toolkit

MAKINGWAVES

Establishing libraries as cultural hubs and encouraging wider cross-community conversations centred on culture and creativity.

November 2020

contents

Establishing libraries as Cultural Hubs and encouraging wider cross-communty conversations centred on culture and creativity.

MAKINGWAVES

Libraries as cultural hubs

Inverclyde libraries were delighted to have received funding in 2019 from the Scottish Library and Information Council Public Library Improvement Fund to instate a programme which allowed us to establish our libraries as cultural hubs and encourage wider crosscommunity conversations centred on culture and creativity.

With a taster "Fun Palaces" day last October (2019) and consultation with Inverclyde residents over Doors Open weekend, our project started with five different groups:

Au-some Art, Creative Writing, Creative Art, Discover Your Inner Songwriter and The Splash Panel - these group sessions were run by experts in their fields and delivered within the libraries, alongside our Chatty Cafes (Chatty Crafters, Bead and Blether; Blooms and Biccies(Gardening)) - All sessions were open to ages 8+ to 80+ with Crafternoons specifically aimed for younger ones and families.

The original plan for the project was to gather all the completed work from our expert-led classes and display it as part of one huge exhibition of local talent and creativity. We even got as far as sending out invites and mounting the work, however Covid-19 had other ideas.

We had been waiting to see what would happen around Covid-19 and all the related restrictions and decided all this creativity needed to be showcased. We put together the next best thing and curated an immersive virtual exhibition. We had also always intended to reshow the work as part of Inverclyde's Galoshans Festival and were are delighted to launch the Virtual Exhibition In October 2020 on the dedicated website makingwaves.me

We hope that producing a Toolkit for Developing Libraries as Cultural Hubs and detailing the lessons learned and examples of good practise other Library Services can start their "Cultural Conversations" with their communities.

As we had built in sustainability and legacy into this project we are looking to see how we can deliver cultural sessions in a virtual library space until our physical libraries can safely re-open to the public.

Understanding Cultural Capital and the Role it plays

Understanding the Role Libraries play in encouraging wider cross-community conversations centred on culture and creativity.

When we started to think about this project, we had begun to understand that public libraries have a widely recognised role in supporting and promoting learning and development in the cultural context through various established groups and one-off events. Through the provision of practical resources such as books, computers, and quiet spaces for independent study, we can support the attainment of formal qualifications that constitute institutionalised cultural capital, in addition, we play an important role in the provision of formal and informal lifelong learning opportunities, which are "complementary " to those offered by the education sector (Scottish Library and Information Council 2015) As "Cultural Hubs", Public Libraries can "connect communities and change lives" (Carnegie UK Trust 2014b) by offering trusted spaces for people to come together to access, share and appreciate appropriate cultural resources and materials.

Public libraries have been developing innovative approaches to enrich existing experiences and to reach new audiences in the cultural context. By reimaging the library as place and space (Oliphant 2014, 358), contemporary public libraries remain a trusted space to engage in familiar cultural experiences not traditionally associated with libraries can be provided.

A cultural divide has been demonstrated in the UK, with disadvantaged individuals and communities now to be least likely to participate in cultural activities. Part of the lessons we needed to learn was how to identify and recognise individuals and communities known to be least likely to participate in cultural activities. Recognising that low levels of cultural capital can present multiple barriers to cultural participation and that public libraries have an important role in supporting and promoting learning and development. For these we turned to the Audience Agency Report for Inverclyde for background information and took time to identify and consult with a range of stakeholders including library users, non-users, those who attend groups already established and those working in the culture and creative sector locally. These stakeholders came from a wide range of people in the community including, teens; New Scots; children and families and people who may be experiencing social isolation.

Inverclyde Libraries by creating "Cultural Hubs" has successfully demonstrated the important role of public libraries in enriching disadvantaged communities through culture. Despite its proximity to Glasgow, Inverclyde is one of the most

Understanding Cultural Capital and the Role it plays

economically deprived and culturally disengaged areas in Scotland. Improving the health and wellbeing of the community, particularly among young people and those with mental health issues is a key priority. Recognising that cultural participation can improve wellbeing, Inverclyde libraries developed Cultural Hubs, a library facilitated diverse program of cultural activities, performances, and exhibitions designed to engage, involve and connect local communities with local culture by animating local spaces. The main aim was to make the library and its resources accessible, but crucially to also stimulate interest in wider cultural participation. This type of project highlights that by challenging "people's perception of what a library is for" (UK Department for Culture Media and Sport 2015) perceptions about who libraries are for can also be challenged, generating benefits both for local communities and library services.

