## Reading Award 2023: Shortlist

### ****Michelle Jackson, Staffordshire****

***Michelle is nominated for her innovative work around the use of the Universal Reading Offer to support the needs of local communities in North Staffordshire, with a particular focus on supporting those families participating in the Homes for Ukraine scheme.***

Working with local community groups and Staffordshire County Council colleagues, Michelle has delivered ""Getting to Know You"" events for Ukrainians to meet up with each other at Leek and Newcastle-under-Lyme libraries.  Books and reading have been at the heart of these sessions together with an opportunity to register for a library card.

From April to September 2022 book issues in Staffordshire County Council Libraries in the north of the county where Michelle has focused her work increased by 64%.

Michelle's offer has been a best practice example that has been replicated across other libraries in Staffordshire. At a strategic level, Michelle's work has demonstrated the crucial role of libraries in adding value to the Staffordshire County Council Homes for Ukraine scheme.

### ****Joe Shooman, Library Assistant at Shrewsbury Library, Shropshire Libraries****

***Joe is nominated for his work in starting a peer support group for local writers at Shrewsbury Library.***

This work which has greatly benefitted the local community of writers and readers. Meeting every 2 weeks in the library, Joe invites and coordinates guest speakers including writers, poets, and illustrators to share their experience and knowledge on working, publishing and all things writing. Members found these sessions invaluable in helping them to shape ideas and find new inspiration. Members can send work to be shared amongst the group for peers to give feedback and readings at meetings help to build confidence and spoken word skills.

Members of the lab have had several successes with getting work published. One member has won a year's membership to the Retreat West community with access to several courses and professional feedback after feeling encouraged from the group feedback to submit their work.

‘The writer’s lab has been a lifeline for me pre and post Covid. Writing can be so solitary – it’s so nice to meet and be part of a community. I have confidence and friends’.

### ****Michelle Dunstan, supported by Libraries and Culture team (special mention also to team member Ann Penn), Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries, Nottinghamshire****

**Michelle is nominated for 'I Am A Reader', a project that aims to *i*nform and revitalise the way Inspire and the wider libraries and literature sector engage with readers.**

By placing readers at the project’s heart, and with a motivation to bring writers and readers closer together, Michelle set up six reader groups – three public groups where readers were invited to apply to ensure a wide audience, a neurodiverse reading group, one working with women who have survived domestic abuse (these all met online), and a library-based group in an area of low arts engagement.

The groups worked with six selected writers over three sessions. The first covered topics including what it means to be a reader, whether reading is creative, and what we each see, hear and feel when we read. The remaining sessions focused on the co-commissioning of an original story by the writer.

The stories were published in an illustrated anthology which is available to borrow. The team is looking at new ideas for 2023, including a guide for libraries to run I Am A Reader sessions with regular groups.

### ****Tracy McKechnie and Liz Gunn, Kent Prison Libraries (Kent Libraries, Registration and Archives)****

***Tracy and Liz are nominated for their use of technology to expand the prison library offer.***

Liz and Tracy are Library Assistants at HMP Swaleside. During the pandemic, prison libraries were forced to shut, and we had to quickly implement a remote service. Tracy and Liz offered a request service for prisoners to ask for particular books they would like to read and started up a 'Lucky Dip' DVD club so that DVDs could be borrowed in a fair way. They produced a regular newsletter promoting new stock and encouraged prisoners to take part in reading and family initiatives. The prisoners began sending in requests, and the service started to expand.

Liz and Tracy stand out for their dedication to improving the lives of their customers. When the customers are unable to come to the library they have gone above and beyond to create a link with them, and understand their needs.

### ****Liz Sheppard & Jess Jones, Cambridgeshire Libraries****

***Liz and Jess are nominated for working collaboratively with Royal Papworth Hospital to deliver an outreach offer of 'Read a Little Aloud' where stories and poetry are read aloud to a small audience by library staff or a volunteer.***

From initial discussions, Liz and Jess developed an online shared reading programme that would fulfil the hospital’s need to improve the wellbeing of patients in critical care and increase their opportunities for social interaction, while also extending the reach and scope of Cambridgeshire Libraries.

