

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)

8th March 2022

COUNCILLOR	PORTFOLIO	DATE
Patricia Hardy	Communities and Housing	March 2022

HOUSING

Housing Strategy (2022 – 2027)

Work is continuing on Sefton's Housing Strategy refresh. The development and publication of this new strategy would help reflect upon the successful implementation of a range of housing priorities over the past 5 years. Additionally, new strategic housing goals and Sefton's adopted 2030 Vision, alongside numerous national policy and legislative changes, mean that a refreshed and robust strategy is essential for the delivery of local authorities' housing functions over the coming years. It is proposed that the draft strategy will be consulted upon, via a wide-ranging and inclusive public engagement process, during Spring 2022. All consultation comments will be reflected upon, and a final Housing Strategy will be presented to Cabinet for consideration in Summer 2022.

Rough Sleepers and Homeless services

Rough sleeping continues to remain low in the borough due to the preventative work by Housing Options in securing nightly crash-bed options for them, and Light for Life intervention in working with anyone reported to them as rough sleeping. Sefton's most entrenched rough sleeper recently agreed to be accommodated and his tent removed. Sefton only has one-person rough sleeping at present in the former International Public House, which is being dealt with by Light for Life, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and Building Control.

There continue to be a large number of people approaching Housing Options for assistance and are often utilising all eleven of the Sit-Up spaces it has at its disposal. When an Out of Hours calls are then taken by the Emergency Duty Team from people claiming to be rough sleeping or homeless, they are left with no Sit-Up spaces to offer these people, which is becoming more difficult to manage.

This has prompted the re-opening of a former building in Beatrice Street, used by one of the Council's commissioned Providers, Excel Housing, up until recently. This will provide four additional nightly Crash Beds, which will help Housing Options manage the demand of the number of people approaching them for assistance on a daily basis. It is proposed that this arrangement lasts until the end of March 2022.

Property Pool Plus Allocations Policy

A revised social housing allocations policy for the Liverpool City Region (LCR), known as Property Pool Plus, is due to be considered by Cabinet in March. The policy has been updated to bring it into line with current good practice and legislation and following sign off at officer level will now be considered for formal adoption by each of the LCR local authorities.

Tenancy Strategy

The **2011 Localism Act** introduced a duty on Local Authorities to prepare and publish a Tenancy Strategy.

The purpose of this strategy is to set out what registered providers (housing associations) who own social housing stock in the borough need to have regard to when formulating their policies on tenancies. Since 2016 all the Liverpool City Region local authorities have adopted the same policy to ensure that there is a consistent approach across the city region.

Because of the time which has passed since the document was originally adopted it has recently been reviewed and refreshed by the authorities, and this updated strategy will also be considered by Cabinet in March.

Private Rented Sector

Our 3 private landlord licensing schemes continue until February 2023. Selective licensing requires all private landlords in Bootle to hold a licence and 'Additional HMO' licensing schemes in Southport and Waterloo/Seaforth require all Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) in these areas to be licensed. In December, Cabinet approved the Business Case for the re-designation of the 3 schemes from March 2023 and officers are preparing to carry out a full public consultation on the proposals.

Since the December update, a further 41 properties have been identified as potentially requiring a licence, but no application has been received. Officers have sent final warning letters to these owners and will follow up with enforcement action if required. 5 Final Civil Penalty fine notices have been served on 4 landlords for failure to licence 5 properties in the Selective Licensing area since the previous update.

We have received notification from the Housing Tribunal of 7 appeals against 7 Civil Penalty Notices that we have served against 3 landlords. Bundles of evidence are currently being prepared for hearing dates in the coming months.

A further 156 properties have been licensed. Since lockdown began 1964 new licenses have been issued. Compliance inspections have re-commenced, and 14 inspections have been carried out since the previous update.

