

COMMUNITY & REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 12TH APRIL, 2021

SUBJECT:

WELSH PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS 2017-2020

Purpose:

Carmarthenshire Libraries / Annual Assessment Report 2019-20

To consider and comment on the following issues:

To monitor performance of the Library Service against the 6th Quality Assessment Framework of the Welsh Public Library Standards as contained in the Annual Return for 2019/20.

Reasons:

To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role in relation to monitoring performance of the library service.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. Peter Hughes-Griffiths (Culture, Sport & Tourism Portfolio Holder)

Directorate

Communities

Name of Head of Service:

Ian Jones

Report Author:

Mark Jewell

Designations:

Head of Leisure

Library Services Manager

Tel Nos.

01267 228309 / 01554 744328

E Mail Addresses:

ljones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

MJewell@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
COMMUNITY & REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE: 12TH APRIL, 2021

SUBJECT:
WELSH PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS 2017-2020

Sixth Assessment Framework for Welsh Public Library Standards: Annual Return 2019/20

The Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 sets out the statutory duties of public library authorities to "*provide a comprehensive and efficient library service*" and makes it a duty of the Welsh Ministers "*to superintend and promote the improvement*" of public library services in Wales.

In accordance with these statutory requirements the Welsh Government has completed its assessment of Carmarthenshire's library service Annual Return for 2019/20.

This is the third year of assessment under the sixth framework.

The external validator, in consultation with a Reference Group comprising Welsh Government officials and three heads of library services, found that:

- Carmarthenshire met all of the 12 core entitlements in full.**
- Of the 9 quality indicators with targets, Carmarthenshire achieved 7 in full, 1 in part and did not achieve 1.**

Carmarthenshire Library service has consistently performed well over the three years of the framework. Carmarthenshire has continued to record some of the highest per capita performances for visits and usage.

98% of adults experience the library as an enjoyable, safe and inclusive place, which is above the median in Wales.

Carmarthenshire has seen a 22% increase since 2017/18 in the number of library members but a decrease in active borrowers. Book issues for adults have fallen by just under 10% since 2018/19, but children's book issues increased 85% since last year

Staffing levels overall have increased slightly, but remain below the target level; the service continues to meet the requirements for qualified staff, one of only four authorities to do so.

Carmarthenshire still remains in the top quartile in Wales for total revenue expenditure per capita.

The proposal to recruit two Makerspace apprentices is an interesting development and has the potential to increase membership and impact positively on the digital skills of the local communities.

Proposals for a remote locker solution are innovative and the impact of this will be interesting to note in future years.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED :

YES – Welsh Public Library Standards 2012-2020 – Annual Assessment Report 2019/20