Liz and Jess developed training and oversaw delivery of this twice weekly programme of live listening sessions for critical care patients, responding to the needs of people removed from their usual family or community environment to receive expert medical treatment. RALA has a positive impact on their wellbeing at a time of significant challenge and change.

### ****Libraries Development Team (Curtis Fulcher, Aimee Lewis, Andrew Shapcott, Sally Williams), Gloucestershire****

***Gloucestershire’s Development Team is nominated for bringing to life an immersive storytelling centre which will become an interactive, unique community resource.***

The Oakley area in Cheltenham is one of the most deprived wards in the UK and has low access to education and skills training, it is one of the least engaged communities with reading and literacy in the Gloucestershire area.

Oakley Immersive Storytelling Centre, a concept born from community engagement, is believed to be the first of its kind in the country to be delivered by a library service to meet the unique needs of its local community. It will be an engaging, inclusive, and accessible community hub in the heart of Oakley and will provide a variety of clubs, groups, and events, a sensory and reading garden and a digital immersive space.

## Children’s Award 2023: Shortlist

### ****Marianne Fraser-Hussain, Engagement Officer, Barnsley Libraries****

***Marianne is nominated for delivering ‘Stories From Around The World’, a project led by Libraries in partnership with Feels Like Home, a local group of refugee and asylum seeker families.***

Meeting at the library the group have taken part in story and rhyme sessions and participated in a storytelling workshops. From these creative sessions the group chose their favourite stories from their culture or first language and created their own illustrations with an artist to be compiled into a multilingual nursery rhyme book which is now available to families and library customers.

The project promoted diversity and inclusivity, welcoming many families who were not regular users of the library. Through Marianne’s work the library service has developed its activities and service to become more  
inclusive of the cultures and languages that make up the local community. The addition of the co-created book and film ensures we can be welcoming to many people in the community into the future.

### Oxfordshire County Library - Business & IP Centre Team (Jane Mason, Ewan McGuigan, Ryan Johnson, Unai Ledesma, Mariana Costa)

***Oxfordshire County Library Business & IP Centre (BIPC) is nominated for engaging hundreds of new youth participants aged eight to 25 in enterprising activities.***

The centre offers an innovative workshop room, marketing suite, Virtual Reality headsets, interactive TVs, white boards, market research databases, one-to-one business information sessions, a co-work area, lighting and more to create dynamic youth engagement environments.

Among other initiatives, the centre is forming new partnerships with the Home Office Violence Reduction Unit and Youth Justice System to tackle County Lines, offering enterprising diversionary pathways for young people identified at risk.

### ****Sarah Bedingfield, Service Manager, Innovation, Digital & Libraries, Lucy Keeley, Principle Project Officer & Liz Moran, Playground Project Manager, Kent County Council****

***Sarah, Lucy and Liz are nominated for 'Playground', a unique programme of high-quality creative activity for babies, young children, and their families.***

This programme promotes the importance of creative play between parents, carers, and their children, and the positive impacts that brings in strengthening parent-child bonding, social and communication skills, and supporting school readiness.

Playground has been announced by Arts Council England as one of their National Portfolio Organisations 2023-26. This will include development of Kent's artist exchange programme working with other early years creative partners from across the UK, and the formation of a national Early Years Network.

### ****Roma Williams, Library Team Manager for Gosport and Bridgemary, Hampshire Library Service****

***Roma is nominated for developing the 'Over and Over Books' programme.***

The programme focuses on working with pre-school children with English as an additional language or those identified with a speech, language, and communication need.

Roma worked with local pre-school settings and child minders, who agree to bring named children to six, staff-led sessions that last for 20 to 30 minutes and provide early language development practice alongside a strong reading for pleasure message.

Feedback from the sessions in Gosport Discovery Centre has been so positive that Roma and the team are now helping to support colleagues from other Hampshire libraries adopt and deliver the 'Over and Over Books' programme.