Since the December update the team have responded to 77 requests for service relating to poor housing standards issues throughout Sefton. Inspections have been carried out on the majority of these properties and informal action taken to remove hazards where required. Formal enforcement action was required in 2 of these cases. Work continues on preparing a further 4 long term vacant homes for the enforced sale procedure, which will force the sale of the property and bring it back into use. Management of the Council's Gypsy and Traveller site continues, and officers attended 2 unauthorised Traveller encampments during December and January.

NEIGHBOURHOODS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The L30's Million Partnership group have given the Council notice of change to LTO (Locally Trusted Organisation). The change in LTO will take effect from 15th March 2022. The Council will continue to make payments for any commitments already in place, however, the new LTO (Groundwork), will take on the role of LTO for any new commitments the group make.

A Vehicle Activated Speed sign on loan from the Police Road Safety team is currently sited on Victoria Road Crosby. This is the last of the three planned locations identified for the pilot, the other locations were Mersey Road and Manor Road in. Data from the first two locations has been collected and will be summarised in a report, along with data from the third location, to show number of vehicles, speed, and date/time of offences.

The report will be reviewed by the Crosby Operational Group members and decisions taken on how to proceed. Initial discussions have covered the possibility of sharing the cost of purchasing a unit (£2500 - £3000) between several wards and for it to be periodically moved about the borough providing evidence to inform Police and Council decisions around road safety.

Rear alleyway cleansing remains the primary cause of complaints for the team in the South of the Borough. Requests for rear entry cleansing, including the removal of vegetation have significantly increased. Some rear alleyways are completely overgrown with weeds and vegetation, making it impossible for the crews to access. The Team are working with colleagues in the Operational inhouse services to resolve residents' issues.

Following the successful partnership working with the High Park Project, parks in the area have seen improvements including the planting of fruit trees, willow structures and the construction of planters. There is now a proactive community group that continues to work in the area.

The Community Payback Manager has informed the Neighbourhood team that it is unlikely that there will be a return to the original model of service users signing in at Bootle and being transported to work sites. Current intention is for welfare sites to be identified around the borough and for service users to make their own way to these sites using their own vehicles or by public transport. The team is at present operating from the Pavilion at Victoria Park to support Green Sefton with maintenance work at Victoria and Alexandra Parks.

A recent meeting with the Probation Service and members of the Green Sefton and Neighbourhoods teams discussed plans for deployment of service users going forward.

As part of the Afghan Resettlement programme a family has been successfully matched to a property in Sefton.

Welfare Reform

Food bank

1st April 2021 - 1st January 2022	South Sefton	Southport
Total Vouchers received	4083	1208
Adults Fed	5075	1602
Children Fed	3321	1059
Total Fed	8396	2661
Crisis Type	Low income - 2838 vouchers presented 5938 people fed	Low income - 654 vouchers presented 1486 people fed
Family Type	Single 2327 vouchers presented 56.99%	Single 654 vouchers presented 54.14%
Age group	25-64: 4470	25 – 64: 1315

The Council has been awarded £998,470.00 Holiday activity fund funding for 2022/23. To deliver the programme a Project Manager and an administrator will be recruited to build on the success of the previous year.

Hate Crime

The Hate Crime JAG (formerly MARAC) meetings continue to take place via MS Teams.

Equalities

The Corporate Equality Group Met in January 2022 via Teams.

Online training on Equality Impact Assessments continues.

An initial meeting has taken place of a Women's staff group and it is planned that a full launch will take place on 8th March to coincide with International Women's Day.

Navajo charter mark action plan from the reassessment has been received and shared with the CEG. Actions have been incorporated into the Equality & Diversity action plan which was considered by SLB at their January meeting.

Domestic abuse update

Following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act in April 2021, Sefton refocused its multi-agency domestic abuse group as part of the Council's statutory obligations in relation to safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse. The Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (DAPB) arrangements are now in place and the newly formed group has met on two occasions to date. The key focus for the Board at present is on the completion of the domestic abuse needs assessment, which is currently underway, and for the outcomes of the assessment to be used to refresh Sefton's Domestic Abuse Strategy.

