

Cheshire and Mersey Health Libraries Group

Minutes of meeting held on October 14<sup>th</sup> Arrowe Park Hospital Library

|   |   | Actions |
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| 1 | <b>Present:</b> John Gale (Chair); Emma Child (minutes); Adrienne Mayers; Gary Sutton; Lynda Cotterill,   |         |
| 2 | <b>Apologies:</b> Virginia Jordan, Anne Roberts   |         |
| 3 | <b>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:</b><br><br>None   |         |
| 3 | <p><b>Fiction</b></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>The group exchanged ideas on what fiction has got to contribute to health libraries. Suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A way of reducing stress by allowing users to imagine other worlds and lifestyles</li> <li>• A way to help staff who find it difficult to switch off after work</li> <li>• Creating empathy and allows readers to see from another point of view</li> <li>• Something to read which is pleasurable and not a chore (i.e. work related)</li> </ul> <p>JG read 3 poems to the group surrounding the topic of death to emphasise the benefit of poetry to help people understand and relate to difficult issues that medicine can't always explain.</p> <p>In pairs the group discussed their favourite fiction and books that had made an impact on them.</p> <p>Selection:</p> <p>The group decided that when selecting fiction books for a health library it is important to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A widespread of genres as reading is all about personal choice</li> </ul> |         |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short-ish titles as many people may not have the time to read very long novels. Also heavy books may put off those readers who carry them around and read on their commute</li> <li>• Biographies as well as novels, particularly written by people who have conditions such as Bi-Polar so that readers with similar conditions can identify</li> <li>• Mood boosting books</li> </ul> <p>Promotion/ Marketing:</p> <p>The group discussed various ways of promoting fiction collections including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Book Night – it was felt that this is a good way to promote fiction as it a great opportunity to chat with staff about the library when you are offering them books for free</li> <li>• The Six Book Challenge – several libraries currently run the challenge with limited uptake. However there was concern about the amount of time spent on the admin of the challenge as well as the cost and waste of certificates and reading diaries from public libraries</li> <li>• It was felt that having a fiction collection is a hook for staff who may not usually use the library. It is also a positive thing to mention in staff inductions</li> </ul> <p>Funding:</p> <p>The general consensus seemed to be that it is good to have a fiction collection so long as it does take money from the main library budget. Most libraries rely on donations or funding to replenish their fiction stock as well as working with public libraries to set up a borrowing system.</p> |  |
| 4 | <p><b>Centralised Book Purchasing:</b></p> <p>The group discussed the feasibility of centralised book purchasing across the patch and reached a consensus that it would not be viable for several reasons. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Libraries being on different classification systems and different library management systems</li> <li>- Inconstancies in libraries using RFID</li> <li>- The need for a centralised unit, whether it be a new or existing service, and staffing &amp; costing</li> </ul>   |  |

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|   | issues surrounding this   |    |
| 5 | <p><b>Athens:</b></p> <p>AR sent an Athens update stating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There has been an update to the Opens Athens administration pages</li> <li>- AR will be renewing all administrators accounts until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018</li> <li>- Please remember to make sure all Open Athens accounts have their job role included</li> <li>- This year's statistics report is now finished and will be published later this week</li> <li>- Eduserv will be launching a new statistics module and would like to know what we would like from the statistics</li> </ul> <p>The group discussed what they would like from Eduserv and agreed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Statistics to be broken down into level of database rather than level of supplier</li> <li>- For example, rather than statistics just showing the number of users accessing Ebsco, the group would like to see the number of users accessing e-books or journals and so on within Ebsco.</li> </ul> <p>Any other suggestions should be sent to AR who will forward these onto Eduserv.</p> | AR |
| 7 | <b>DoNM:</b> TBC  |    |