### ****Mariam Patel & Amreen Rashid, Waltham Forest Libraries****

***Mariam and Amreen are nominated for their efforts in networking with different organisations and charities to obtain free equipment and services needed to run their clubs, and for working alongside other internal departments to support the new 'Best Start in Life 2022' programme.***

Mariam and Amreen took on the challenge to revolutionise the events programme for Lea Bridge Library to meet the needs of local families. They created a range of events, the majority of which were new to Waltham Forest's Library Service, and upon seeing the success at Lea Bridge Library were rolled out to other libraries within the borough.

Mariam and Amreen regularly go above and beyond what is expected, often working out of work time to ensure the success of their events which has been highly appreciated by the local community, constantly gaining positive feedback, and has also improved community engagement. In the past 12 months attendance to events has increased by 500%.

### ****Ellie Booth, Village Hubs Project Worker, Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries – Nottinghamshire****

***Ellie is nominated for her work on the Library Improvement Fund Villages Hub project.***

This project re-imagines and re-configures six smaller libraries to create vibrant and inclusive village hubs at the heart of their communities.

Ellie has created two library gardens, one with growing activities and one with outdoor classroom facilities, designed to enhance and support environmental thinking; reinforcing Inspire’s dedication to reduce our environmental impact and give communities space for environmental events and activities.

## Culture & Creativity Award 2023: Shortlist

### ****Lena Smith FRSA, Pen to Print - Library Project Manager, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham****

***Lena is nominated for the impact she has had through her leadership of the 'Pen to Print' programme.***

Pen to Print’s mission is to provide a safe, collaborative environment attracting and supporting a network of diverse writers with the commitment to local voices. Aspiring writers are encouraged to develop their authentic voices and to reach communities with their stories and inspiring others.

A huge part of its success has been the funding Lena has secured. Under her leadership, Pen to Print became an Arts Council, England National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) in 2018. She ensures its governance is secure, led by Barking and Dagenham Libraries with an Advisory Panel including local people, founder members and industry experts.

### ****Emma Tweed, Engagement Officer, Barnsley Library Service****

***Emma is nominated for her work in ensuring Barnsley Libraries are involved in increasing awareness of environmental issues in their communities.***

Emma has shown her skills in linking culture and creativity with learning, for example by including a bee themed adult poetry workshop in her programme, alongside crafts using sustainable materials including wildflower bombs, and even a Virtual Reality bee activity. She has embraced partnership working, delivering sessions with a local Beekeepers Association, partnering with the Museums Service, and with local poet Ian McMillan.

Emma has also been successful in putting a bid in to Arts Council England, securing grant funding to deliver a creative music themed programme called Biblio Beats in 2023. 

### Dionne Hood, Development Officer for Reading & Stock, Bradford Libraries

***Dionne is nominated for her work in bringing inspiring, diverse and inclusive creative and cultural engagement to Keighley Library and the local population it serves.***

Dionne developed the 'Create Connect Make' project in partnership with visual artist Jean McEwan, and secured funding from the Leap, a Creative People and Places Programme.  Working together with local people in Keighley to grow, test and support new ideas for community-led creativity and culture taking place in the library, Create Connect Make has been an important part of the Keighley Library pilot for the Bradford Libraries’ new delivery model.

Dionne has worked with diverse community groups, some of whom had previously said they did not think the library was for them.

### ****Tracey Williams, Library Specialist (Heritage & Local Studies), Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council****

***Tracey is nominated for her work with the Young Archaeologist’s Club (YAC).***

Tracey set up the YAC in November 2021 as a result of ongoing contact since 2019 by archaeologists working on the HS2 site in Coleshill.

### By setting up and running the YAC despite, by her own admission, having no background in archaeology whatsoever, Tracey has brought local history and heritage to a younger generation in an innovative way and is inspiring children to perhaps seek careers in her field, or in archaeology. The YAC is always fully subscribed and always has a waiting list.