The public consultation surveys linked to the needs assessment, one for professionals and the other aimed at survivors of domestic abuse, were approved by the Consultation and Engagement Panel in December 2021. These will be live until 22 February 2022. The results of both surveys will provide a good source of qualitative information and will be incorporated into the needs assessment report.

The next Partnership Board meeting is scheduled for 23 February 2022 which the consultants will attend to present their findings, any key patterns/ anomalies and to share draft recommendations for discussion.

It is imperative that work associated with domestic abuse is joined up across other relevant partnership boards in Sefton and so discussions are already underway to consider how best to link cross cutting work that sits with the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, Sefton Safer Communities Partnership, the Sefton Safeguarding Children's Partnership and Sefton Safeguarding Adults Board.

INTEGRATED YOUTH SERVICE

YOT Performance

This will be the last update on YOT performance to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee as responsibility has now transferred to the Cabinet Member (Children's Social Care). Future updates will be presented in the Cabinet Member (Children's Social Care) report to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny committee.

The latest PNC data is unavailable, however there is unlikely to be significant change since the last update in November. The data issue is National and affects all YOTs.

We do not anticipate a spike reoffending or first-time entrants and there are no Sefton children in custody.

Our reoffending data has been stable at 38% which compares well Nationally and Locally. We will be tracking local data to reflect more recent timescales which will start in March 2022.

Our First Time Entrant (FTE) data is shown below, when Quarter 4 data is available we will have a rise in FTE for this year, which will be investigated further.

First Time Entrants	Apr-Jun Quarter 1	Jul-Sep Quarter 2	Oct-Dec Quarter 3	Jan-Mar Quarter 4	Total
Number of FTEs 2019-20	10	10	9	12	41
Number of FTEs 2020-21	5	6	6	0	17
Number of FTEs 2021-22	7	5	5	N/A	17

Inspection Readiness

A significant amount of work is currently taking place both within YOT and the wider Partnership Board to prepare for the anticipated Ofsted and HMIP Inspections. A series of “deep dive” audits have been completed with a focus on the quality of court disposal assessments and plans and to identify any drift and delay. YOT Board members engaged in a Development Session to discuss the inspection framework relevant to them. A further Board development day took place in December to review the therapeutic offer as the YOT Cohort Profile indicates that there are a significant number of children with mental health concerns.

These preparations are designed to highlighted areas for improvement to align with Inspection Domains so that progress can be tracked. Comparison checks are also taking place to identify good practice in other YOTs who have recently been inspected. It is interesting to note the variance in how YOTs deliver their business, in particular the out of court disposals. This is an ambiguous area with no standardised assessment or planning documents from the Youth Justice Board, in contrast to court disposals. Out of court disposals accounts for approximately 50% of YOT work and the inspection standards have significantly changed in this area therefore this will be a priority area going forward in YOTs improvement journey.

Change of Name for YOT to Youth Justice Service (YJS)

In 2021, the Youth Justice Board published the ‘Youth Justice Service Governance and Leadership Guidance’ which replaces all previous guidance for Boards and Youth Offending Teams. There is an emphasis on ‘child first’ and less so on the offender. As such, there is a move away from language such as Youth Offending Teams / Youth Offending Team Management Boards as it could be viewed as stigmatising. Therefore, to align with this, the Board Chair has changed the board to the Youth Justice Partnership, which was agreed by members in October 2021, likewise the team has been supported to become the Youth Justice Service instead of YOT.

The Team will now be referred to the Youth Justice Service to reflect National guidance and the strategic partnership.

