

Working with children and young people in care – the ‘library journey’

This chart shows the ‘journey’ that library services can take, from providing very little, if any, services to looked-after children & young people to having community-led services.

In so doing, library services can also continue to show how they deliver national, regional and local strategies, including:

- Every Child Matters
- *Care matters: time to deliver for children in care*
- National Year of Reading membership campaign.

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Abbreviations

FCs = foster carers

LAC = looked-after children and young people

NYR = National Year of Reading

RCWs = residential care workers

SRC = Summer Reading Challenge

Theme	Undeveloped	Library/project-led	Embedded/Engaged/Community-led
Welcoming LAC, FCs, RCWs	Staff not specifically trained in needs of LAC, and no specific welcome provided	Project or individual staff trained, and welcome LAC, FCs, RCWs	All staff trained and aware of needs of all children & their parents/carers. Nominated staff per library sensitively welcome LAC, FCs, RCWs
Services for LAC, FCs, RCWs	No specific services provided	Some level of consultation with LAC etc; seen as a service <u>from</u> the library <u>to</u> LAC etc	LAC, FCs, RCWs fully involved in developing services. Full engagement, eg by responding to/fulfilling service demands
Activities	Activities (eg SRC) organised	LAC, FCs, RCWs invited to specific events	All library-led activities are also targeted towards LAC, FCs, RCWs
Charges	If charges are applied to children & young people, then LAC charged	Systems set up so charges for overdue/lost materials waived for LAC, FCs, RCWs	No children & young people or their parents/carers charged for overdue/lost items
Staff training	Staff not specifically trained in needs of LAC	Key staff trained	All library service staff, at all levels, trained and aware of needs of LAC, FCs, RCWs
Training FCs, RCWs	No training of external organisations	Localised discussions with FCs, RCWs about their library/info needs	Regular, formal training for FCs and RCWs on literacy, reading, info, using books and libraries
Joining	All potential users have to complete joining forms, provide proofs, etc. No specific provision made for FCs, RCWs, or LAC	LAC, FCs, RCWs are allowed to join without the proofs, etc, and/or have tickets that give them wider borrowing privileges	Joining is simplified for everybody, without the need for forms, proofs, etc

Working with other local authority departments	Little or no joined-up working 'on the ground' although there may be contact at senior manager level	Close working relationships with eg Children's Services, eg for targeting FCs, finding Designated teachers	Joint working, eg library staff on Children's Service development boards, etc. Funding available.
Funding	No specific funding	Funding for projects and/or short-term allocations from Library Service budgets	Funding for work with LAC mainstreamed, partly provided by Library Service, partly from Children's Services, etc
Working with other agencies	Very limited, if any, work with other agencies	Contact developed with, for example, local Foster Care Association. Consultation on some issues. Use links to promote services	Work in partnership with local, regional, national organisations to develop best service possible for LAC. Joint decision-making, funding, participation in work programmes
Loans of books etc to residential care homes	No provision	Occasional, small collections borrowed by homes	Regular outreach programme, including involvement by LAC in selecting stock. Supported by activities, eg storytelling
Book ownership	No specific encouragement	Visit (eg on a project) with LAC to a bookshop	Funding secured from local authority/external funder to involve LAC in regular visits to buy books for their own use
Celebrating achievement	No involvement	Member of library staff may attend the annual achievement day	Library staff fully involved in authority-wide achievement day, eg display/stall, running activities, talks
Advocacy	No advocacy	Talks from library staff at library events about project work undertaken	Library service actively promoting work with LAC to: neighbouring authorities; region; professional groups; across the local authority; to external organisations