**Boundless Curiosity Exhibition Team (Adam Bayfield, Jodie Hearn, Chris Jordan, Abi Paine, Tracey Woosley), Guernsey**

***Adam, Jodie, Chris, Abi and Tracey are nominated for creating the Boundless Curiosity exhibition at Guernsey’s Guille-Allès Library.***

Boundless Curiosity is an exhibition to celebrate the Library’s 140th anniversary, bringing to life the interesting story behind our origins and showcasing some of the treasures in our collection, including Audubon’s Birds of America. The team worked tirelessly throughout the year to put it together, often giving up evenings and weekends to tackle the workload.

The result was an exhibition that could fairly be described as world class, as the response from the community bears out. More than 5,000 people visited in the first half of the run. Feedback has been sensational, with three quarters of people surveyed awarding a score of 10/10, and an overall Net Promoter Score of 84. Many people commented that it was the first time they had set foot inside the Library in years, even decades, and there has been an uptick in new members as a result.

### ****Engaging Libraries Project Team (Leigh M'Rabty, Alison Gill, Paula Carley, Siobhan O'Connor, Angela Rawcliffe, Philip Cooke), Manchester Libraries****

***The Manchester Libraries Engaging Libraries project team is nominated for a successful project which celebrated language, creativity, culture and our shared values.***

The project played a key role in libraries gently delivering activities with the wider community in a world that was still dealing with Covid. Each library worked with their local communities and partners to offer sessions in parks and libraries where participants got to create activities or artwork which allowed them to show off their mother tongues alongside their cultural heritages.

The library staff team were tireless in bringing this project to life and went way beyond the extra mile in what was required to meet the project criteria. There was a real exploration of people connecting and finding the places where their lives overlapped such as in food, friendship, games, nature and the natural environment, creativity and the arts. The atmosphere created by the project's many events was warm, friendly, curious and respectful, which created a safe place for the naturally occurring conversations around racism and people's lived experiences to be shared.

## Health & Wellbeing Award 2023: Shortlist

### ****Lisa Mustoe - Library Service Manager, London Borough of Merton****

***Lisa is nominated for leading an innovative new programme of health and wellbeing services in Merton.***

With Council funding Lisa has developed new Health & Wellbeing Zones across all of Merton's libraries. New services have been developed to improve the health and wellbeing of Merton residents. This includes massage chairs for relaxation, health monitors and digital bounce pads that enable residents to have access to a raft of wellbeing services that would only normally be able to be accessed in GP surgeries or hospitals.

The impact of these new services has been considerable and has led to increases in visitor and usage figures. New evaluation systems have been established to better capture the impact that these new services are having on residents and 70% of library service users have said that the new services have improved their health and wellbeing.

### ****Jamie Hutchinson - Senior Librarian, Leeds Libraries****

***In November 2022, Jamie launched SoundMind, a new festival at Leeds Central Library promoting positive health and wellbeing through music. According to national charity Mind, one in four of us experience a mental health problem each year, and men can find it particularly difficult to seek support.***

Taking place during Men’s Mental Health Month, SoundMind included a range of free, pay as you feel or accessibly priced activities, workshops and performances highlighting the benefits of music and movement for wellbeing. This project offers a template that would be replicable within other library services.

### During the ongoing cost of living crisis, with many people feeling increasingly anxious, the festival reminded people that libraries are great places to get help and support, not only with mental health, but financial pressures and a range of other issues.

**Werrington Community Library and Wellbeing Centre (Wendy Sandbrook, Betty Johnson), Staffordshire Libraries and Arts Service**

***In 2016, Werrington Community Volunteers Group (WCVG) entered into a contract with Staffordshire County Council (SCC) Library Service to operate Werrington Library, to support the new community-managed delivery model. Wendy and Betty are nominated for the success of this model.***

As well as delivering the statutory service, WCVG took the library on to focus on meeting the health and wellbeing needs in the local area.  This was prioritised due to their knowledge of local demographics which has above twice the national average of elderly and very elderly residents.

### The library became the Werrington Community Library and Wellbeing Centre and, in consultation with the Patient Participation Group and doctor’s surgery, a diverse programme of support was introduced delivered by statutory, charitable and independent organisations.

The volunteers run a Community Shop within the library. This raises income so accommodation can be offered to wellbeing providers at no or little cost, attracting services that would otherwise have been unavailable due to budget restrictions. The shop raises on average £400 per month.

