

Torpoint Library and Community Hub update for December '24 and January '25, Development and Localism Committee – February '25

Health and Wellbeing Day

A health and wellbeing day is being planned for February, with mental health teams organising some Mindfulness sessions and a group chat around mental health and wellbeing. Some local health and wellbeing providers will be coming along to give some taster sessions. A laughter workshop will also be on offer!

Advice/Signposting First Aid Support Volunteer

We now have a volunteer procedure in place for this role. Along with this, the volunteer will have a basic DBS as they will view other peoples, personal sensitive data. Before starting the role, a full induction will be given. The volunteer will not hold any paperwork, it may be viewed but not taken or held at the library and the volunteer must not take any paperwork home with them. A confidentiality form will be agreed and signed. For monitoring purposes, a record of how many people access support and the nature of enquiries will be recorded. No names will be held.

Christmas Fair at the library

The Christmas Fair went well with over 15 stalls of arts, crafts and freshly cooked sausage rolls and cakes.

Makaton Aware Library

Laura recently attended a two-half day course on introducing Makaton to singing. Having completed the two days, we are now classed as a Makaton Aware Library. In the simplest form, this means that we promote inclusivity without having had extensive training.

It means that we approach communication with patience and understanding and ensure that all individuals have the necessary time and space to communicate in their preferred manner. It also means that we are dedicated to offering assistance and support to customers facing communication challenges whilst ensuring that they feel empowered and supported.

We are also introducing symbols throughout the library to aid navigation and identification of the different areas – you can see these on the door with our opening times and on the toilet already, but more will begin to be posted in the coming weeks.

Laura is also beginning to introduce signs in with Rhyme Time.

The general ethos associated with being Makaton Aware is not really any different to what we already do – now, we just work the same way whilst also having some signs and symbols used around the library too. There is no expectation to know any signs as we only have an 'Aware' status, however Laura will teach the team some basic signs.

Visiting other libraries

Tania and Laura plan to visit Bodmin and Liskeard libraries in February, to benchmark our services against others and to bring back any good ideas. In particular, we are interested in how their children's area is laid out and if they have any sensory boxes/books. Also, we want to have a Dyslexia Champion at the library and Bodmin are leading the way in this area, so anything we can take away from our visits will be very useful.

Free Health Assessments

On the 20th of January, Healthy Cornwall undertook seven free health assessments with users of the library and community hub. Two people have already re booked another slot for the 17th of February.

New library contacts

This month we have met a few new partners, or people who are working in the Torpoint area. One lady works for Barnardo's, supporting young carers between the age of 18-25, who we are looking to collaborate with. Tracy Vemon has funding to support young carers with driving lessons, holidays and much more. Tracy said she doesn't have anyone on her books for Torpoint and many young people don't realise that they are young carers.