



Inspire

Culture | Learning | Libraries

Review



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working with



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Supported using public funding by



**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Funded by



**Skills Funding
Agency**



**European Union
European
Social Fund**



Welcome to our Inspire Review outlining who we are, what we do and our aspirations for the future. We went live as a new organisation on 1 April 2016 and have been really pleased and excited about the work we have done and the opportunities for the future.

We have a simple mission to Inspire people to read, learn and enjoy culture.

Over 30,000 Inspire members, our staff and the public now have a direct stake in the services we provide. Through a new model of governance, well-loved cultural, learning and library services can connect with people and communities in new ways.

In this review you will find an overview of all our services, our new board, our achievements and some of the feedback we have had in our first six months. If you are not a member of Inspire sign up and connect with us in your local library or on our website.

A successful first six months has been achieved by Inspire staff working really hard to set up the new organisation whilst maintaining continuity of service delivery. A special thanks to all Inspire staff.

Looking to the future we will continue to work with our funders; Nottinghamshire County Council; Arts Council England; Education Funding Agency and Skills Funding Agency, to develop responsive, modern and sustainable services, with the customer and learner at the heart of what we do.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Gaw". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Peter Gaw
Chief Executive Officer



Arts and culture

We are passionate about nurturing Nottinghamshire's thriving and dynamic arts community. Our teams are dedicated to supporting creativity through an exciting and diverse programme of arts, music, drama and dance.



Learning and skills

With a wide variety of high quality courses and apprenticeships, we aim to encourage learning and development across all ages, and help to promote personal growth within our communities.



Heritage

Delve into our extensive archives and discover a wealth of local history. Our comprehensive collections are packed with resources to help you research your past, uncover your family history and explore Nottinghamshire's rich heritage.



Reading and libraries

Libraries are an important part of our local communities and are at the heart of what we do at Inspire. Our libraries provide the hubs for our cultural activities and create knowledge through access to learning, information and opportunities. Using these resources we aim to inspire a lifelong passion for reading.



Services to schools

We are dedicated to inspiring learning and development through our services to schools, securing the best opportunities for the children and young people of Nottinghamshire. We provide the Education Library Service; Instrumental Music Teaching Service and Nottinghamshire Music Education Hub. Our offer has been developed with schools in mind, providing an efficient and responsive service that can be depended upon, all tailored to meet individual needs.

Inspiring highlights



Able Orchestra goes national! County Youth Arts' Able Orchestra were invited to perform at the Royal Albert Hall in July as part of their Ten Pieces concert. It was broadcast to an international television and radio audience. The project is funded by the Nottinghamshire Music Hub and in partnership with Orchestras Live.

Jazz in libraries Inspire libraries demonstrate they can be vibrant cultural spaces in partnership with Jazz Steps and have seen audience numbers grow from 340 to 1000 over the last 3 and half years.



© Bob Meyrick

Modernising our libraries Beeston Library refurbishment is the most ambitious yet. When the building re-opens in 2017, users can look forward to a modern library layout and a cutting edge IT innovation suite. Further refurbishments are planned at Keyworth and Mansfield Woodhouse.

Inspire's Community Learning and Skills Service (CLASS) launched a new programme of learning in every district in Nottinghamshire.

Funded by the Skills Funding Agency and in partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council, CLASS now offer over 100 direct delivery courses reflecting the themes of employability, health and wellbeing.

Our Education Library Service (ELS) and Instrumental Music Teaching Service (IMT) continue to add real value to schools

"ELS provides an invaluable service offering excellent value for money. I would not want to be without the School Librarian's support package which gives access to a huge range of professional support and expertise."

School Librarian

"Just wanted to put in writing how fantastic our Instrumental Music teacher was today. He had a tricky class totally engaged for the full lesson-brilliant management and outcomes."

Head of Department (Music)





Summer Safety Roadshows This summer saw our largest libraries play host to these ever popular Roadshows, now in their sixth year. The attendance saw record highs with nearly 2000 people across the three events.

Southwell Library Poetry Festival In its ninth year, this year's featured headliners including the mesmerising Lemn Sissay MBE, Forward Prize-winning poet Daljit Nagra and acclaimed stand-up poet and writer Kate Fox, alongside a range of talks and workshops.

"Lemn Sissay really touched my heart – poetically, politically, as a human being."



National Youth Choir of Great Britain partnership - Students from The South Wolds Academy (Keyworth) and The National C of E Academy (Hucknall) joined singers from the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain's elite Fellowship Programme in May to launch a new partnership for choral excellence in Nottinghamshire secondary schools.