**Jane Cox and Laura Parker on behalf of all our Wellbeing Champions staff group, Suffolk Libraries**

***Jane and Laura are nominated on behalf of the Wellbeing Champions staff group for their coordination and energising work.***

The Wellbeing Champions role is to listen confidentially and non-judgementally to any colleagues who are feeling worried, stressed or overwhelmed. They also signpost colleagues to appropriate professional support or self-help strategies, including the organisation’s employee assistance programme and disseminate information about various aspects of wellbeing among staff. They also organise events that encourage healthy living or deal with certain aspects of wellbeing such as stress.

Jane and Laura work to guide and enthuse the Wellbeing Champions, holding regular meetings to inspire them to engage meaningfully with staff. They also suggest ideas for events and activities they might like to organise and have developed a programme of internal activities during the year to ensure wellbeing is embedded across the organisation.

### ****John Carter, Rebecca Palmer & Olly Hellis, Somerset Libraries****

***John, Rebecca and Olly are nominated for being jointly responsible for delivering a scheme which enabled the loaning of blood pressure monitoring kits from any library in Somerset.***

Hundreds of vulnerable people have been supported by loaning the blood pressure monitors - many of whom would not have otherwise visited the libraries, where they also benefitted from the many health and wellbeing services on offer. Since September 2022, around 200 interactive projector sessions have benefitted adults with learning difficulties and people living with dementia.

All of the above innovative schemes have strengthened partnerships with various teams in Somerset County Council and have led to libraries being regarded as welcoming, trusted places to support vulnerable people. Many support organisations now act as positive advocates for Somerset Libraries and refer people to the library spaces.

### ****Jackie Burgess, Community & Wellbeing Lead, Guille-Allès Library****

***Jackie is nominated for her outstanding work in developing the library service and supporting the wellbeing of older adults, particularly through the creation of a special programme in care homes called 'Tea & Tales'.***

At 'Tea & Tales', attendees listen to short stories read by library staff, then afterwards enjoy a cup of tea and a chat about what they heard. The sessions are focused around specific themes – ‘schooldays’, ‘family history’, etc – and concentrate on stories with a local connection. Staff bring the stories to life by passing around props and even dressing up.

Jackie has led the way entirely by herself, building trust and forging strong relationships with care home staff and residents. Her work has brought the library service to people who would not otherwise be able to engage with it.

Feedback from care home managers suggests that 'Tea & Tales' is extremely popular with residents, including some who never participate in anything else and in some cases rarely speak. Yet because the stories trigger memories, they engage with this. There are now monthly sessions in seven different care homes, reaching over 100 older adults in total.

## Vision and Print Impaired People’s Award 2023: Shortlist

### ****Julie Duffy - Vision Impairment Services Officer, Portsmouth City Council****

***Julie is nominated for the innovative work she has undertaken in Portsmouth Libraries for over 20 years, making them more accessible to people who are blind or vision impaired.***

Julie is Portsmouth Library Service's Vision Impairment Services Officer. She also happens to be blind. For over 20 years she has been using technology to support disabled adult learners in Portsmouth's libraries and has developed a comprehensive range of services for visually impaired adults, both long term and newly diagnosed.  In addition to the digital support, two information and support groups meeting every week meeting at Central and Southsea Libraries. Often guest speakers come in to inform attendees on new technologies that are available to improve their quality of life.  The group is often consulted by the local authority and external agencies when they need to take the needs of visually impaired adults into account in the planning and delivery of services.

Julie has also worked with the wider Portsmouth community, providing disability awareness sessions for children and young people in schools and has worked on an intergenerational project where local secondary school pupils helped older blind and vision impaired adults download audiobooks, newspapers and magazine articles to an accessible MP3 player.

### Muhammad Haque - Frontline Plus Officer Digital, Barking and Dagenham

***Muhammad is nominated for pitching the 'Inclusive Digital Zones' project.***

The 'Inclusive Digital Zones' project aims to provide accessible digital technology for all residents at the Barking Learning Centre and Dagenham Library. The objectives are to remove the barriers to digital technology by means of location, hardware and software and to support people with cognitive, sensory, and physical disabilities.

