



The Northern Ireland Library Authority

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The primary duty of Libraries NI, as set down in the Libraries Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, is to provide a comprehensive and efficient public library service for persons living, working or studying in Northern Ireland. In doing so we are required to:
- secure that facilities are available for the borrowing of, or reference to library materials sufficient in number, range and quality to meet the general requirements of adults and children
 - encourage both adults and children to make full use of the library service
 - provide advice as to the use of the library service and making available such bibliographical and other information as may be required by persons using the service
 - promote literacy and lifelong learning
 - maintain a collection of library materials relevant to the cultural heritage of Northern Ireland
 - make library premises available for cultural and community activities
 - meet any special requirements of adults and children by any appropriate means.
- 1.2 The Board of Libraries NI comprises a Chairperson and eighteen non-executive Members, the majority of whom are councillors within the meaning of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972. The Chief Executive is Jim O'Hagan
- 1.3 The sponsoring body of Libraries NI is the Department for Communities (DfC). Libraries NI liaises directly with the Culture Division of DfC.

2.0 Our Vision

- 2.1 A visible, accessible and inclusive library service at the heart of communities, changing lives and valued by all.

3.0 Our Mission

- 3.1 Connecting people with information, ideas and experiences to foster lifelong learning, inspire curiosity, provide enjoyment and strengthen communities.

4.0 Our Values

- Caring - we care about our library users, the community, each other and what we do. We will provide a safe and welcoming environment where

people can connect and explore. We will show respect for users of our service and for each other, will build trust and will strive to provide positive experiences for both external and internal customers.

- **Accountable** – we take responsibility, as individuals and as an organisation, for effective stewardship of the resources allocated to us and for delivering on our commitments. We will act with honesty and integrity and maintain high standards of governance, responsible leadership and efficient operations.
- **Responsive** – we are a learning organisation that is open to new ideas and better ways to serve individuals and communities. We have a focus on quality, are creative and flexible and will continue to explore innovative ways of working to ensure that services are vibrant, effective and relevant to the changing needs of our customers.

5.0 Our Network and Services

5.1 The library network is crucial to the delivery of both an effective and comprehensive library service taking account of the geographic and demographic spread of Northern Ireland. Our services are currently delivered through a network of 96 branch libraries, heritage libraries, mobile libraries, a Homecall service, online and outreach services. Services provided include:

- books and other material such as audio books, newspapers, periodicals and magazines
- downloadable eBooks, audio books and eMagazines and other online resources, most of which can also be accessed from home
- supported access to computers for use by the general public with free internet access for library members
- support for the development of ICT skills
- free Wi-Fi, enabling library members to use their own devices
- learning opportunities
- storytimes, rhythm and rhyme sessions and other activities for children
- school class visits
- family history, heritage and local studies material
- access to information from a range of sources and organisations
- access to cultural and creative experiences
- reading groups for children, teenagers and adults
- health and wellbeing information, activities and events
- social activities, such as 'Knit and Natter' and 'Tea and Newspapers', which promote community cohesion and combat isolation
- study, meeting and shared social space.

6.0 Services Directorate

- 6.1 The Services Directorate is responsible for the development and delivery of high quality, efficient and effective library services to the public through the public library network described above. This involves frontline staff supported by managers and specialist teams. The Stock Unit and the Marketing Team are also part of the Services Directorate.
- 6.2 The Directorate has some 600 staff. Under the Director of Library Services, it is led by the Services Team which will comprise the Director, the two Heads of Service, the two Deputy Heads of Service and the Head of Marketing.

7.0 The Post

- 7.1 The post of Deputy Head of Service (North and West) will provide strategic direction and expert leadership within the Services Directorate, working closely with other members of the Services Team and with each other.
- 7.2 The Deputy Head of Service will be responsible for leading and managing a range of services in the North and West geographical area as well as service wide and specialist functions.
- 7.3 The geographical area comprises the following council areas:

North and West

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Mid Ulster District Council
Derry City and Strabane District Council
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

- 7.4 The service wide and specialist functions will include Customers, Online Services and Service Support. These functions will encompass the current key service priorities of Children and Young People's Services, Good Relations, Digital Inclusion, and Health and Wellbeing.
- 7.5 The post holder will be a member of Libraries NI's Senior Leadership Group and of Services Team and as such will contribute to the corporate leadership and strategic direction of Libraries NI.

8.0 Further Information

- 8.1 Please contact Margaret Bell for further information on the post.
- 8.2 If you require information on the application process please contact either Sharon Hawthorne or Gillian Clarke in HR e: HRRecruit@librariesni.org.uk t: 02838399458 / 02838399466.