A national review by the Carnegie UK trust (2014a, 20154b) shows more broadly how UK public libraries can improve the well-being of communities by serving as "Cultural Centres" that "Inspire and enrich" through culture and the arts. Inverclyde Libraries in 2018 took part in the National "Get it loud in Libraries" and hosted a gig with Maisie Peters in our Central Library which was very successfully received. We delivered a Teenage Book Festival as part of the Edinburgh Festival's Outreach programme and we also worked with Beacon Arts Centre to be part of their outreach programme with a "Whirlygig" production due to be staged in Greenock Central Library. By working in collaboration with Creative agencies, public libraries can stimulate wider cultural participation and provide a hub for cultural activity within communities.

Rationale for the toolkit

Inverclyde Libraries have successfully adopted and rolled out several projects using the format:

Consult; implement; learn from experts; train staff to deliver; evaluate; then incorporate and embed into Inverclyde's core offer of services.

This is supported by the service's staffing structure that includes a Programme Development Team that ensures the roll out of successful projects as programmes in branch libraries. This in turn is supported by including these programmes in the Libraries' Service Improvement Plan, in Branch Improvement Action Plans and in the annual staff training programme and individual performance targets.

This programme will help to establish 'Creative Communities' across your local authority areas, where each book group, craft group, art class, creative writing class etc. is a creative community which you can engage with and which link into your wider "creative community"

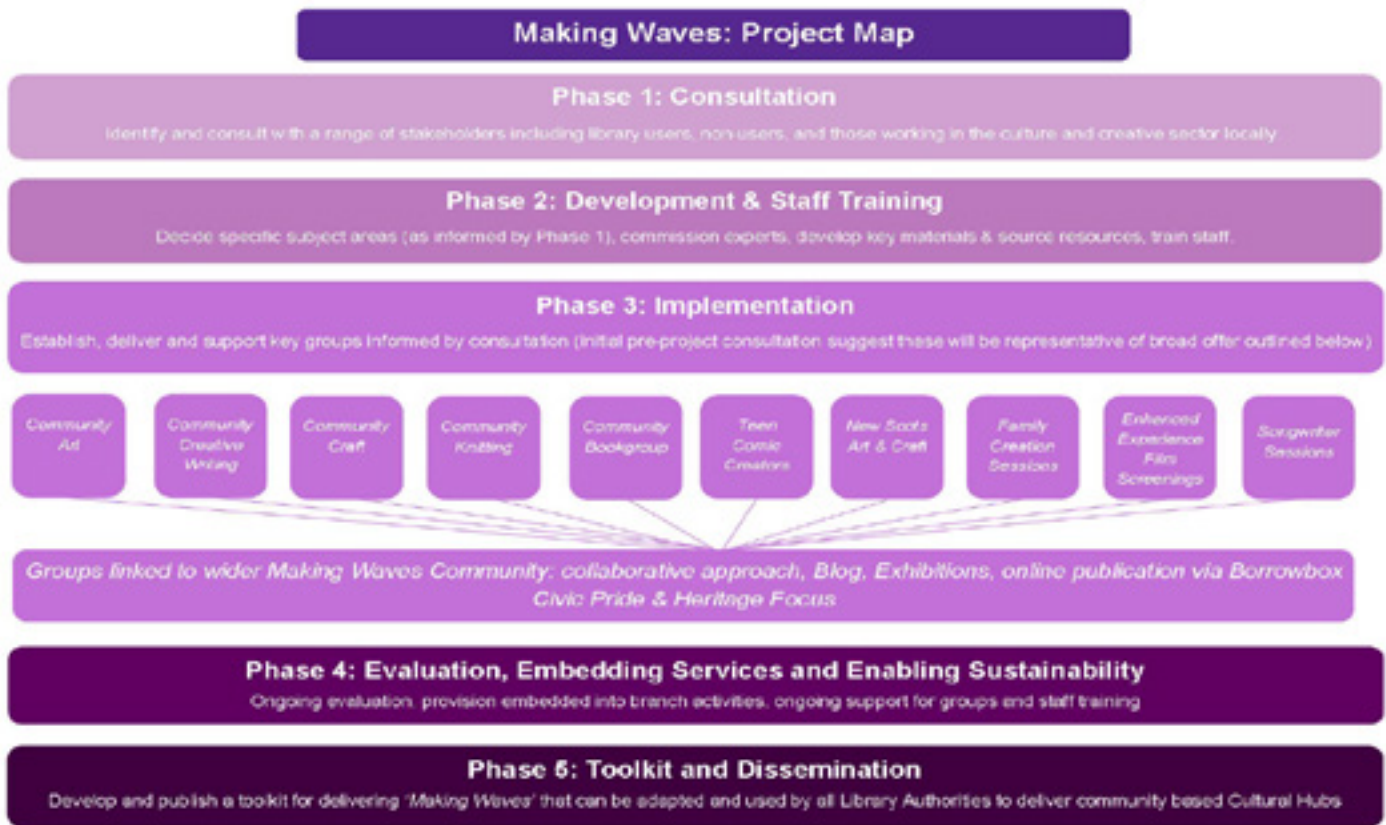# Understanding Cultural Capital and the Role it plays