Muhammed has led investment in larger-than-average screens for all the computer stations, adjustable desks and keyboards to help with sight loss. These have larger buttons. There are also high contrast keyboards and a braille keyboard.

### ****Northwood Library Team (Robert Sisk, Agata Kowolski, Wendy Gorse, Julie Langston, Sharon Carroll, Raj Sharma) - Hillingdon Libraries****

***The Northwood Library Team is nominated for its exceptional work with blind and partially sighted people in the community, especially with Sunshine House, which is an education setting for blind and partially sighted children aged three to fourteen years.***

Very often these children will have multiple disabilities, so the library staff have always made sure to arrange visits with Sunshine hHouse directly and make sure that they can cater for all the children coming according to their needs.

This partnership has resulted in the library staff upskilling and learning about more accessible forms of storytelling. it is an incredibly fulfilling part of the job. Sunshine House are able to arrange more school outings to the library setting and the students benefit from learning about new environments, seeing new books and partaking in new activities and learning new skills.

### ****Emma-Louise Honeycombe, Library assistant & Kim Wakefield, Library Assistant, Tring Library****

***Emma-Louise and Kim are nominated for leading Tring Library's Visual Impairment Reading group since October 2021.***

During the meetings, Emma-Louise and Kim will engage with the Visual Impairment Reading group by asking how they have been and what they have been up to. They will also ask how the group found the last audiobook.

### These hour-and-a-half meetings have a huge impact on lives. It is not just a reading group for them, it is also very important social group for those people who can be lonely and isolated from our society. The members of the group really appreciated Emma-Louise and Kim, whose dedication, support, and kindness have gone beyond for this special group.

### Rosie Veitch - Library Development Officer, Cambridgeshire Libraries

***Rosie is nominated for her work in organising HiVIS, a yearly travelling showcase that invites anyone with a visual impairment to come to the library and visit stalls from RNIB, Deafblind UK, Macular Society, Optelec, Calibre and many more.***

While the pandemic put events on hold, Rosie worked with zeal and vigour to restore programming for 2022. Rosie devised and delivered a webinar for rary staff to champion HiVIS 2022, sharing ideas, resources and ending with a call to action. Rosie personally oversaw the return of our showcase event in June 2022, with nine partners in attendance. Many customers fed back how much they appreciated and enjoyed the event.

In partnership with Huntingdonshire Society for the Blind, Rosie also established and runs Peeky Blinders, a reading group for visually impaired readers, which meets monthly at Huntingdon Library. The group select an audiobook title and download to their devices using the library’s WiFi (with Rosie’s assistance as required). Rosie then leads discussion on the previous month’s choice.

Information and Digital Award 2023: Shortlist

**Libraries Innovation Lab Team & Ask Us, Gloucestershire**

***Gloucestershire's Innovation Lab Team is nominated for an initiative designed to connect the local community, businesses, schools and entrepreneurs with digital technology of the future.***

As they are based in libraries, the Innovation Labs are uniquely placed to be accessible to all ages and abilities. They also build on the existing community and network. Libraries position' within local communities enables the team to reach those with hidden needs who do not have the confidence to venture into a more formal setting.

The first Lab was opened in Coleford, an area of deprivation and lack of opportunity in the Forest of Dean. On the back of its success, a second Lab opened in Gloucester in 2021. Based on the success of the first two Labs, the County Council invested in the rollout of the Lab to a further four locations. 

**Liam Garnett, Senior Librarian – Digital, Leeds Libraries**

***Liam is nominated for crafting a nationally recognised digital inclusion programme delivered in libraries across the city.***

Whilst the Leeds digital sector is thriving, more than 50,000 adults in the city have never used the internet or do not use it regularly. Embedded within communities across the city, libraries are the perfect welcoming spaces in which local people can find the digital support they need.

After beginning his role in 2021, Liam has worked hard to develop the First and Next Steps with Digital programmes of digital skills training to address the city’s skills gap. He works closely with the team of community librarians to ensure the training reaches the people who need it most, and constantly reviews and improves approaches.

