

Liz Grieve - HoS

From: Amanda Heyward (BCUHB - CAMHS EIPT) <Amanda.Heyward@wales.nhs.uk>
Sent: 26 October 2023 13:20
To: Liz Grieve - HoS
Subject: Library closures / reduced service proposal

FAO : Liz Grieve and Bethan Hughes

I am writing win response to the proposed cuts to library services in Denbighshire within my capacity as Senior Education Mental Health Practitioner for CAMHS School In Reach Service for Conwy and Denbighshire.

Our service offers support to all schools, education staff and learners with their mental health and wellbeing and liaising with local stakeholders. We know first hand of the benefit and value of libraries and the contribution that they have to the mental health and wellbeing of communities and individuals.

We are involved in the provision and distribution of The Reading Well books to all local high schools that cover a range of topics on mental health and wellbeing for young people. These books are also held within local libraries and are a valuable resource contributing to the health and wellbeing of our young people.

The Welsh Assembly Government have highlighted the importance of health and wellbeing being everybody's business, working together within our communities to build a healthy and resilient future generation and workforce. The Whole School Approach Framework legislation further highlights the need for schools to work closely with all local stakeholders within the community for young people in recognition that this provides the best health outcomes for our nation.

We know that community spaces such as libraries can provide a safe space to learn and access information, resources and support for all our young people, particularly so for some of our more vulnerable young people who are unable to access this at home.

I am therefore concerned about the potential negative impact on young people and their mental health and wellbeing if services are reduced by 50% in 2024 as proposed.

I would ask that these concerns are given due consideration and would add that I happy to support in any way we can as a service.

Kind Regards

Amanda Heyward

CAMHS SIRS Senior Education Mental Health Practitioner for Conwy and Denbighshire