

Summary Fair Treatment Assessment (FTA)

Area for Assessment:	
Name of service or function etc	Stock Management Policy (Stock and Resources)
Which Service does this affect?	Libraries
Is this a new, existing or revised function?	Revised
Summary of findings:	
Main conclusions on the likely impact of the proposed savings on different equality groups (protected characteristics):	
<p>Within the framework of the Stock Management Policy, the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 and other legislation, Solihull Library Service aims to provide access to resources in a range of media (print, audio visual and digital formats) to ensure a wide range of information, ideas and imaginative literature which is sufficient in quantity to meet the needs of library customers and diverse communities.</p> <p>Current good practice includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Books on Prescription • Community Language provision • Contribution to Black History Month (Community Read) and Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) History Month • Contribution to Regional Health Offer (Health Zones) • Contribution to supporting children's literacy (Summer Reading Challenge, increasing uptake at Chelmsley Wood Library) <p>In light of diminishing resource funds for the foreseeable future, sustainability of some of the above schemes/services will be dependent on adequate funding. Changes to the Care Trust will also present significant challenges to providing current levels of provision. It is also evident that whilst good practice exists in some areas, other areas need to be developed. This includes enhancing stock and resources in a number of areas including religion, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity and for carers and the Gypsy and Traveller Community. Development of these areas will be dependent on an adequate Resource Fund and prioritisation.</p> <p>Solihull Library Service contributes towards people's human rights by providing free access to stock, resources and information. 'The public are entitled to rely upon libraries for access to information and enlightenment upon every field of human experience and activity' - (Policy statement by The Library Association and endorsed by Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP))</p> <p>Solihull Library Service supports community cohesion by contributing to Black History Month and LGBT History Month. Solihull Libraries support a range of reading groups which offer opportunities for people to share their reading experience, supporting community cohesion by providing insights into other cultures and ways of thinking through discussion and the sharing of ideas. Reading Groups also help to combat social isolation by bringing people together and encouraging reading as a shared experience in a friendly and neutral environment. Libraries are social hubs where people meet and interact. Solihull Library Service seeks to contribute to sustainable communities by providing free access to stock, resources and information in a friendly, welcoming, non-threatening and neutral environment.</p> <p>The stock policy contributes to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults by ensuring that we only purchase legally published material. We cannot stock material that is defined by UK legislation as obscene or blasphemous or which incites religious or political hatred or promotes racism or prejudice against any social group. Solihull Library Service complies with the Video Recordings Act 1984 to ensure that children and young people do not have access to age restricted DVDs.</p>	

We have identified that we currently have a lack of adequate Management information data which needs some investigation on how it can be improved.

Actions

Actions identified to address negative impacts identified or to better promote equality, human rights, cohesive and sustainable communities and safeguarding issues

Action	Outcome	Timescale
Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans (LGBT) stock sequenced so can progress issue statistics	Evidence of usage will be provided in 2011-12	2011-12
Black Writers, Asian Writers and Health Zone stock sequenced so progress issue statistics relating to stock area combined with membership information	Evidence of usage will be provided in 2011-12	2011-12
Introduce initiatives to try to address decline in completion rates of Summer Reading Challenge	Improve completion rates for Summer Reading Challenge	July-Sept 12
Update book stock for carers if appropriate material can be sourced	Review range of stock	2011-12
Update book stock on gender reassignment if appropriate material can be sourced	Review range of stock	2011-12
Looked After Children/Care Leavers. Explore opportunities re Children's Services Team working with Corporate Parenting	Raise awareness of library services and resources and improve relationships with fostering team. Example: basic ICT tuition for foster parents.	February 2012 and ongoing
Update book stock on marriage and civil partnerships	Review range of stock	2011-12
Review Community Language provision - Explore more cost effective ways of sourcing Community Languages stock e.g. rental collections, regional provision	Appropriate range of stock More efficient throughput of stock. More cost effective procurement of stock. Increased range and choice for customers	2012-13
Establish Health Zone at Kingshurst	Improved access to health and well-being resources and information. Contribution to reducing health inequalities.	2011
Review range and depth of stock on religion, faith and belief	Increased range and quality of stock	2011-12
Introduce LGBT stock comments and suggestions book	Improved customer involvement in selection	2011-12
Consult LGBT and BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) Employee Networks re future stock purchase	Review the range and choice of stock	
Review hire charges for audio book for over 60s	Removal of barriers to accessing this area of stock – proposal in fees and charges to reduce charges from £1.10 to £1 in 2012-13	2012-13
Review provision of pregnancy/maternity stock across the library network	Review range and quality of stock	2011-12

Explore sustainability of Books on Prescription service in light of changes to Care Trust	Continuation of Books on prescription service	2011-12
Date Assessment Signed Off	April 2011	