Connecting, creating and sharing through culture The Participation team was formed in July 2020 and The current focus of team activity sits within the Communities and Wellbeing Service. runs across 3 strands; Volunteering,

created by and for local people. Strand 1: Volunteering

Targeted Projects and the Cultural Communities Network.

Internal volunteering

Nicola Seika, Rebecca Fisher, **Bethany Nugent** Internally our Heritage, Collections

Our remit is to generate new cultural activity and

connections within Leicestershire communities,

and Learning, Record Office and Libraries teams have a strong tradition of facilitating volunteering

as successful and meaningful forms of participation. Throughout a typical year we can support between 500 - 750 formally registered volunteers across approximately 150 different roles with up to 40 staff acting as volunteer managers.

We will continue to invest in and support recruitment, training, policies and procedures, role/activity development, celebration and recognition, funding, partnerships and collaboration, evaluation and data management.



acknowledge the need to diversify activities to align with emerging needs which Covid has brought to the forefront. We will be investigating with the potential for re-modelling the Home Library Service into a Home Culture Service. Aims will include: Supporting the reduction of social isolation for groups wider than elderly housebound people

 Addressing some low-level mental health issues experienced by local people Harnessing the astounding community responses to supporting our fellow citizens during this pandemic · Widening the offer to include 'Culture' in order to bring together expertise and good practice gained from successful project models such as Century of Stories, Memory Plus, Get Set, Caring About Reading and Code Clubs

The team has updated the policies and procedures of the HLS and in dedicating time to this exercise

- The development of a unique intergenerational volunteering offer Ensuring referral pathways are linked to Adult Social Care and Public Health.
- The Targeted projects and the Cultural Communities Network activity outlined in the next sections all have volunteering roles and associated projects supported by this section of team.

led volunteering projects with a volunteering

Asset based community The team regularly facilitates unique co-designed and co-produced community

Current projects include:

1485 around the world This is one of five projects where nine of up to 50 participants involved with Adult Learning Service, Skills For Life courses regularly volunteer to add value to our

NEXTGEN can feature young people's voices, stories, views and HERITAGE FEST 202 interests in museums, galleries and cultural venues. Over 100 young people will lead on projects which will be showcased at this event.

Culture Mark

the county (Chinese, Polish, African, Indian)

service. Here they are designing a gallery exhibition for Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre exploring what else was happening across the globe in the 15th Century. This will run throughout the academic year and is supported by the heritage team with the aim of promoting the story of the battle to diverse audiences and communities across

We have set up a young people's Heritage Youth forum to develop the first ever Leicestershire Heritage Festival. It will be designed and led by young volunteers. They aim to use this platform to influence how the heritage sector



events and festivals.

LEICESTERSHIRE CULTURE MARK The project is currently at the conceptual stage. Next steps are to identify a steering group of internal and external cultural leaders and pilot the model with appropriate participants and organisations. This will be developed with the intention of cultural leaders pledging to support sustainability substantial contribution to Leicestershire's cultural life. outside of Participation team co-ordination.

Examples of current projects include: Exhibition

This will open at Charnwood Museum in November and can be visited

who have been empowered to co-produce cultural projects.

until April 2021. It will feature the work of individuals and communities

Strand 2: Targeted Projects

WhatIs In our Market Town Museums? Jemma Atkin-Barratt This project empowered

These person-centred activities support individuals and communities to develop bespoke cultural projects based on their own interests and needs combined with social action elements. Participants are supported to define their goals and decide how activities are designed, delivered, enjoyed and shared. There are many ways people have chosen to express this including museum exhibitions, heritage trails hosted at libraries,

was launched via invites to heritage workshops at

young people, migrant communities - especially those

The sessions and work have resulted in completely

who experienced the Partition of India.

Do You See What I See? Market Town Museums,

people to re-interpret

based on their own

existing museum displays, exhibitions and collections

experiences and connections

and to share their insights

and reactions with other.