The partnership brings together the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, Nottinghamshire Music Hub and the Theatre Royal & Royal Concert Hall Nottingham, who will jointly deliver a three-year programme of workshops, activities, and performances.

Celebrating 100 years of Roald Dahl - Over 500 participants from across the county worked with artists in libraries to create a wonderful exhibition in Mansfield Central Library Gallery to mark the Summer Reading Challenge. We also achieved our best ever result for this year's challenge - 10,696 children in Nottinghamshire took part in the challenge.



Volunteer celebration - In July we celebrated the invaluable contribution our volunteers make to Inspire, with an afternoon celebration at Newark Library and a personal thank you from our CEO.

Our finances

The majority of funding for Inspire services comes from public funding. The County Council is the main funder for Libraries, Archives, Culture and Records Management services.

The Skills Funding Agency (SFA), the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and the Arts Council England also fund specific areas of delivery.

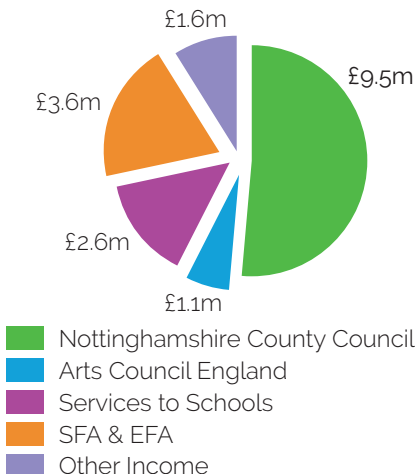
Inspire also generates income from schools through provision of the Education Library Service and the Instrumental Music Teaching Service.

Income from fees, charges and sales is relatively small and will be a focus of future development, as will grant seeking, donations and commercial developments.

Expenditure and funding

Expenditure for 2016/2017 will be £18.4m

Funding and income comes from:



The Inspire Board

Investment - one off

The Council will invest around £1.2M in the refurbishment and modernisation of library buildings and the development of Community Partnership Libraries.

The Council has an investment approved strategy to develop and modernise the Learning and Skills Services Inspire delivers, amounting to £620K over the next academic year.

Governance

As a Community Benefit Society, Inspire is registered with the Financial Conduct Authority. We have a set of rules, which set out what we have been set up to do. We are an independent organisation with exempt charitable status.

We have a board of Directors, with twelve places on it including four Community Directors elected by our members. Each member of the board has a duty and responsibility to protect the interests of the Society and to ensure the organisation is well run. Members of the board are not to represent their own interests or that of any other organisation they have a role in.



2.9m

visitors came through the doors of Nottinghamshire libraries. A further **1.4m** accessed our services 'virtually'. That's **7 x more** than the combined league home attendance at Nottingham Forest and Notts County last season!



2,546

items are selected each week by our Education Library Service librarians for schools to help children learn

Over 1m

items on our library shelves

80,000

new items added to the library catalogue last year

1,600

county children and young people have competed, performed, and participated in concerts, proms and events in venues from London to Nottingham to Manchester!



864 years

of history in **4 million** archival documents



Our oldest archive is dated c.1155 - Charter from Henry II to the people of Nottingham

393

the number of venues our Community Learning and Skills Service deliver community learning from - **across across every district in Nottinghamshire** - more than any other community learning provider in the county



14,248 pupils

developed a **passion for music** in our Instrumental Music lessons



15,875

Bookstart packs gifted last year inspiring children's love of books

200

amazing events on average delivered each week in our libraries. Around **10,000** a year!



Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries

Inspire HQ, Glaisdale Parkway,
Nottingham NG8 4GP

Arts and Culture

Arts Service,
Kirkby-in-Ashfield Library,
Ashfield Precinct,
Kirkby-in-Ashfield, NG17 7BQ
artsadmin@inspireculture.org.uk
01623 722404

County Youth Arts
Old Library, Leeming Street,
Mansfield, NG18 1NG
cya@inspireculture.org.uk
01623 644377

Learning and Skills

Inspire HQ
class@inspireculture.org.uk
01623 476830

Heritage

Nottinghamshire Archives
County House,
Castle Meadow Road,
Nottingham NG2 1AG
archives@inspireculture.org.uk
Public Enquiries
0115 9581634
Conservation Enquiries
0115 9774769

Reading and Libraries

Inspire HQ
info@inspireculture.org.uk
0115 8044363

Service to Schools

Inspire HQ
Education Library Service
elsg@inspireculture.org.uk
0115 9854200

Instrumental Music Teaching
imt@inspireculture.org.uk
0115 9773287

Nottinghamshire Music Hub
nottsmusichub@inspireculture.
org.uk
0115 9773206

