



Vale of Glamorgan Library Strategy 2022- 2027



Directorate of Learning and Skills

Vale of Glamorgan Library Strategy 2022- 2027

OUR VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to provide a modern library and information service which actively meets the ever-changing needs of our communities. The service will be inclusive, sustainable, adaptable, trustworthy and of high quality.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to inspire reading and learning, to share resources and information, to connect people through activities and opportunities, to promote and provide access to culture, heritage and the Welsh language; and to do all this in the library, in communities, at home and online.

We share the values of our Council: which are to be ambitious, open, together, and proud. Ambitious in forward thinking and embracing new ways of working. Open to different ideas and innovative ways of delivering services. Together in working with our staff, partners, and communities. Proud to serve and celebrate our achievements.

BACKGROUND AND STRATEGIC CONTEXT

UK Statutory Duties

Local Authorities have a statutory duty under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 'to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons desiring to make use thereof'.

In providing this service, other duties set out for Local Authorities include:

- Encouraging adults and children to make full use of the library service
- Provision of free printed books and other materials to those who live, work or study in the area

Welsh Government Strategy

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 sets out objectives for each Local Authority with regards to the following well-being goals:

- A prosperous Wales • A resilient Wales • A healthier Wales • A more equal Wales

- A Wales of cohesive communities • A Wales with a vibrant culture and a flourishing Welsh language • A globally responsible Wales

Connected and Ambitious libraries: the sixth Welsh public library standards quality framework 2017 to 2020

Cymraeg 2050: a million Welsh speakers

The Culture Strategy for Wales – currently in development

Vale of Glamorgan Council

When drawing up this plan, Vale of Glamorgan Libraries will operate within the context of national, region and local plans which also include the following: -

Working together for a brighter future: The Vale of Glamorgan Corporate Plan 2020-2025

The wellbeing objectives of the Vale of Glamorgan Corporate Plan set out 4 key objectives which are:

- To work with and for our communities
- To support learning, employment, and sustainable economic growth
- To support people at home and in their communities
- To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment

Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board Wellbeing Plan 2023-2028

VALE OF GLAMORGAN LIBRARIES SERVICE

The Vale has 4 full time libraries at Barry, Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Penarth run by Council staff. We are partnered by 5 community supported libraries at Dinas Powys, Rhoose, St. Athan, Sully and Wenvoe. Each separate community library is run by a volunteer board of trustees or directors and a committed team of volunteer staff. Community libraries benefit from Council book stock, ICT provision and some staff support but otherwise cover the costs of all other provision themselves. All libraries work from the same library management system and community library statistics are included in the annual Welsh Public Library Standards report to Welsh Government.

Each library offers a range of reading materials, public computers and wi-fi. All libraries, dependent on their size, have spaces to meet and study and provide a range of activities throughout the year.

The library service has a Home Delivery Service for people who are unable to leave home to visit a library themselves. Books are delivered by volunteers monthly at no cost.

A 24/7 Digital Library gives a wide choice of resources for free, including e-books, e-audiobooks and e-magazines. Access to a range of online subscription resources are also popular, including genealogy websites Find My Past and Ancestry, and the TheoryTest Pro website for learner drivers. In addition, there are links to newspaper sites and daily newspapers and magazine available on PressReader.

All library users may have PIN access to their own membership accounts where they can check books they have previously read, join a waiting list or order items and renew items. On request, users are also able to gain access to Penarth library outside opening hours using the Open+ system.

OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

All our library activities and events have a well-being outcome and our library objectives fit neatly into most of the Council's Well-being objectives, which are:

To work with and for our communities

To support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth

To support people at home and in their community

To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment

Our strategic objectives are to be delivered within 2-3 years.

OBJECTIVE: Provide access to a wide and relevant range of reading resources to meet the needs of our residents

ACTIONS:

- Purchase new books and resources in all formats throughout the year for adults and children, at the best value via All Wales Purchasing Consortium.
- Continue to buy appropriate multiple copies of books in high demand to manage waiting lists.
- Provide and manage a range of book collections to support for reading groups.
- Continue to loan and lend books for free between all libraries in Wales and to support the Books4U reservation service with neighbouring authorities

OBJECTIVE: Promote books and reading for pleasure, learning and literacy via a range of events and activities

ACTIONS:

- Deliver weekly rhyme or story times for children in all Council libraries and encourage the same at community libraries.