Your programming should link all strands of the creative output through shared exhibitions and a "Creative community" blog or virtual exhibition. This will encourage creative connections across the community. e.g. the art group will be invited to illustrate a piece of work produced by the creative writing group or vice versa We also had clearly defined outcomes from the onset and from these specific measurable outputs we wanted to achieve.

Outcomes:

• Establishment of libraries as a key player in local cultural landscape.

• Increased skills and confidence of participating staff in working with groups.

• Increased engagement with harder to reach groups including: New Scots, Teenage as well as those with additional support needs.

• Increased engagement with the wider community who may not have previously accessed traditional library services

• Increased skills and confidence of local people in engaging with culture and creative opportunities

• "Making Waves"" creative opportunities embedded as part of library service core offer

Understanding Cultural Capital and the Role it plays

We felt clearly defining what we wanted to achieve and utilising a clear Project Map of how we would get there was invaluable. We have added our Project Map below and detailed each phase which we hope services will find useful.

Making Waves: Project Map

Phase 1: Consultation
Identify and consult with a range of stakeholders including library users, non-users, and those working in the culture and creative sector locally

Phase 2: Development & Staff Training
Decide specific subject areas (as informed by Phase 1), commission experts, develop key materials & source resources, train staff.

Phase 3: Implementation
Establish, deliver and support key groups informed by consultation (initial pre-project consultation suggest these will be representative of broad offer outlined below)

| Community Art | Community Creative Writing | Community Craft | Community Knitting | Community Bookgroup | Teen Comic Creators | New Scots Art & Craft | Family Creation Sessions | Enhanced Experience Film Screenings | Songwriter Sessions |

Groups linked to wider Making Waves Community: collaborative approach, Blog, Exhibitions, online publication via Borrowbox Civic Pride & Heritage Focus

Phase 4: Evaluation, Embedding Services and Enabling Sustainability
Ongoing evaluation, provision embedded into branch activities, ongoing support for groups and staff training

Phase 5: Toolkit and Dissemination
Develop and publish a toolkit for delivering 'Making Waves' that can be adapted and used by all Library Authorities to deliver community based Cultural Hubs

Phase 1: Consultation

Establish from the outset and make clear in the bid the scope and scale of consultation. It is likely that you will have undertaken some consultation prior to applying for funding but it is essential to embed a consultation period at the outset of the project to ensure planned activity and resources are what are required locally and to ensure impact for the intended audience.

From Making Waves Application

We will identify and consult with a range of stakeholders including library users, non-users, those who attend groups already established and those working in the culture and creative sector locally. These stakeholders will come from a wide range of people in the community including, teens; New Scots; children and families and people who may be experiencing social isolation.

We will assess the level of provision already available and the consultation will look at:

• What cultural and creative activities are available in the area?

• What services are used and by whom?

