



Inspire

Culture | Learning | Libraries

Review 2017/18



www.inspireculture.org.uk #be**inspired**



Peter Gaw with Inspire Awards compere Geeta Pendse

Welcome to our Inspire Review 2017-18.

Over the past year we have been working hard to establish ourselves as an effective and creative organisation that can deliver positive outcomes through our services. We aim to deliver our vision to **inspire people across Nottinghamshire to read, learn and enjoy culture.**

This review gives you an insight into the work we do, and highlights some of our innovative projects and services. We also continue to deliver reliable and customer centred services that are available day in, day out across our 66 buildings and 4 mobile vehicles.

Our customer satisfaction ratings are consistently high, we know this through surveys, customer compliments and external inspection. We recently regained accreditation to the Customer Service Excellence standard, with 2 highlighted areas of 'compliance plus'. In addition, we were pleased to be awarded the Family Arts Campaign 'Fantastic for Families - Best Family Welcome Award'. Our Learning services continue to offer accessible opportunities for learners across Nottinghamshire and in October the service was inspected by Ofsted and achieved GOOD.

Our staff are key to our success. Being friendly, professional and consistent in our customer service is a core part of who we are. This review would be quite a boring read without all their creativity, commitment and hard work.

Again, this year we need to thank our partners, volunteers, customers, learners, alongside our board members, Nottinghamshire County Council and our other funders for their contribution and engagement with Inspire. We will be working on developing our membership and engagement opportunities over the coming year to harness the support of our 56,000+ Inspire members.

Last year we were pleased to announce our successful bid to become a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England. From April 2018, we have started to deliver an exciting and accessible programme of cultural activities for children and young people at our larger libraries and Inspire Youth Arts.

I hope you find this review informative and it inspires you to get involved as a customer, learner, Inspire member or a volunteer. For more information on all we do, our website is the place to go www.inspireculture.org.uk

Our contact details are on the back of the review. We are always pleased to get feedback and work with current and new partners to deliver excellence.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Peter Gaw'.

Peter Gaw
Chief Executive Officer

Cover photo:
Sandance - Inspire Youth Arts dance group.

Inspiration and impact

Our mission is to inspire people to read, learn and enjoy culture – we hope that through our many services and initiatives we make a real difference to individuals and communities. Here's just a few examples of individuals and organisations who have been positively impacted by Inspire!

Inspiring self-confidence and employability

"I have done a few courses previously to further myself and help get back to work. This course is part of that, working towards my aim of working with special needs children."

Dominique



Dominique suffered from low self-esteem and lacked confidence, but she joined our Paediatric First Aid Course to develop her skills and knowledge. Dominique's learning journey is a great example of how Inspire Learning can build confidence, help people progress and enhance employability.



Joshua with his Inspire Award

Josh also came to Inspire Learning with little self-confidence but went on to gain a certificate in English and Maths as part of our provision for 16-19 year olds. By September 2017, Josh had started a traineeship programme and went on to be offered a part-time role at the end of his placement.

Impacting loneliness and isolation

"Without volunteering at the library, I wouldn't have anything to do. I look forward to it, as I know I will see people and help them choose books." Library volunteer

Inspire works with local groups and volunteers to deliver services in some of our smaller communities. We trained 87 volunteers to oversee the daily running of some of our smallest libraries, with 62 of these (71%) stating their main reason for volunteering was because they were lonely or isolated.



Volunteers receiving their Inspire Awards

Combating loneliness and brightening lives

"Perfect for socialising with other retired people particularly during winter months when some people hardly ever leave their homes."

Songs and Scones attendee

Our range of innovative cultural activities includes those specifically for people with dementia and older people. Songs and Scones offers afternoons of professional live music, conversation and cake. Our Dementia Friendly film screenings at Mansfield Central Library are open to all but particularly suitable for people living with dementia and memory challenges and their family/friends.

Dementia Friendly Films
coming to Mansfield Central Library



**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND** **broadway**

Enjoy a series of classic films and musicals at Mansfield Central Library for just £1 a ticket. Screenings are suitable for people living with dementia and memory challenges, but anyone is welcome.