Sefton YJS Service Development Plan

The YJS Service Plan has been refreshed and reflects the following priorities:

National Priorities

- Reducing first time entrants to the youth justice system
- Reducing re-offending rates
- Reducing the use of custody

Local Priorities

- **Preventing offending and reoffending** through delivery of high quality, strength-based interventions across our partnership
- **Listening to our children so we understand their individual needs**
- **Continually reviewing and improving our services** to ensure they meet the needs of our children and local communities
- **Reducing inequality**, and minimising the impact of custody and the wider CJS
- **Reducing the harm** caused by violent crime, criminal and sexual exploitation, and association to gang culture

The plan is a dynamic document which will be updated each quarter and submitted to the Youth Justice Partnership for agreement. The current plan was agreed on 26th January and the board will be next updated on 27th April.

Serious Youth Violence Inspection - HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS)

HMICFRS supported by HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) will be inspecting 12 Police Forces during January and February focusing on Serious Youth Violence as a theme. Merseyside field work will take place week commencing 14th February, during which Merseyside YOT Managers and Strategic Leads will form a focus group and Merseyside Police Officers seconded to YOT will form another. The inspectors will not focus on specific cases however will focus on Violence Reduction Partnership contributions and partnership strategies to tackling serious youth violence. The focus groups will take place face to face or via online platforms.

Community Panel Member Training

Training of volunteers from the local community who have expressed interest in facilitating Youth Offender Panels took place recently. Children who are subject to statutory Referral Orders must attend an Initial Panel to discuss their offence and put together a contract of intervention which forms the plan for the duration of their court order. They must then return to panel every three months for the panel to monitor progress. It is up to the trained community volunteers to decide whether the child has completed the court order successfully and the conviction therefore considered spent. This is the first training that has taken place since Covid restrictions began, with trainees ages ranging from 21 to 66 years.

Youth Service

Outreach - Outreach work continued in Dec 21 to provide some Christmas Activities utilising the Youth Bus in communities across the borough. Community By Nature supported the delivery of a Christmas Party for Children and Young people in the Queens Road community of Bootle and through the HAF fund a number of Sefton Children and Families were provided with tickets to attend the Christmas Panto at the Atkinson

New Beginnings - Sessions have started at Space in Bootle on Monday evenings to support both personal and group need/s enabling the join up with Music and Dance sessions to develop positive engagement and emotional health and wellbeing.

Workforce Development - To support workforce development staff are engaging in training through e-learning programmes to support core training and individual awareness. Staff members are also attending and contributing to meetings such as MACE, Operational Groups, Equality and Diversity, Development of Youth Voice, Merseyside Police Community and Sefton Hate Crime Joint Agency Group Meetings.

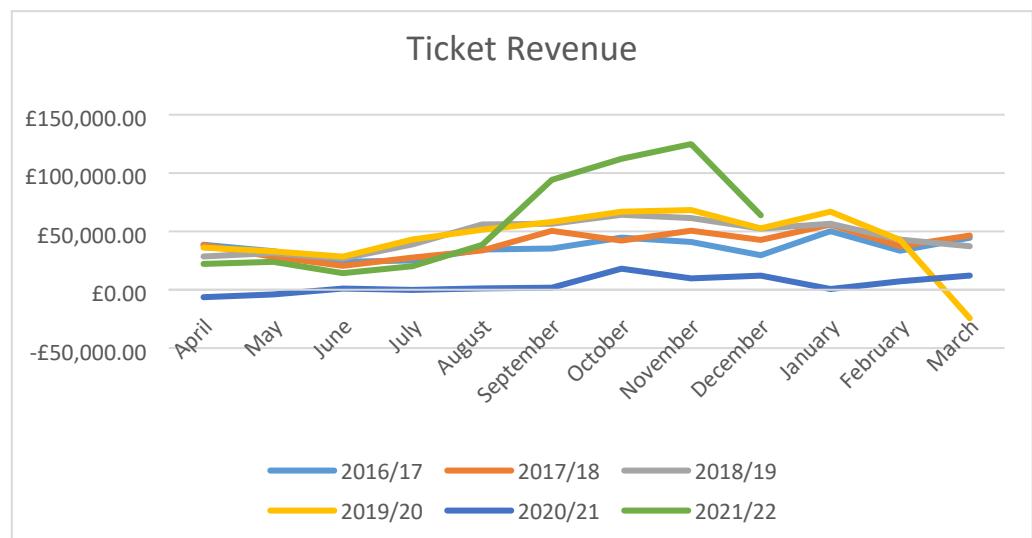
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Performance Analysis 2019/20 vs 2021/22 year to date: the following information has been prepared as part of the Communities Department's submission to the LGA Review

