Libraries: A place for us all
Defining the library offer

Lesley Sim
Head of Libraries, Heritage & Registration
West Sussex County Council
Long established – ever changing

Worthing Library staff 1909

Crawley Library staff now
Part of the national network...
...with our own local influences

- £54m corporate savings target by 2022
- 37% real terms reduction in budget since 2010
- All or part lone working in 24 libraries
- Adult Services Improvement Plan
- Children’s Services “inadequate”
- Significant population growth, but also ageing
Defining (and redefining) the library offer
3 million visits to libraries

3 million visits to libraries

4 million virtual visits online

4 million virtual visits online

105,000 residents receive the library email newsletter

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18,500 attendances at adult daytime activities

18,500 attendances at adult daytime activities

7,500 babies join the library

7,500 babies join the library

36 libraries, open 6 days per week

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16,000 children take part in Summer Reading Challenge

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104,000 attendances at rhyme time

104,000 attendances at rhyme time

7,500 days of volunteer support

7,500 days of volunteer support

319,000 registered members

319,000 registered members

4 million items borrowed

4 million items borrowed

219,000 enquiries answered

219,000 enquiries answered

230,000 hours

230,000 hours

Public computers used for

Public computers used for

www.westsussex.gov.uk

THE WEST SUSSEX WAY
Putting libraries at the centre of County Council delivery

• Impact of Peer Challenge (2015)
  “West Sussex see libraries as part of the answer, not part of the problem”

• Evidencing impact

• Counting different things
  – 122 new services delivered via libraries
  – 16,000 attendances at events designed to support people staying independent for longer
  – 7,000 families choosing to join their baby to the library at birth registration
  – 102,000 attendances at rhyme times
Demonstrating Corporate Parenting

The book I received was: 1001 Silly Jokes
When I get my book parcel I feel: happy
What I like about my book parcel is: they are thinking about me
What I enjoyed about the book is: the funny jokes
What I liked about the game in the parcel is: it has numbers
Others things I would like to say: Thank you for the game

Thank you
Inclusive services for everyone

Understand Me
The Communication Library
Your local library can now help with specialist communication resources for anyone who needs them.

Compass Cards welcome here
Discounted fun, leisure and sport for 0-25s with special educational needs and disabilities

www.westsussex.gov.uk/undertsandme
Supporting our ageing population

TALK LOCAL

Keep your independence
Be part of your community
Live the life you want

Supporting lives, connecting people

Prevention Assessment Teams
Supporting the health and wellbeing of adults of all ages

THE WEST SUSSEX WAY
www.westsussex.gov.uk
Welcoming people with dementia

Melody for the Mind