• Where would people most want to access cultural and creative services?

• What form of cultural and creative activities would people most like to attend?
(Making Waves 2019)

There were 4 key strands to our initial consultation phase:

• Mapping of existing provision

• Establishing links with stakeholders

• Survey of users and non-users

• Creative consultation linked to community events

Mapping of existing provision

Utilising existing links with partners and community knowledge pooled by staff we were able to establish a comprehensive listing of the cultural offer available across the local authority, sorted by activity type. We were also able to establish a wider network of groups, businesses and council members who were key stakeholders in developing cultural opportunities within Inverclyde. This enabled us to reach out to existing groups to encourage participation in the consultation phase and later in the delivery phase. This also ensured we were able to offer unique cultural opportunities that were not duplicating existing provision elsewhere in Inverclyde.

Phase 1: Consultation

docxExisting Community Group Map - Sep 19.xlsx

Establishing links with stakeholders

Using the documents above we were able to create or build on existing relationships with organisations across Inverclyde. Through informal discussion we were able to form a clearer picture of existing provision as well as gaining an insight into existing providers' views on asyet- unmet demand for cultural provision that might be met through libraries and crucially to raise awareness of libraries as cultural hubs. This element led to enhanced partnership work relating to cultural provision e.g. groups using the library as event space for book launch or songwriter showcase.

Survey of users and non-users

In order to ensure as broad a reach of consultation as possible we created a short survey (6 Questions) designed with advice and recommendations from State Library of Queensland (SLQ) research commissioned in 2005 to explore the impact of libraries as creative spaces to inform us of the type of creative and cultural opportunities the wider community currently engaged in, where they accessed these opportunities, what barriers they faced to engagement and what type of creative and cultural opportunities provision they would most want to attend.

The survey was available online and in hard copy format and we worked with partners and existing groups to ensure wide access. The survey was supplemented by Focus groups and Individual meetings with stakeholders and partners.

Using the responses we gathered from 88 individuals, the local mapping exercise and the Audience Agency report for our locale we were able to align creative activity with community needs. Using this consultation we identified and generated creative activity by thinking through what that creative activity might be, reconsidering activities currently offered to communities (including those not necessarily thought of as "Creative"), prompting new activities considering a broader range of creative objectives and outcomes and preparing for and delivering creative activities to deliver maximum impact.

A full survey report outlining these findings can be found here:
Making Waves Survey Analysis.docx

A copy of the questionnaire can be found here:
Making Waves Questionnaire.pdf

Phase 1: Consultation

Creative consultation linked to community events

Alongside the formal survey and focus groups we opted to reflect the creative nature of the project by linking a series of more informal creative consultation activities to community events.

- Doors open Day - Family fun sessions with Lego building and drawing activities inspired by James Watt, informal discussion and feedback with families and a stickerbased survey.

- Fun Palaces - taster creative sessions led by expert tutors in; Art, including sessions specifically tailored to people with Autism, Creative Writing, Song writing, and Graphic Comic writing. Consultation undertaken informally (both with participants and tutors) and through a variety of creative ways e.g. tying messages to a tree, sticker-based evaluations, drawing and utilising 'Storing Stories.'

These creative consultation events were widely publiced and enabled us to engage families and individuals who had not previously engaged with more traditional library sessions.

These events helped inform the selection of appropriate activities and raised the profile of libraries as cultural hubs. By speaking to people face-to face on our Doors Open days and also our Fun Palaces taster day whilst they were already engaged in creative activities within a library setting it helped people envisage the potential of the project and led to a broader range of suggested activities. The aim of the consultation exercise was also to

articulate the opportunities to further embed creative spaces in public libraries and to adapt and create a Creative Spaces Impact Framework. This is an aspect of our project which we view as vital for informing the procurement of resources and equipment, the implementation of changes to services if required, and for ensuring that we meet the needs of all our stakeholders.

Things to consider:

- Ensure you embed a consultation period at the outset of the project.

- Map local activity and build/strengthen relationships with existing cultural and creative providers in your local area.

- Undertake formal consultation utilising online and offline resources e.g. survey, focus group.

- Embed creativity into your consultation – this raises the profile of libraries as cultural hubs and encourages participants to 'think outside of the box' when considering potential development of creative activities within a library setting.

