

## Library as **social hub**

### Tackling isolation

- ✓ services for older people, homeless people, disabled people
- ✓ outreach to prisons and care homes
- ✓ outreach to disadvantaged families
- ✓ services for linguistic minorities
- ✓ services for people suffering domestic abuse

### Library as community hub

- ✓ information about services
- ✓ access to public services



### Promoting health

- ✓ information about health and health services
- ✓ books as therapy
- ✓ provide community health services in safe environment
- ✓ partnerships with voluntary sector in library

### Connecting citizens

- ✓ information about local and national issues
- ✓ space for public meetings
- ✓ legal services in the library

### Promoting environmental awareness

- ✓ information about recycling
- ✓ information about volunteering



## Library as **cultural centre**

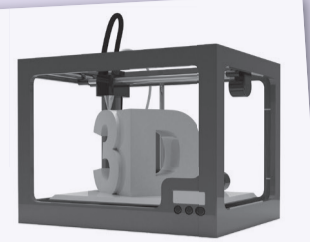
### Promoting literature

- ✓ author talks and book groups
- ✓ book festivals
- ✓ writers in residence
- ✓ support for self-publishing



### Creative spaces

- ✓ maker spaces
- ✓ 3D printers
- ✓ media workshops

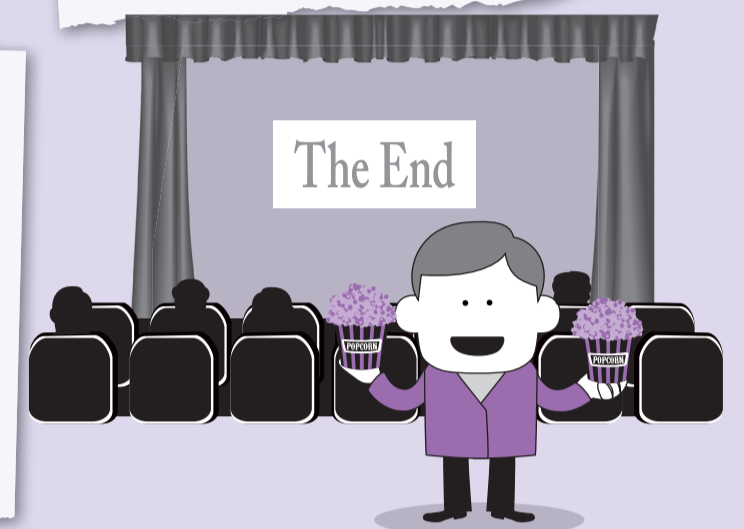


### Local history resource

- ✓ access to family and local history material
- ✓ learning sessions on local and family history
- ✓ local people contributing to resources

### Library as cinema

- ✓ film clubs in libraries
- ✓ DVDs to hire



### Making music

- ✓ access to CDs and sheet music
- ✓ young people making music
- ✓ rhythm and rhyme for early years
- ✓ library as music venue

### Art, dance and drama

- ✓ space for exhibitions, plays and dance
- ✓ classes and workshops



**SOCIAL**

**CULTURAL**

**WELLBEING**

**EDUCATION**

**ECONOMIC**

## Library as **learning hub**

### Supporting literacy

- ✓ reading for pleasure
- ✓ Summer Reading Challenge
- ✓ breakfast clubs for hostel dwellers
- ✓ support for dyslexia

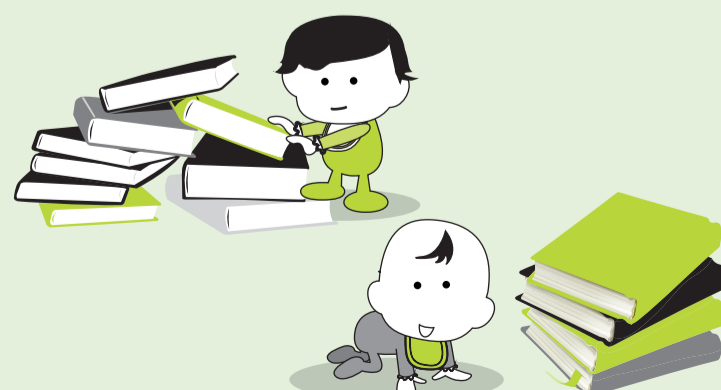


### English language

- ✓ language courses

### Early years and school age

- ✓ books for babies
- ✓ homework support



### Digital literacy

- ✓ courses and support for all

### Lifelong learning

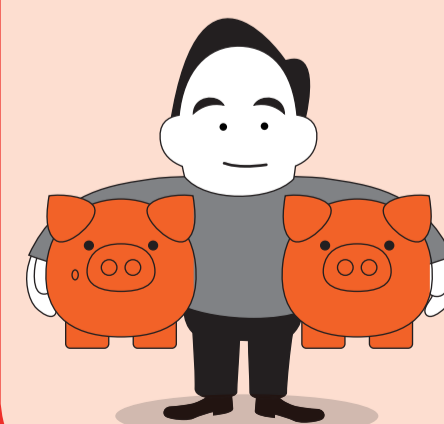
- ✓ filling the gaps in formal education
- ✓ supporting informal learning
- ✓ signposting to adult learning



## Library as **economic enabler**

### Maximising income

- ✓ benefits information and support
- ✓ make the most of your income
- ✓ CAB services in library
- ✓ smart meter loans



### Access to employment

- ✓ job clubs
- ✓ support for online job applications
- ✓ access to computers and wifi
- ✓ supporting digital skills



### Encouraging enterprise

- ✓ advice and support for small businesses
- ✓ business resources in libraries
- ✓ support for social enterprise
- ✓ providing co-working spaces
- ✓ maker spaces in libraries



# Libraries at the heart of strong communities

Libraries can be key partners in tackling the problems of **social isolation, inequality, disadvantage, fractured communities, and ill health.**

Libraries can **connect communities and change lives.** They provide **safe spaces** in the heart of their communities, and provide many services targeting people who are living on a low income, people who are lonely, unemployed, or elderly, and people with long term medical conditions or disabilities.

