Dear Colleagues

RE: Derbyshire County Council's Proposal on Community Managed Libraries

Derbyshire County Council currently have 45 static libraries and 2 mobile libraries which serve 150 communities. These libraries are seen as valuable community hubs by residents across the county that are free to enter and open to all.

As part of the ongoing cost saving exercise, the County Council recently put out a consultation on the reform of library service across the county and now is proposing to convert 20 existing libraries into community managed libraries. Four of which are in Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire. These are Old Whittington Library, Wingerworth Library, Holmewood Library and Killamarsh Library.

For details please visit https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/libraries-for-derbyshire/community-managed-libraries/community-managed-libraries.aspx

As the CVS in Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire, Links is exploring the option of safeguarding the community ownership of these local libraries by establishing a VCS (voluntary and community sector) partnership with local community groups and voluntary organisations in Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire.

I write to invite all community groups and voluntary organisations in Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire to attend a meeting between 1:00pm and 2:45pm on **Thursday 24th January 2019 at Committee Room 2, Chesterfield Town Hall.**

The aim of the meeting is to look at the following issues:

-establish any interest in running community managed libraries;

-how to maintain a vital local service for members of the local community;

-the development of accessible community hubs and meeting venues for members of the local community, community groups and voluntary organisations;

-how members of the local community, community groups and voluntary organisations can help to improve access to a range of public services through community managed libraries.

It would be most appreciated if you could confirm your attendance with Links office by telephoning 01246 274844 or completing an online booking form - https://www.linkscvs.org.uk/civicrm/event/register?id=128&reset=1 by **Monday 21st January 2019.** Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

I look forward to seeing you all then.

Kind regards

James Lee

James Lee

Chief Executive