- Ensure Relevant Milestone is reached when planning and undertaking consultation

Phase 1: Consultation

From Making Waves

Milestone	Output	Date
Establish links with stakeholders	Extent of consultation has been decided	July 2019
Begin Consultation period	Group meetings arranged, face –to-face surveys/conversations begin	July 2019
Doors Open Day	Public consultation event	September 2019
End consultation period	Minutes of meetings recorded, results of surveys and questionnaires collated	September 2019
Evaluate consultation results	List of recommended actions identified	September 2019

Phase 2: Development and Staff Training

Make clear what actions should be covered in the development and staff training phase.

From Making Waves

Following the consultation, we will implement the actions identified:

- Decide on specific subjects to be covered from a range of options including, art; creative writing; crafting, music & films.

- Identify and commission experts to lead taster sessions and to deliver the series of sessions identified.

- Identify suitable venues for each session.

- In conjunction with session leaders identify and procure a range of resources for each series of sessions.

- Identify the level of staff expertise and develop training to meet the needs.

- Run Library staff training sessions.

(Making Waves 2019)

Development:

- Ensure staff, particularly frontline staff are involved as much as possible to encourage ownership of the project, to highlight any potential issues with delivery, and identify training needs.

- Consult with staff to identify key development areas.

- When developing/promoting programmes ensure offer is clear to manage expectations re tutor-led or self-sustaining. If aim is self-sustaining with a short period of funding to offer support from a tutor it would be best to establish the group as selfsustaining from the outset and then introduce the tutor so that the group does not become dependent on tutor-input. Some groups not suitable for self-sustaining model and some users not interested in self-sustaining model (time-poor, resource-rich may be looking for 'value for time' as opposed to social interaction and may want more skill enhancement than is offered by self-sustaining model).

- Ensure planned activity is suited to venue/time available.

- Allow time for discussions with partners, particularly those involved in staff training, so that they are fully aware of the projected outcomes of the project.

Phase 2: Development and Staff Training

Ensure development is in line with project Aims & Objectives- Refer to relevant aspects of the project at each stage.

From Making Waves
Relevant aims and objectives of Making Waves in relation to Development & Staff Training:

• To increase use of the libraries.

• To upskill staff and increase staff confidence when working with groups.

(Making Waves 2019)

Training:
• Ensure timetable of training and development is effective, staff need to be on board and confident before participants are involved.

• Identify training needs of staff before designing training programme, staff will become disengaged if training covers a topic they are already comfortable and confident with.

• Ensure training is directly relevant to project goals and provide opportunities for staff to practice new skills as soon as possible post training.

• Ensure staff awareness training takes place in advance of taster sessions.

• Engage with partners to deliver training or where bringing in external trainers with associated costs deliver training jointly for your own staff and partners (where appropriate)

Inverclyde Libraries' Staff Training:
Making Waves Training

• Ensure issues arising from training evaluations are taken into consideration when delivering the project and that any adjustments are made.

Inverclyde Libraries' Training Evaluations:
Making Waves Training Evaluations

Ensure training will assist in delivering the relevant outcomes

From Making Waves Outcomes:
• Increased skills and confidence of participating staff in working with groups

• Increased skills and confidence of local people in engaging with culture and creative opportunities

• In terms of professional practice, staff will be upskilled through training and the experience of delivery.

(Making Waves 2019)

Phase 2: Development and Staff Training

From Making Waves

Ensure Relevant Milestone is reached when planning training.

Milestone	Output	Date
Staff training sessions arranged	All staff have undertaken awareness raising training and are confident to support self-sustaining groups going forward.	October 2019

From Making Waves

Ensure identified risks are monitored and mitigated where possible. From Making Waves Risk Management.

Risk	Likelihood (high, medium, low)	Impact (high, medium, low)	Action to manage risk
Staff availability	Low	High	Engaging external providers to deliver sessions is written in to the bid. We will ensure the project is part of all service plans and will plan for the amount of staff time required.

Phase 3: Implementation

Prior to Implementation

Following consultation identify and have a clear understanding of all of the activities which require to be implemented to ensure this phase of the project will contribute effectively to the project aims and objectives, and meet the expectations of those consulted.