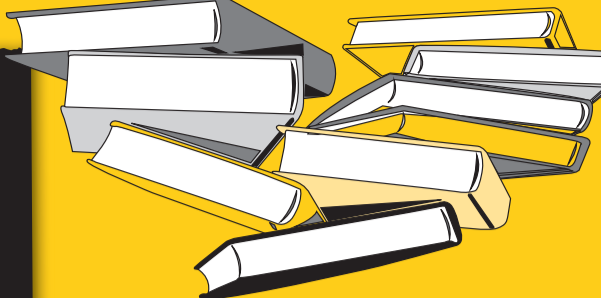
Libraries can support strong connected communities, providing access to information about **local and national issues** and providing space for public meetings.

They can provide a single point of access to a wide range of **public services.** Mobile libraries can help tackle rural isolation and social exclusion, while services to older people in care homes or to people who are housebound provide important social contact for those people.

Libraries can provide **information about health** and health services, as well as books on prescription, while they can also be safe spaces for voluntary sector organisations to provide health information and advice.

**OUTCOMES**  
In all these ways libraries contribute to government goals of

- ✓ safer and stronger communities
- ✓ thriving neighbourhoods
- ✓ a strong, shared community
- ✓ tackling poverty and social exclusion
- ✓ longer, healthier lives
- ✓ reduced health inequalities
- ✓ tackling disadvantage



**The Challenge**  
The challenge which public libraries face is to continue to be the kind of places which Andrew Carnegie wanted when he funded libraries  
places that give people a chance, a second chance and even a third chance  
places that improve the communities they are based in  
places that respond to the needs of local people, giving them the opportunity to live fuller lives, make more of what they have, discover new worlds, and aspire to greater things



## Speaking Volumes: the impact of public libraries on wellbeing

The Carnegie UK Trust works to improve the lives of people throughout the UK and Ireland, by changing minds through influencing policy, and by changing lives through innovative practice and partnership work. The Carnegie UK Trust was established by Scots-American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie in 1913.



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## Speaking Volumes: the impact of public libraries on wellbeing

Our analysis of wellbeing shows that there are a number of so-called domains of wellbeing which can be measured or monitored to explore the overall levels of individual wellbeing. Many countries use different sets of domains to measure wellbeing, but there is a huge amount of overlap. These are some of the key domains which libraries can have an impact on:

**Domains of wellbeing**  
income  
employment  
education and learning  
health  
social connections  
civic engagement  
environment

The Carnegie UK Trust was set up to promote the wellbeing of the people of the UK and Ireland, and we believe that public libraries have enormous potential to improve wellbeing in four broad areas of public policy: social, economic, cultural and education.

The poster inside this leaflet contains many examples of how libraries have an impact on wellbeing. We have grouped the examples into four areas of public policy, showing the potential which exists for public libraries to really make a difference to the wellbeing of their communities.

These examples have been selected from a database of examples of good practice which we have drawn together from across the UK and Ireland. You can look at the examples which sit behind the poster on our website at **bit.ly/speakingvols**

This material has been drawn together by the Carnegie UK Trust to support all those who are making the case for the potential of public libraries in the heart of our communities, providing completely free access to huge resources of information, knowledge and

# Libraries as cultural centres

Libraries can inspire people through books and literature, music, film and theatre.

Libraries are spaces in which people can be **creative**, where groups can meet to pursue a **shared interest** in arts and crafts, or where they can explore new ways of communicating, using **new technology**, music or other art forms. They can be venues for concerts, exhibitions or performances, attracting new audiences. They support self-expression in places where there are no other options. Their local history collections are at the heart of communities defining themselves.

**OUTCOMES**  
Through the kind of activities described in the poster, libraries can help governments achieve their goals of

- ✓ enriching the lives of individuals and communities
- ✓ placing art and culture at the heart of regeneration
- ✓ promoting the social and economic role of arts and culture
- ✓ creating a vibrant creative economy



# Libraries promoting economic wellbeing

Public libraries can be agencies for economic wellbeing in their communities.

Libraries help **jobseekers** find opportunities and prepare themselves for interview. They offer courses and **digital skills training** which enable people to seek work. They can offer advice and support for the development of **small businesses**. At the same time, they can help people make the most of the income they have.

Libraries will provide essential support for people applying for **welfare benefits** in the digital future.

**OUTCOMES**  
Income and employment are important indicators of wellbeing. Libraries can be key partners in addressing poverty and unemployment, helping governments to achieve their goals of

- ✓ growth and sustainable jobs
- ✓ a wealthier and fairer country
- ✓ enabling business to create jobs
- ✓ creating sustainable economic growth