2 - 4.30pm Tickets available in the library and online.
T 01523 664 972 inspireculture.org.uk/dementia-friendly

Blue Hawaii 20 July
Mary Poppins 24 Aug
Pillow Talk 21 Sept
Jungle Book (1967) 26 Oct

**Nottinghamshire
County Council** delivered by **Inspire**

Inspiring reading for pleasure and attainment

"There was a real buzz for reading. Boys were as engaged as girls, more parents have started reading with children, there were book conversations and enthusiasm for what books would be coming next".

Teacher, Sherwood Forest Education Partnership

Our Education Library Service (ELS) aims to support the benefits of reading

for pleasure and impact educational attainment, communication, health, wellbeing and empathy. They recently supported the Sherwood Forest Education Partnership schools by providing a tailored service to help them achieve this goal - supplying specially selected books, librarian consultancy and the ELS mobile.



Our ELS mobile library visiting St Mary's School, Edwinstowe

Developing visual literacy and arts engagement

"Such a simple yet effective technique – something we can easily replicate in schools!"

As part of the very successful Summer Reading Challenge 2017, professional artists and storytellers engaged with schools, young people and families with visual literacy through a series of mask making workshops and storytelling sessions to create visual artworks and imaginative stories. Students achieved Arts Award, teachers were trained to use storytelling and new visual art techniques, and young people's work was displayed in library galleries.



Visual Stories workshop in school

Developing confidence and potential

"Margarita had absolutely no confidence in her abilities and after just a few months with Inspire Youth Arts she has become a fully-fledged writer and performer - the change is incredible!" Margarita's mum

Margarita joined the Inspire Youth Arts singer songwriter academy, starting her on an incredible journey. She has progressed from playing alone in her bedroom unable to perform in front of anyone, to performing her own songs in front of 500 people at the Palace Theatre in Mansfield. Still only 15, she has grabbed every opportunity which has included recording sessions, being part of an inclusive ensemble re-imagining Beatles songs and busking in a museum!



Margarita performing on stage.

Inspiring vocal excellence

"It is very clear to everyone involved that this is great value for money. Wherever our students' personal journeys take them in the future, I'm sure they will look back on this project as a musical highlight of their time at school." Jeff Evason - Subject Leader for Music

Since 2016 Inspire Music's Nottinghamshire Music Hub partnership

with the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain (NYCGB) and the Royal Concert Hall Nottingham has created a programme to support the development of Nottinghamshire school choirs. It provides in-school vocal development workshops with industry professionals and exciting performance platforms such as performing on the Royal Concert Hall main stage at the Inspire Christmas Concert.

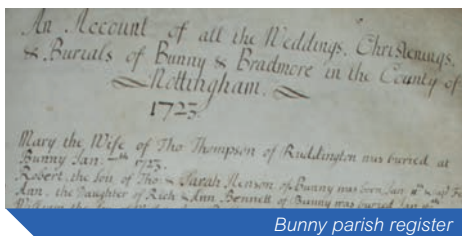


NYCGB lead school choir development workshop

And finally, giving love a heritage helping hand

Jane from Bunny contacted Nottinghamshire Archives with a query *"Can you help me get married next week?"*

Although baptised in the Church of England as a child, she needed a certified copy of that baptism in order for her to get married in their local Catholic church. And time was tight. Fortunately for Jane we had the original baptism register and were able to produce a certified copy. So, the marriage went ahead!



Bunny parish register

Our Finances

The majority of funding for Inspire services comes from public funding. Nottinghamshire County Council is the main funder for Libraries, Archives and Cultural services. The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and the Arts Council England (ACE) also fund specific areas of delivery.

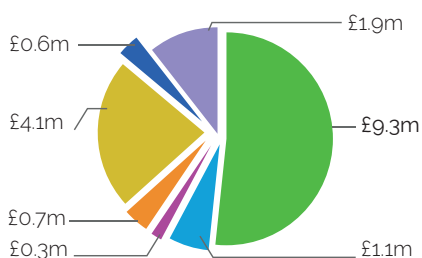
During 2017/2018, an additional £0.5M of cultural and learning funding has been secured to deliver specific projects in Nottinghamshire.