From Making Waves

Aims & Objectives relating to Implementation

We will:

• Deliver taster sessions in all subjects. These will coincide with Doors Open day in order to maximize the potential audience signing up for the project.

• Set up the range of sessions as identified by the outcome of the consultation. These will be delivered to the target audiences and will be focussed on delivering the outcomes and specific outputs as identified in section 4.

Outcomes relating to session planning:

• Increased engagement with harder to reach groups including: New Scots, Teenage, those with additional support needs.

• Increased engagement with wider community who may not have previously accessed traditional library services

• Increased skills and confidence of local people in engaging with culture and creative opportunities (Making Waves 2019)

Before the project is rolled out, ensure all the relevant documentation is available and a member of staff has responsibility for registering participants. Ensure you have all the relevant contact details for participants and that they have completed all necessary registrations and appropriate media consents. These should all be completed by participants before activities start.

Inverclyde Libraries Adult Sign-Up Sheet for Staff Use: Making Waves Sign-Up Sheet Template.

Phase 3: Implementation

It is useful to have a discussion with providers and frontline staff well in advance of the session times being set and advertised. This will allow the providers to assess what is achievable in the allotted time for each session and for staff to effectively support participants, providers and other library customers. During discussions bear in mind:

- Any preparations which require to be made before the session starts.

- The timing of any activities taking place before the session begins which may hamper/ delay set up for the session.

- Time required for introductions/ housekeeping/ input by library staff during sessions (this may change from week to week).

- Input from library staff should increase as the end of the block of sessions draws closer to encourage participants to return when provider-led sessions finish. Time for this should be factored into providers' session plans.

- If time should be set aside for a comfort break during the session.

- Any other activities taking place at the same time which may impact on the session.

- The timing of the session; If it takes place near to the library closing additional time may be needed for closing procedures after session ends.

- Providers will need time to achieve their own session goals and will be working with participants with varying skills and abilities.

Discussing these matters can identify any potential issues which can be resolved prior to session times being set, result in sessions running smoothly, and maintain a good relationship between all parties.

Encourage providers to produce a week-by-week plan of the sessions with achievable goals which is made available prior to promoting the sessions. Participants will then know what to expect before signing up. Experienced providers will of course have their own ideas but plans should include:

- What they hope will be achieved by participants during each session.

- Time frames and deadlines.

- A list of resources which will be required or provided.

- Any instructions for each session.

- Any activities relating to work or items which are to be produced for display or publication etc.

- Discussion, advice and encouragement for the self-sustaining phase by providers and library staff.

Phase 3: Implementation

It is also important that you:
- Ensure participants and staff have clear information about dates, times, venues, plans for sessions, and procedures for signing up for sessions.

- Ensure staff are aware of Social Media instructions and guidelines, ensuring all relevant Twitter handles etc. are used.

During Implementation:
- Ensure staff develop a relationship with the group and any external providers as they will provide the link that encourages sustainability. This should be possible:

  - During set-up time with providers.

  - When participants report to the enquiry desk on arrival for session.

  - When staff go through housekeeping.

  - When engaging with the group, i.e. whilst taking photographs and collecting evaluations etc.

  - By using ice-breakers.

  - By providing refreshments for the group.

- Encourage the groups to establish their own Group Agreement or Rules and to develop their own plan of activity. Support as required.

- Encourage the groups to think about establishing regular, achievable goals for themselves when they become self-sustaining. They can discuss this with providers.

- Maintain regular communication with the providers, participants and frontline staff.

- Continue to consult with group and review activity as required ensuring that all participants have the required support from providers and staff.

- Ask providers to provide a list of resources required when the group continues in a self-sustaining capacity.

- Ensure the participants are clear on what to expect from sessions when they become self-sustaining, i.e. that they will not be tutor-led and if all resources will be funded and available.

- Ensure Implementation is in line with project Aims & Objectives.

From Making Waves
Aims and objectives in relation to Implementation:

- To establish libraries as local Cultural Hubs.

- To provide appropriate cultural resources and services to stakeholders allowing them to access cultural opportunities within the library.

