to deliver confidence building sessions.

The Festival was launched at The National Media Museum in Bradford with a keynote speech by award winning artist / illustrator, Martin Impey. This event was attended by schoolchildren from Bradford and North

Yorkshire as well as home educated children and reading groups along with Heads of Library Services from across the region.


All together, **14 out of the 15** regional library services participated in the delivery of **400** events with over **7,300** children attending.

Legacies from the project include a toolkit on organising a regional festival and resources for each authority including books and drawing materials. Equipment to support live streaming was also purchased as a regional resource.

Rugby League World Cup (RLWC): The Power of Connecting

The Power of Connecting was one of three elements in the RLWC Cultural Festival funded by Arts Council England. Libraries located in the heart of local communities were ideally placed to deliver this programme and partnered with RLWC to offer an exciting programme of arts activities and events as part of the tournament's cultural festival. The programme of events aimed to bridge the gap between arts, culture and sport.

LCYH led the library programme across **34 authorities** in the north of England, The programme, involving **593 individual libraries** kicked off on 26 September 2022, running for the duration of the tournament and beyond with **182 events** taking place attended by **3,046 people**. In addition, **12,500 people** listened into Forty20 Live podcasts that were broadcast from local libraries.

 *Image: Jamaican RLWC players visit Leeds Central Library*



Sub Regional Activity

Libraries Connected West Yorkshire have been collaborating since government funding facilitated the roll out in 2020 of the Business and Intellectual Property Centre (BIPC) service on a hub and spoke model across the region. Latterly, this collaboration has focussed on raising the profile of the network of 119 libraries in the region in supporting key West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) priorities, especially around digital inclusion and support for businesses. This work has included hosting a round table of key WYCA officers and LCWY Heads of Service

as well as participation in the WYCA festival in Autumn 2022 and preparation for submitting a bid to WYCA for Shared Prosperity Funding to continue the work of the BIPC across the region after the initial funding ends in March 2023.

Libraries Connected South Yorkshire have rolled out the Business and Intellectual Property service across the region and are working together with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) to develop longer terms plans to support innovation and support for businesses.

They are collaborating on a joint bid for grants to support South Yorkshire wide events that promote the value of our libraries and increase engagement across the sub-region.

Libraries Connected York & North Yorkshire are in the process of recruiting a mayor for the newly formed York & North Yorkshire mayoral authority. LCY&NY look forward to the opportunities this gives for closer working together to further raise the profile of libraries across the whole of this sub-region.

Finances

Regional LCYH funds are held centrally within Libraries Connected nationally. In 2022-23 all 15 authorities had a payment holiday (normally £3k p.a.) in recognition of current economic constraints. During the year we provided **£7,500** additional funding to support Rugby League World Cup cultural activities, **£2,700** for administrative support for the RPSS Visual Literacy Festival and funded a consortium commission investigating a more effective shared Library Management System totalling **£22,828**.

Forward Looking Statement

Turning to the current year, we will be focussing on activities that continue to strengthen our regional approach and align with our vision and key outcomes.

Vision: The LCYH network enables members to give users the best experience possible across all our libraries by pooling our resources, skills and experience.

Outcomes: The 2023 /24 Annual Strategic Plan aligns activity with key outcomes identified by the Network:

Outcome 1: We improve our customers' experience of libraries by innovating and identifying new opportunities to work together.

Outcome 2: We deliver value for money for our communities through the economies of scale we generate for our members.

Outcome 3: All library services can draw on the skills and expertise they need from staff across the Network.

Outcome 4: Everyone understands the impact we make and the value of libraries to our communities.

Key Activities for the Region in 2023/24 Include:

- ✍ Seeking funding to develop an exemplar region wide Reader Development project
- ✍ Progressing with the shared Library Management System procurement
- ✍ Supporting the continued development of staff teams across the region
- ✍ Development of a regional marketing and advocacy strategy
- ✍ Embedding our governance framework

Finally

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my term as Chair of this influential collaboration. My term of office concluded in June 2023. I would like to wish the new Chair much success during their term of office and I look forward to supporting the delivery of the initiatives and workstreams as part of the Annual Strategic Plan 2023/24.

– Andrea Ellison, Chief Librarian,
Leeds City Council

LCYH Regional Chair (2020 to 2023)



Appendix 1



310
Library buildings



968
Full time equivalent
paid staff



9434
Total opening
hours per week



664,500
Total hours of PC
usage per year



9,154,385
Total visitors
per year



Libraries Connected Yorkshire & Humber Regional Map

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 Bradford | 4 Kirklees | 7 Doncaster |
| 2 Leeds | 5 Wakefield | 8 Sheffield |
| 3 Calderdale | 6 Barnsley | 9 Rotherham |
| | | 10 York |



Appendix 2

Lead officers across the Network

Library Authority / Service	Head of Service Contact	Library Authority / Service	Head of Service Contact
Barnsley	Kathryn Green kathryngreen@barnsley.gov.uk	Lincs Inspired	Derek O’Connell derek.oconnell@lincsinspire.com
Bradford	Christine May christine.may@bradford.gov.uk	North Yorkshire	Hazel Smith (Interim) hazel.smith@northyorks.gov.uk
Calderdale	David Duffy david.duffy@calderdale.gov.uk	North Lincs	Colin Brabazon colin.brabazon@northlincs.gov.uk
Doncaster	Nick Stopforth nick.stopforth@doncaster.gov.uk	Rotherham	Zoe Oxley zoe.oxley@rotherham.gov.uk
East Riding	Kevin Hadfield kevin.hadfield@eastriding.gov.uk	Sheffield	Hilary Coulson hilary.coulson@sheffield.gov.uk
Hull	Michelle Alford michelle.alford@hcandl.co.uk	Explore York Libraries and Archives	Sarah Garbacz sarah.garbacz@exploreYork.org.uk
Kirklees	Stephanie Shaw stephanie.shaw@kirklees.gov.uk	Wakefield	Kathryn Harrison kathrynharrison@wakefield.gov.uk
Leeds	Andrea Ellison andrea.ellison@leeds.gov.uk		

Appendix 3

Membership of LCHY Steering Group March 2023

Steering Group Role	Member	Period Of Election
Chair	Andrea Ellison (Leeds)	June 2020 – June 2023
Past Chair	N/A	
Chair Elect	Sarah Garbacz (Explore York)	June 2020 – June 2023
Finance Officer	Kathryn Harrison (Wakefield)	June 2022 – June 2024
Ordinary Member	Christine May (Bradford)	June 2022 – June 2024