	2019/2020	2021/2022 (Apr – Dec)																																																																														
Visitor Figures Whole building	Total Visitors: 478,743	Total Visitors: 164,469																																																																														
	<p>Visitor Figures - Entrance</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Estimated Monthly Visitor Figures - Entrance</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>2017</th> <th>2018</th> <th>2019</th> <th>2020</th> <th>2021</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>January</td><td>43,000</td><td>44,000</td><td>45,000</td><td>42,000</td><td>43,000</td></tr> <tr><td>February</td><td>43,000</td><td>38,000</td><td>40,000</td><td>40,000</td><td>40,000</td></tr> <tr><td>March</td><td>45,000</td><td>47,000</td><td>43,000</td><td>23,000</td><td>45,000</td></tr> <tr><td>April</td><td>44,000</td><td>41,000</td><td>42,000</td><td>0</td><td>6,000</td></tr> <tr><td>May</td><td>45,000</td><td>46,000</td><td>42,000</td><td>0</td><td>10,000</td></tr> <tr><td>June</td><td>39,000</td><td>43,000</td><td>40,000</td><td>0</td><td>12,000</td></tr> <tr><td>July</td><td>48,000</td><td>44,000</td><td>47,000</td><td>2,000</td><td>15,000</td></tr> <tr><td>August</td><td>54,000</td><td>48,000</td><td>49,000</td><td>13,000</td><td>21,000</td></tr> <tr><td>September</td><td>47,000</td><td>42,000</td><td>43,000</td><td>13,000</td><td>23,000</td></tr> <tr><td>October</td><td>44,000</td><td>47,000</td><td>47,000</td><td>12,000</td><td>27,000</td></tr> <tr><td>November</td><td>44,000</td><td>45,000</td><td>44,000</td><td>2,000</td><td>27,000</td></tr> <tr><td>December</td><td>31,000</td><td>33,000</td><td>31,000</td><td>12,000</td><td>31,000</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	January	43,000	44,000	45,000	42,000	43,000	February	43,000	38,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	March	45,000	47,000	43,000	23,000	45,000	April	44,000	41,000	42,000	0	6,000	May	45,000	46,000	42,000	0	10,000	June	39,000	43,000	40,000	0	12,000	July	48,000	44,000	47,000	2,000	15,000	August	54,000	48,000	49,000	13,000	21,000	September	47,000	42,000	43,000	13,000	23,000	October	44,000	47,000	47,000	12,000	27,000	November	44,000	45,000	44,000	2,000	27,000	December	31,000	33,000	31,000	12,000	31,000
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Visitor Figures Galleries	Total Gallery Visitors: 64,142 13 % of total visitors	Total Gallery Visitors: 33,788 20% of total visitors																																																																														
Visitor Figures Museum	Total Museum Visitors: 35,193 7% of total visitors	Total Museum Visitors: 20,833 13% of total visitors																																																																														
Ticket Revenue	Total Revenue £522,860.05 Total quantity of tickets sold 34,997 Total number of orders 14,897 Total unique customers 9,272	Total Revenue £502,997.40 Total quantity of tickets sold 29,695 Total number of orders 10,695 Total unique customers 7,856 Total unique shows																																																																														

Total unique shows
267
Total unique events
331

176
Total unique events
258



Audience Profiles
Performing Arts
(Taken from ticket data)

