

An introduction to the Libraries, Archives & Adult Learning Division of DACHS

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Libraries, Archives and Adult Learning (LAAL)

- Division created within DACHS May 2006.
- Workforce includes full and part time staff and sessional tutors.
- Our core yearly budget allocation is £5,366,800
- In addition we draw down c£1,800,000 from external funders including the Learning and Skills Council.

Legal / Regulatory Back ground

- Dudley MBC is a Library Authority responsible for providing a *'full and comprehensive library Service'* – Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964
- Archives service is licensed by The National Archive which requires storage to meet BS 5454 standards
- Adult and Community Learning have to meet requirements as outlined:
 - In the 2004 Skills White Paper
 - By the Learning and Skills Council annually

Libraries

- 18 libraries and service to housebound users
- Lending stock includes – books, talking books, CD, DVDs and Videos for all age groups and for minority groups
- Reference and information stock includes – books, e-resources, newspapers, periodicals and information service
- Reader Development (e.g. reading groups and author visits)
- Public access computers including accessibility software
- Learning support (e.g. IT taster session and family history talks)
- Services for Children including books, information, activities, homework support, Bookstart rattle and rhyme, class and author visits
- Community and Outreach Services including housebound services
- Community spaces including meeting rooms

Archives and Local History Service

- Collect, preserve and make available for research the historical records relating to Dudley Borough
- Currently store 2,500 linear metres of archive records from a variety of depositors including:
 - Local government records
 - Public records including magistrates, coroners, hospital
 - Parish and nonconformist church records
 - Private collections of individuals, including the Earls of Dudley going back to 12th century.
 - Businesses and organisations including N Hingley and Sons
- Local history collection including 8,000 books and 18,000 photographs
- Active Friends Group since 2001 that promotes and supports the service with over 100 members

Adult and Community Learning

- Deliver learning mainly for adults aged 19+ and families
 - In 5 neighbourhood learning centres
 - Using school and community venues in local communities
 - Working in partnership with the 3 borough FE colleges; voluntary and community organisations in deprived wards and priority neighbourhoods
- Programmes include:
 - First rung courses for people who have not been in any learning since leaving school including skills for life
 - Personal development, leisure and health courses
 - Community development courses and projects
 - Employability programmes with job outputs
 - Workforce training
 - Family Learning
 - Information, Advice and Guidance
 - Employment support with qualifications e.g. classroom teaching assistants

Achievements 2005 to 2006

- Joint use library opened at Brook School
- Participation in Workshop of the World Project cataloguing photographs and business records
- 17,953 enrolments in adult, community and family learning – over target by 1,953
- 92% babies received their Bookstart packs since October 2006
- 96% of learners achieved their learning outcomes
- Maintaining standards for supply of reserved books despite an increase in the number supplied
- Achieved an 'A' grade and recommendation as a Centre for Excellence following external verification visit from City and Guilds
- Enabling customers to join the library and reserve stock items on the internet

Challenges for the division

- Remodelling the library service
- Moving Archives from Coseley to Kingswinford
- Reduction in funding available for adult learning from the Learning and Skills Council
- Stopping the decline in library issues and visits
- Meeting the increased customer expectations of the archives and local history service
- Managing the expectation of increasing income from fees to prevent a reduction in take up of courses.
- Improving services through more effective joint working within the division and with partners.