Phase 3: Implementation

From Making Waves
Milestones in relation to the Implementation stage

Milestone	Output	Date
Run taster sessions of all activities	Stakeholders have chosen which activity to sign up for	October 2019
Sessions begin across chosen sites	Eight sessions of each activity have taken place	November 2019 - January 2020

From Making Waves
Risks Management

Risk	Likelihood (high, medium, low)	(high, medium, low)	Impact Action to manage risk
Identified potential partners decide not to participate	Low	High	Low High We have already met with identified partners to gauge the level of interest
Stakeholders do not engage as expected	Low	High	We have experience engaging with stakeholders

Phase 4: Evaluation, Embedding Services & Sustainability

From the outset it is important to ensure that you have planned ongoing evaluation both formal and informal throughout the lifetime of the project and that you are prepared to amend any activity; venue; time and place as required.

From Making Waves
Phase 4: Evaluation, embedding services and enabling sustainability

Following completion of the initial series of sessions we will:

• Evaluate their success and popularity by means of surveys, face-to-face conversations, use of 'Storing Stories' app and feedback from session providers.

• Plan second and ongoing programme of sessions based on the outcome of the initial evaluation.

• Ensure provision is embedded into branch activities schedule across the service.

• Ensure ongoing staff training is included in the annual staff training programme.

(Making Waves 2019)

Evaluation:
• Ensure you provide opportunities for participant, staff and partner feedback in a range of formats.

• Ensure all project staff are involved in all stages of evaluation; partners represent the project when delivering sessions, but library staff are ultimately responsible for the project's success.

• Ensure frontline library staff are on board with evaluation, they can provide anecdotal as well as formal feedback from individual participants.

• Ensure evaluation is in line with project Aims & Objectives- Refer to relevant aspects of the project at each stage.

From Making Waves
Relevant aims and objectives in relation to Evaluation

• To ensure that all Inverclyde Libraries provide a cultural environment in which communities across Inverclyde and their families feel welcome and secure.

• To provide appropriate cultural resources and services to stakeholders allowing them to access cultural opportunities within the library.

(Making Waves 2019)

Evaluation Templates:
• Ensure method of evaluation is appropriate to the group participating. Ask suitable questions in an accessible format ensuring that the results can easily be collated and evaluated.

Adult sessions: Making waves Session Evaluation Form
Splash Panel (Ages 13+): Splash Panel Mid Evaluation

From Making Waves
Completed Evaluations: Interim evaluations - Jan 2020.xlsx

Phase 4: Evaluation, Embedding Services & Sustainability

Embedding Services

Ensure ongoing costs have been identified and approved prior to planning and delivery ensure these are embedded into core budgets.

From Making Waves Project Map

Phase 4: Evaluation, embedding services and enabling sustainability

Following completion of the initial series of sessions we will:

• Evaluate their success and popularity by means of surveys, face-to-face conversations, use of 'Storing Stories' app and feedback from session providers.

• Plan second and ongoing programme of sessions based on the outcome of the initial evaluation.

• Ensure provision is embedded into branch activities schedule across the service.

• Ensure ongoing staff training is included in the annual staff training programme.

• Use the local content option of 'Borrowbox' to publish and share blogs, digital stories and pieces of creative writing by all groups involved in the project.

From Outcomes:

• "Making Waves" creative opportunities embedded as part of library service core offer

(Making Waves 2019)

Phase 4: Evaluation, Embedding Services & Sustainability

From Making Waves

Ensure Relevant Milestone is reached when implementing the project

Milestone	Output	Date
Self-sustaining sessions run	Groups move to self-sustaining sessions with support from Library staff and "Making Waves" programme and themed topic boxes	February 2020 - March 2020
National Conversation Week-18-24th March	Exhibition of works from those attending sessions is arranged.	March 2020
"Making Waves" Toolkit	Toolkit produced	March 2020

(Making Waves 2019)

From Making Waves

Ensure identified risks are monitored and mitigated where possible

Risk	Likelihood (high, medium, low)	Impact (high, medium, low)	Action to manage risk
Identified potential partners decide not to participate	Low	High	We have already met with identified partners to gauge the level of interest
Stakeholders do not engage as expected	Low	High	We have experience engaging with stakeholders
Timescale slippage	Medium	High	The project will be closely monitored by the project manager and remedial action taken should any slippage be identified.