- Increase and support the number of Welsh language activities for children in libraries
- Work with Booktrust Cymru to deliver Bookstart and collaborate with the Health Visitor Service to ensure that Baby and Early Years packages are given to families through the Bookstart scheme
- Hold a programme of free or affordable activities for children and families during the summer holidays
- Encourage children aged 4-12 to continue reading over the summer holidays by taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge and promoting this to schools before the end of the summer term
- Promote reading for pleasure to adults and encourage adults to expand their reading horizons for personal benefit and learning, and do this by book promotions, social media, via reading groups and through activities in libraries

OBJECTIVE: Promote access to books in different formats to widen access

ACTIONS:

- Provide digital resources such as e-audiobooks, e-books and e-magazines for adults and children in English and Welsh
- Purchase a growing but still very small number of Welsh language audiobooks, large print books and e-books for library users
- Provide a monthly Home Library Service for all those unable to visit their library in person

OBJECTIVE: Promote health and wellbeing

ACTIONS

- Provide learning sessions and activities to aid health and wellbeing and to bring people together
- Provide health and wellbeing information through online links such as the DEWIS database
- Maintain and promote the Reading Well book collections scheme across Libraries. Collections include Dementia, Mental Health, Children's Mental Health, Young People's Mental Health
- Host health and wellbeing events at the library and encourage participation and information sharing
- Continue to train all staff to become Dementia Friends and develop libraries into dementia friendly spaces

OBJECTIVE: Bring people and communities together and encourage participation

ACTIONS

- Continue to host coffee mornings and a range of informal drop-in sessions
- Support and promote knit and natter groups, reading groups, games groups and others
- Work with library friends groups to develop their suggestions for supporting libraries
- Provide work experience and training opportunities for volunteers who want to gain new skills or improve current skills

OBJECTIVE: Develop Makerspace activities at Barry and Penarth Libraries

ACTIONS

- Through the Makerspace Officer, develop a programme of Library created learning activities for adults and children, some of which will be free
- Collaborate with Adult Community Learning and other partners and organisations to host a range of activities for learners at the makerspaces to introduce and expand new skills
- Provide opportunities for individual users to work in the makerspaces to pursue their own interests, whether digital, craft or music based.
- Work with partners and key stakeholders to ensure that staff and volunteers have the latest skills and knowledge to support users digitally

OBJECTIVE: Ensure that IT equipment and appropriate digital facilities are available in our Libraries

ACTIONS:

- Improve the quality of public computers and free wi-fi in each Library and offer advice and support to community libraries so that they can do the same
- Replace the current self-issue kiosks with new kiosks at Council libraries
- Provide card payment at Council libraries and enable online payments for events and activities
- Actively support the procurement of a new shared library management system and digital platform for Wales (LMS Cymru) via a consortium approach with all other Welsh Public Library authorities.
- Consider extending Hubleys to Cowbridge and Llantwit Major Libraries to give users more flexible access to digital content

OBJECTIVE: Provide first class e-resources and digital resources

ACTIONS:

- Ensure easy access to e-resources including e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines in English and Welsh for adults and children, and to work in cooperation with Welsh libraries to develop a joint collection for all library users in Wales
- Ensure a range of online information resources including newspapers and genealogy resources are delivered free of charge
- To continue to work with The People's Collection and provide content to the website to share the Vale Libraries photograph collection online as well as other resources
- Further promote the iPad scheme so that nobody need be left behind in accessing digital content

OBJECTIVE: Encouraging sustainability and respecting the environment

ACTIONS:

- Develop a working partnership with Benthyc to promote repair cafes
- Promote community recycling
- Develop an eco-garden at Penarth library and run a micro-greens project with schools and young people

OUR OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Our operational objectives are listed on our Annual Team Plan. For our current Team Plan please see accompanying documents.