Average party size: 2.67
Average ticket yield: £15.65

53% - Postcode PR
28% - Postcode L
5% - Postcode WN

28% - Dormitory Dependables
20% - Commuterland Culturebuffs
20% - Trips & Treats

Average party size: 3.38
Average ticket yield: £17.33

48% - Postcode PR
30% - Postcode L
7% - Postcode WN

26% - Dormitory Dependables
23% - Trips & Treats
17% - Commuterland Culturebuffs

Audience Finder Segmentation

Dormitory Dependables

A significant proportion of arts audiences are made up of this dependably regular if not frequently engaging group. Most live in suburban or small towns and show a preference for heritage activities alongside popular and more traditional mainstream arts. Many are thriving, well off mature couples or busy older families. Lifestage coupled with more limited access to an extensive cultural offer mean that culture is more an occasional treat or family or social outing than an integral part of their lifestyle.

Trips & Treats

While this group may not view arts and culture as a passion, they are reasonably culturally active, despite being particularly busy with a wide range of leisure interests. Tend to be comfortably off and living in the heart of suburbia. Children range in ages and include young people still living at home. With a strong preference for mainstream arts and popular culture like musicals and familiar drama, mixed in with days out to museums and heritage sites. This group are led by their children's interests and strongly influenced by friends and family.

	<p>Commuterland Culturebuffs</p> <p>Affluent and settled group with many working in higher managerial and professional occupations. Keen consumers of culture, with broad tastes but a leaning towards heritage and more classical or traditional offerings. Often mature families or retirees, living largely in leafy provincial suburban or greenbelt comfort. A group willing to travel and pay for premium experiences, their habits perhaps influenced by commuting. Motivations are multiple, ranging from social and self-improvement, to the pursuit of learning opportunities for older children. Tend to be frequent attenders and potential donors.</p>	
<p>Website</p>	<p>theatkinson.co.uk Sessions - 283,198 Page Views - 940,463 Pages/Session - 3.32 Avg. Session Duration - 00:01:41 New Visitors – 82% Returning visitor – 18%</p> <p>theatkinson.co.uk/whats-on/events Page Views – 317,618</p> <p>theatkinson.co.uk/whats-on/exhibitions Page Views – 7,843</p> <p>theatkinson.co.uk/whats-on/museum Page Views – 3,313</p>	<p>theatkinson.co.uk Sessions - 265,126 Page Views - 770,137 Pages/Session - 2.90 Avg. Session Duration - 00:01:26 New Visitors - 83% Returning visitor - 17%</p> <p>theatkinson.co.uk/whats-on/events Page Views – 253,452</p> <p>theatkinson.co.uk/whats-on/exhibitions Page Views – 10,648</p> <p>theatkinson.co.uk/whats-on/museum Page Views – 3,866</p> <p>theatkinson.co.uk/whats-on/online-exhibitions Page Views – 1,985</p>
<p>Facebook</p>	<p>facebook.com/TheAtkinsonSouthport 8K – Page Likes 1.3K - New fans 24K - Engagements 3.3K - Check-ins 976 - Posts</p>	<p>facebook.com/TheAtkinsonSouthport 9.3K – Page Likes 578 - New fans 13K - Engagements 1.8K - Check-ins 489 – Posts</p>

Theatre Programme

The ticket revenue data for 2021 demonstrates the positive recovery that the Atkinson is making in spite of ongoing Covid uncertainty.

The impact of rescheduling events has led to a compressed theatre programme from the end of September to the New Year. It has been a tremendous effort from the whole team to deliver such a busy schedule, especially given the challenge of staff absences through sickness and Covid.

The Cinderella panto has been a particular highlight. Most of the 36 performances were sold out with significant secondary sales. We have also received numerous compliments via social media such as the following:

'Absolutely Fabulous, definitely recommend it, lovely venue with reasonable ticket prices and refreshments etc.'

'Absolutely fantastic panto! Took my Grandchildren last Sunday and enjoyed every minute! The cast put their heart and soul into the performance and their jokes and antics have you laughing out loud! 🎭 A real tonic and lots of fun! Thank you to all involved in putting on this wonderful show!



