

Torpoint Library and Community Hub update - Development and Localism Committee.

My first few weeks at the Library and Community Hub

Well, it's been a very busy 3 weeks since I started at the library and community hub. I walked into a hive of excitement and activity, as children played, and adults sat laughing and talking in the café. It was very busy and as I soaked everything up, I thought, I am going to love it here! The afternoon came and I could hear the sound of soulful singing at the back of the library and one of the library ladies who I now know as Gwen, started singing and so did I.

I soon realised that the library and community hub is a safe place for all members of the community. I have seen young volunteers being taught how to make scones and quiche, who then have gone home and cooked for their families. I have seen friends meet up daily for a coffee and parents bring their children to the hub to play and have fun.

I have seen people cry and be comforted by the team and people in crisis come to the library and community hub, for urgent support.

More recently some refugees from Ukraine have come into the library and we have supported them and listened to their harrowing stories. We have helped them and invited them to join some groups. One lady said to us:

"Thank you for all your help, I didn't know where to get help, but I now feel the community has supported me, thank you."

The library and community hub has a very big heart and the ladies that work there are wonderful and so are the volunteers! Along with everyone that goes in, who runs an activity or works in partnership with us all.

Radio Cornwall

This week a lovely lady called Anne, came to us to tell us that she had been on radio Cornwall, singing the praises of the library and community hub. Anne was really pleased to tell us that she told radio Cornwall that the library offers all kinds of help and support to the community. She went on to tell them that young people are having cooking lessons and children and families are offered help and support! Anne praised the staff and volunteers.

People in crisis

There are times when people come into us in crisis. Recently this happened when a young man come in and was in need of a lot of help. He was in full mental breakdown, and we managed to support him

whilst keeping him calm. The end result was that we managed to take him to the local doctors who he was not registered with. He would not give his name or address and from the time that we spent with him, it was clear his life and story was very complex.

The local doctor's surgery was fully supportive of us and acted quickly to help. The man refused any help from police or ambulance and threatened to run if we called them. He was safely handed over to a doctor at the surgery.

In future all cases of people coming into the centre in crisis will be recorded anonymously. The library and community hub development manager will turn them into case studies, so we can all review what support we offered, who we signposted to and identify gaps in our knowledge for future team training. The team can learn from each other about how different situations were managed and discuss and review as a team and with Milly.

Summer reading challenge

The theme of the summer reading challenge was Marvellous Makers! Along side children taking part in the reading challenge, there was lots of opportunities to get involved in hands on activities. 139 children signed up to the reading challenge and so far, 51 children have completed it.

The team said some of the most memorable activities were play with clay, make your own gooey slime, beach art down at the shore, nonsense poetry drop- in, instrument making out of recycled materials, Mayan Gods eye drop-in, easy bake biscuits and biscuit decorating!

The library and community hub team, Kate, Lynne and Gwen have worked really hard to deliver the activities, whilst they have been short staffed. However, they would like to thank Laura, for preparing everything that was needed for all the activities, posters, Facebook posts, ordering all the art bits and pieces, before going on leave.

The reading challenge doesn't close for a few more weeks and so we hope to have a more children finish!

Café proposal

It is clear that people really love homemade cakes and that is what sells really well in the café. The library and community hub team, would like to put the following proposal forward:

A local person is found to make homemade cakes for the café, so staff do not have to bake at the weekend.