Engagement

non-traditional audiences were targeted to get involved through community partnerships and organisations. Participants included homeless people, adults with complex learning disabilities and difficulties, vulnerable and excluded

type of thing in the future. Because of being involved: 97% benefited from communicating with new people 85% learnt new skills Participants felt:

Closer connections to local community 92%

Approximately 2000 local people engaged

The project focusses on responses

Have you ever experienced the

effects of Racism? Share your

reality to help people understand

Have you successfully challenged

Racism? Share your solutions to

What can you pledge to make

to the following questions:

the effects it has had.

help others do the same.

in the online gallery during lockdown

Key project outcomes:

more relevant to them

Less isolated 52%

Happier 87%

Listened to 78%

(April-June 2020)

Part of something good 95%

103 people have been involved

92% said being involved made heritage

100% said that because of being

involved they were more likely to do this

ommunity

urators

new interpretation panels, labels, film and voice reflections at Charnwood Museum. Participants also curated their own People's Gallery exhibition both on-gallery and online following professional guidance, training and support from the Collections team. The exhibition can be visited at Charnwood Museum until November 2020 and The People's Gallery online here www.communitycurators.co.uk/peoplesgallery/dyswis/ All groups involved are now active with new cultural projects led by the team. **Amanda Hanton** This project supports individuals, communities and organisations in

across the county. The aim is to offer local people the voice and platform to share their lived experiences of racism, encourage

in Leicestershire

Louise Sharples

aimed to:

This was a social media project

launched during the initial stages of lockdown in May 2020. The aim

was to collate and curate videos

representing how people spent

pandemic but also the project

Inspire cultural activity

Provide a method for

communication, social interaction, sharing during lockdown

Create a sense of virtual

volunteers, participants

Support a reduction in loneliness for those who are used to connecting

community for our

with our services

and partners

their time during the coronavirus

Louise Sharples

change. delivery partner - Opal 22. They focus on Black excellence and

Black Lives better? Let us know and contribute to an open dialogue what you will do to support and support a wider understanding Black Lives. for Leicestershire communities We are asking for submissions of with a view to making tangible videos which respond to one of the questions above. These will We have commissioned a lead be used in an online exhibition at

are rooted in the communities we

aim to work with. They will be our

bridge organisation with the role

of co-designing and executing the

project plan.

Leicestershire to respond to Black

Lives Matter through the creation

of co-produced exhibitions both digitally and in public spaces

This is a programme of cultural activity designed for children in care and their families in collaboration with Leicestershire Virtual School. The bespoke sessions will be led by staff within Heritage, Creative Learning

solidarity

Highlight the importance

engagement for wellbeing

Nearly 3000 people have been

involved with this project from

across our county we are very

the final film later this month.

much looking forward to launching

TAY SAFE

and potential of culture

communities and internal pledges from LCC services and teams.

www.communitycurators.co.uk and

a gallery exhibition at Charnwood

To date we have 50 seeded video

submissions from members of our

Museum which will open on

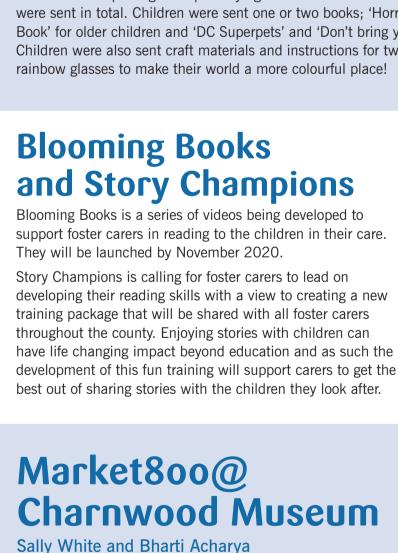
November 16th 2020.

Services and Participation. They will be run from our sites, by our staff and are planned from October 2020 until March 2021. The aim is to make cultural activities relevant, accessible and inclusive. CV-19 IsolatedbutInspired Foster a sense of community spirit, place and sense of



resources.

The first set of digitally accessed activities on the theme of Childhood are



Brian Kennedy

Strand 3:

of place.

communities

Claire Bradshaw, Portia Trainor,

Stephanie Strange

This process is supported by an internal steering group of Heritage, Collections and Record Office staff. In addition, the Participation team will lead on an exhibition featuring modern stories and connections previously untold. This will involve History Cafés, contemporary collecting, vox pops, focus groups, interviews with individuals and community groups, a volunteer-led exhibition planning group and the development of a film to support the legacy of the anniversary. Library/Reading Festival

exhibition celebrating this remarkable milestone. The team have commissioned Loughborough Library Local Studies Volunteers to produce the historical content for an exhibition at Charnwood museum.