Alongside targeted activities and skills training, Liam works hard to ensure people have access to a range of digital resources from Leeds Libraries such as tablet lending, public access PCs and free SIMs from the National Databank.

Liam has developed an equivalent online offer for people in Leeds, creating and promoting a wealth of online resources and tutorials on the Libraries Online website, hosted by Niche Academy. Niche Academy recently nominated Leeds for an excellence in community engagement award at the EDGE 2023 conference.

**Stefano Battaglia, Assistant Library Manager at Southwark Heritage Centre & Walworth Library, London Borough of Southwark**

***In Spring 2022, as part of a wider consultation process, Southwark Library service conducted a survey of residents about their use and perceptions of the library service. Over 400 people responded. Stefano is nominated for his use of data skills in interrogating the survey responses by race, age, gender and other characteristics, contributing to the Southwark Stands Together initiative to identify and tackle entrenched and persistent racism and injustice.***

Through Stefano’s data analysis the library service have been able to see important differences in the needs of residents depending on their race, age, and gender. One of the most important findings from Stefano’s work was about the times of day when users need libraries. His analysis showed Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic respondents were far more likely than white respondents to want to use libraries during evening hours.

The ability to see beneath topline results is essential if library services are to ensure they treat the needs of all users equally. It can also help break vicious cycles where some residents are assumed to not want to use libraries only because their needs are not prioritised in decisions about how to direct resources.

**Jamie Rowe, supported by Libraries Technology Team and CreatorSpace Out of the Box working group, Hertfordshire**

***Jamie is nominated for his work in building the confidence of Hertfordshire library teams to run CreatorSpaces and associated pop-up events.***

These are dedicated, tech-enabled rooms that provided a host of digital kit from VR and green screen technologies to digital embroidery machines and iMacs. CreatorSpace Out of the Box, a pop-up CreatorSpace offer launched at Hitchin Library in 2018, giving residents a chance to get creative with a range of technology in a relaxed and supportive environment.

The willingness of local library managers to try something completely new has meant drop-in CreatorSpace Out of the Box events have attracted hundreds of participants, many visiting the library for the first time. There are also more structured activities devised by staff across the service who are encouraged to share their ideas and get involved.

**Katy Vaughan, Library Assistant, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Libraries**

***Katy is nominated for using her artistic talent and skills in video editing to develop both digital and physical activities for children, at Bournemouth Library and across the whole library service.***

During 2020 and 2021 Katy worked with Liam, a former colleague, to develop the library service’s video content from scratch, using their pre-existing experience in video editing and their own equipment. In late 2021 Liam moved into the council’s corporate communications department, leaving Katy as the only member of library staff with the appropriate skills to produce video content. Katy has worked tirelessly to continue creating content, especially working closely with literacy officers in creating promotional videos for the Summer Reading Challenge and the offer to schools.

Katy wrote a strategic plan for the library service video content creation, recommending a pivot to short form videos on TikTok to enable a greater number of staff to produce videos. In April this year Katy set up a BCP Libraries TikTok account as a way of engaging with teens and young adults. She was instrumental in providing guidance for a successful bid for the CILIP Marketing and Communications Group Bursary to develop this social media channel and start groups of young content creation volunteers.

**Michael Davies, Senior Library Assistant, Maria Reguera, Development Librarian (Digital & Innovation), Vision Redbridge Culture & Leisure (Redbridge Libraries)**

***Michael and Maria are nominated for their work with Lab Central, Redbridge's digital makerspace programme which includes the Tech Ilford Festival.***

Tech Ilford is an annual festival celebrating Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths (STEAM). It was developed in 2017 as part of the Lab Central digital arts programme, to engage & inspire young minds and innovators of the future.

Maria and Michael created the festival as response to growing demand for affordable STEAM activities in the borough. Access to local opportunities was limited, with courses & equipment being out of reach of many families using the libraries.

Both Maria and Michael are passionate about their work and consistently go the extra mile. Their ideas and projects have reinvigorated the library offer for young people, with an estimated 10,000 taking part in one of the projects.