Phase 4: Evaluation, Embedding Services & Sustainability

- Ensure roll out of the project is incorporated into service development plans and that these are reviewed regularly in line with policy.

- Establish regular goals and opportunities for sharing learning/work both online and in person e.g. shared blogs, exhibitions.

- Ensure a sense of group cohesion and wider community cohesion through group specific and wider events.

- If existing groups are included in the project they will already have developed a good relationship with library staff and each other so may be more likely to come back when providers are no longer there.

- Make sure there is a clear plan of how sessions can carry on when providers step back and that there is capacity to do this.

- Keep ongoing goals realistic and achievable.

- Ensure you celebrate success! Participants need to feel their time and effort has been worthwhile.

- Ensure there is a planned event or series of events showcasing the works of all participants.

- Ensure participants have agreed for their work to be used in all publicity events.

- Ensure you issue clear guidelines around submitting works for exhibition. E.g. Ask providers to use prescribed paper sizes for works of art to ensure suitable frames can be sourced.

Sustainability

- Ensure ongoing sessions are incorporated into libraries' core offer and publicised under the libraries' banner.

- Ensure relevant officer has responsibility for continued operation of the service.

- Ensure continued funding is allocated to sessions via budget strategy.

- Ensure evaluation of all groups is incorporated into Service Consultation &

Engagement strategy

- Ensure all groups are properly constituted in line with Working with Groups advice.

Guidelines for Library Book Groups:
Guidelines for Library Book Groups.pub

Next Steps

In February 2020 A Culture Strategy for Scotland (February 2020) Scottish Government was published with a clear vision "Scotland is a place where culture is valued, protected and nurtured. Culture is woven through everyday life, shapes and is shaped by Society and its transformative potential is experienced by everyone. Scotland's rich Cultural heritage and creativity of today is inspired by people and place, enlivens every community and is celebrated around the world".

Through sustaining and nurturing Culture, we are investing in the future cultural, social and economic success of Scotland. Cultures bring people to live, work and do business here, and shapes our reputation as a warm, welcoming, open, progressive nation (Nicola Sturgeon MSP, First Minister of Scotland)

Cultural capital forms part of the rich fabric of social life and can be a major form of social inequality, particularly in disadvantaged circumstances. Public Libraries, by providing a vibrant inclusive, and trusted community hub for people from all walks of life to come together to access , share create, appropriate, and appreciate cultural resources and materials can alleviate inequality by enabling wider cultural consumption, participation and engagement. As cultural intermediaries, libraries, librarians and all library staff enable and encourage the development of knowledge, skill, taste and experience in the cultural context, from the consumption of cultural products to active participation in cultural activities and,

ultimately sustained cultural engagement. For public libraries, facilitating the generation of cultural capital symbolises the developmental role of the library in helping individuals not just to access but also to appropriate, appreciate and share culture. Adopting a broad, inclusive and non-judgemental understanding of culture facilitates the integration of cultural forms and activities into everyday life within and across communities.

We hope through our "Making Waves" programme we have directly connected with our communities with both cultural content and context; we have promoted the library as a both a trusted place to engage in familiar cultural behaviours and created a vibrant space to experience new cultural forms; we have involved and connected our local community with their local culture and through this programme provide regular and varied opportunities form collaboration, creativity, development , interaction, and enrichment; taking culture outside the library into the community and bringing community created culture into the library and recognising and promoting the library as an everyday cultural hub of local life.

Please get in touch if you would like any further Information on this project

Library.Central@Inverclyde.gov.uk

Further reading

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We would also like to make a special mention: Fun Palaces **https://funpalaces.co.uk/**

Fun Palaces is both an annual weekend of action and an ongoing campaign. The ongoing campaign champions community at the heart of culture and culture at the heart of community. This is a wonderful way for Libraries to open their spaces and let culture in. We found it invaluable, both in the consultation phases and also an important part to embed in future programming, adding to sustainability and legacy The Fun Palaces workshops and our Ambassadors Programme support communities to create by and for themselves; developing local networks, linking individuals and organisations, encouraging venues to co-create with local people, and helping small groups to shout about their value as grassroots community activists.

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