Museum Engagement – overview of 2021 activity

Education Offer: School visits, loan boxes, outreach sessions in school, etc.

Primary students engaged – 416 (10 schools)

University students engaged – 51 (1 university)

Outreach: total loan box hire – 8

History Hunt:

Participants: 216 during 3 week launch event.

Family Offer: Free Family activities (e.g. Construction Club and Make It! Workshops, etc.)

At The Atkinson: 810 / Online: 675

Hope Street:

British Museum Digital Trainee – 1 x year placement

Adult Offer: Adult Activities (e.g. Talks programmes, workshops, tours, PVs etc.)

At The Atkinson: 367

Online attendance in real time: 727

Outreach loan box hire: 1 (1 nursing home)

2021 Talks recordings total views to date: 2092

Exhibition content/tours: 5970

Heritage Open Days: 4 fully booked volunteer led tours (x2 Lord Street and x 2 Clue Is In The Architecture)

The Landing Gallery:

Exhibitions: 5

Artworks sold: 90

Sefton Open Online:

Number of Artworks: 246

Artworks Sold: 10

Young Artists of The Year: 106 entries from individual Young Artists and six schools (KGV, Formby High, Peterhouse, Presfield, Newfield Specialist School and St Mary's Crosby). Prizes sponsored by Art Society Southport.

Digital Museum Engagement:

Augmented Reality Tours views to date:

Ba Bird Tour: 777

Local Legends Tour: 1561

Communications

Events promoted via the Council website, The Atkinson website, The Atkinson social media, through the press and Liverpool City Region

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

New Library System goes live

Libraries have been working with an existing supplier PTFS, to upgrade the libraries public facing catalogue by replacing the existing public portal with an entirely new product called Aspen. Aspen is the next generation of library catalogue which allows library members to search the catalogue and renew their books as normal. However, Aspen also links the portal to the multiple project websites provided through the library service such as Sefton Looking Back and The Human Libraries Project. It also has links to the Sefton Directory and the Sefton CVS Directory. This means when a resident is looking for a book on substance misuse, not only will Aspen provide details on the books available in libraries on this topic, but it will also provide details of support groups and services locally. In effect, the library catalogue automatically provides referral details to those residents looking for books on a topic possibly affecting them.

Sefton Libraries have been at the forefront of the development of this product, which is new to the UK. It is now being further developed to maximise on the early intervention and prevention referral information that can be provided via Aspen.

Human Libraries Project shortlisted for award

The Human Libraries Project has been shortlisted in a category at this year's LCR Cultural Awards. The project has been a runner up in previous awards, and this year Human Libraries is shortlisted for the Covid Response Award. During lockdown, Human Libraries activities immediately switched online but were able to offer blended activities in spite of restrictions. For example, an online cookery tutorial was produced where participants could pick up ingredients from Bootle Library, which was closed but operating click and collect at the time. The class was then run online and staff supported residents in attending virtually, where they still all cooked together (just not in the same space) and got the benefit of social interaction with each other.

Bootle 80 - Strand exhibition

Libraries hosted an exhibition of now and then photographs of Bootle in the blitz and what is now on the site of bomb-damaged building. Bootle MP Peter Dowd attended the launch and the exhibition also met some of the blitz survivors all now in their 90's. As part of the project, school children from Bedford Primary learnt photographic techniques from renowned artist Jon Turton who has exhibited his work all over the world and visited some sites of bomb damage to take photos of the sites today. They also got to interview some local survivors of the blitz, who talked to them about their experiences of being a child themselves when bombs were falling all around them. Part of the project was to produce a publication 'Bootle in the Blitz' which was written and researched by library staff based on the memoirs of Major Salt, Bootle's ARP Officer in the Second World War. The book is now available via the libraries. An exhibition on the blitz was displayed in The Strand before Christmas and transferred to Crosby Library in January. This completed the project.