Expenditure and Funding

During 2017/2018 expenditure amounted to £19.1M with the Society achieving a small surplus.

For 2018/2019 the contract sum from the County Council amounts to £9.3M (£143K less). The total turnover of Inspire is estimated to be £18.6M.

Funding and income comes from:



- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Arts Council England - Music Hub
- Arts Council England NPO
- Services for Schools
- Education and Skills Funding Agency
- Libraries and Archives - Income
- Grants Donations and Other Income

Investment - one off

The County Council continues to modernise the library service and will spend £1M until 2019 updating ICT and refurbishing Edwinstowe, Retford and Ollerton Libraries.

Accreditation

Inspire continues to achieve recognition and accreditation from a number of external bodies covering many of our services;



Governance

Inspire – Culture, Learning and Libraries (Midlands) is a community benefit society with charitable status. Inspire is registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (registered number 7139).

The main board is made up of 12 directors, four Community Directors (elected by our members) two County Council nominated, four co-opted, one Staff Director (elected by staff members) and the Chief Executive Officer. There are sub-committees in the following areas -

- Audit and Finance
- Development
- Learning and Skills
- Music, Heritage and Culture
- Staffing and Standards.



visitors came through the doors of Nottinghamshire libraries - **the equivalent of nearly 5 visits every minute of the year.**



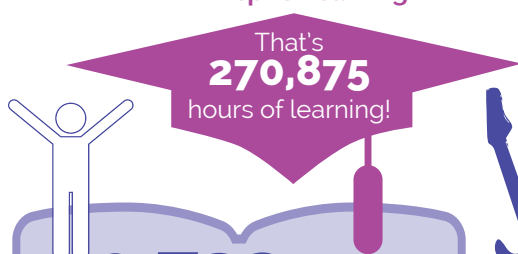
88,000 new items were added to the library catalogue



Over **6,000** pupils took part in Inspire Music singing/vocal activity in Nottinghamshire schools.

And 12 schools and over 330 young people performed on the Royal Concert Hall main stage at the Inspire Christmas concert.

10,035 Notts people learnt with Inspire Learning.



Over **9,732** children were inspired to keep reading during the summer holidays with over 50,000 Library visitors having the chance to see artwork created in Summer Reading Challenge workshops.

Our Nottinghamshire Archives team have provided

10,000 copies of documents and undertaken **2,000** hours of research for the public.

Plus **28,000** local images have been uploaded to the Inspire Picture Archive.



Inspire Youth Arts created **112** music ensembles – creating enough music to compile a Spotify playlist lasting 24 hours!

Library knitters, knitted over **6,000** squares for charity during Craft Bomb 2017 – almost enough to cover a square mile!



Over **500** people attended Dementia Friendly Film screenings.

Our services and how to contact us

Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries

www.inspireculture.org.uk

ask@inspireculture.org.uk

01623 677 200

 [inspirecultureenotts](https://www.instagram.com/inspirecultureenotts)

Reading and Libraries

Libraries are at the heart of Inspire, aiming to inspire a lifelong passion for reading. They are hubs for cultural, learning and community activities.

01623 677 200

 Inspire Nottinghamshire Libraries

 @NottsLibraries

Arts and Culture

Our teams are dedicated to supporting creativity through an exciting and diverse programme of arts, music, drama and dance.

Inspire Arts

01623 722 404

Inspire Youth Arts

01623 644 377

 Inspire Arts

 Inspire Youth Arts

 @InspireYthArts

 inspireyoutharts

Inspire Learning

We aim to encourage learning and development across all ages and promote personal growth within our communities.

01623 677 200

 Inspire Learning

 @Learn_Inspire

Heritage

With over four million archives, Nottinghamshire Archives and our local studies collections protect, preserve and provide access to the story of the county.

Public Enquiries

0115 958 1634

Conservation Enquiries

0115 977 4769

 @InspireArchives

www.inspirepicturearchive.org.uk

Service for Schools

Our Services for Schools are dedicated to inspiring learning and development through literacy and music.

Education Library Service

0115 985 4200

Inspire Music

0115 977 3287

Nottinghamshire Music Hub

0115 977 3206

 Inspire Music

 @nottsmusichub

 @InspireELS

working with