a 'Cultural Communities network' predominately run in Community Managed Libraries. Grants of £5,000 will be available to approximately 10 hubs to develop bespoke cultural programmes. The model of delivery will be to build upon

existing community assets, helping to sustain those which provide communities with a sense

· Aim to act as social interventions to address in particular isolation within specific local

Facilitate community led participatory models

Activities planned will:

of delivery and engagement

It is the 800th anniversary of the Loughborough market

Coming in Spring 2021, our two-week Festival of

both to reconnect with residents who may have

paused their visits to libraries and to welcome

Libraries will celebrate everything that's great about

our local libraries. The festival will be an opportunity

individuals and groups who have yet to discover the

charter in 2021 and to mark this we will be supporting an

and learning. Service aims

· Develop the Heritage and Cultural offer to

objects, art works and other media. • Enhance Leicestershire's Adult Learning Service (LALS) Learning for Wellbeing programmes and create additional bespoke mental health

Sustain and increase use of local heritage and

cultural resources such as records, artefacts,

- development and support Wider strategic aims Increase individual and community capacity
- and reduce demand for costly primary, acute, and other public services Address the low levels of social contact reported in both Adult Social Care User survey and the **Adult Social Care Carers Survey** Practical delivery

charnwood

museum

eicestershire

harnwood

Helen Murray and Bharti Acharya The Participation team will initiate development and facilitate the co-design of projects as part of ommunities

Leicestershire residents Support sustainability of the community managed library network across Leicestershire Support sustainability of cultural community assets

- programmes Nurture and sustain capacity among community organisations through professional volunteering

The exact model of delivery within each community will depend on the nature of the community itself, existing activities taking place, the cohort of people taking part and the involvement of local stakeholders. A positive partnership with our Community Managed Library Officers will build trust and engagement among our target Community Managed Libraries.

psychological wellbeing may be enhanced through

People will be identified and invited to participate

through the local knowledge within communities together with referral through a variety of partners

such adult social care services and Local Area

developing and maintaining supportive relationships.

Audiences

Co-ordinators.

channels to engage people through live streaming events, quizzes and competitions together with invitations to submit personal content, for example, poetry, favourite books lists etc. The Targeted programme will connect with specific groups and individuals who, for a variety of reasons, don't currently access libraries. Bespoke sessions will be developed to respond to the particular needs and Throughout the festival the emphasis will firmly be on fun and challenging people to think differently about ultural

The Community programme will take our festival

Our Digital programme will use our social media

events and resources out into a variety of local

community venues and outdoor spaces.

June 2021 300 people engaged in

prescribers such as LAC workers, Link workers, social workers in

bespoke CCN projects

10 targeted CCN projects

established. Currently work

50 participants have CCN

50 carers engaged

Anticipated milestones **July 2020 -**



Children were also sent craft materials and instructions for two rainbow themed craft activities, along with rainbow glasses to make their world a more colourful place! **Blooming Books** and Story Champions Blooming Books is a series of videos being developed to support foster carers in reading to the children in their care. They will be launched by November 2020. Story Champions is calling for foster carers to lead on developing their reading skills with a view to creating a new training package that will be shared with all foster carers

huge range of opportunities that libraries can offer. The festival will have four main programme strands: The General programme will be open to everyone with events and activities for adults, children and families. The programme will include creative writing preferences of the all those involved. and author events, pop-up shared reading groups, arts and cultural activities, drop in learning taster events, get to know your library sessions and lots more. their library.

 Provide physical and recreational stimulation whilst promoting individual wellbeing within an educational, cultural, heritage context · Provided a catalyst for people of all ages and backgrounds to connect, share and learn together Support people to develop cultural awareness of their communities through shared experience

- is in progress with 5 CML's 75 referrals in from social 2020-21

Brian Kennedy

Audience Development Manager

/CommunityCurators

/ComCurators

Or connect with us on social media or

www.communitycurators.co.uk

via the community curators website:

partnerships.

Website and social media As a team we are always open to discussing our work and considering new collaborations and

Although multiple team members work together collaboratively on projects please contact the lead staff member identified using their names and the internal email addresses. For a wider perspective:

Comecting, creating and sharing through culture



Amanda Hanton Our remit will be to include people who currently Participation Manager / experience, or are at risk of, experiencing social Audience Development Manager isolation. It will involve people whose emotional and

