



Hampshire Libraries

Children and Young People Select Committee New Services Briefing – Hampshire Library Service

12 January 2023

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www.hants.gov.library    

Overview

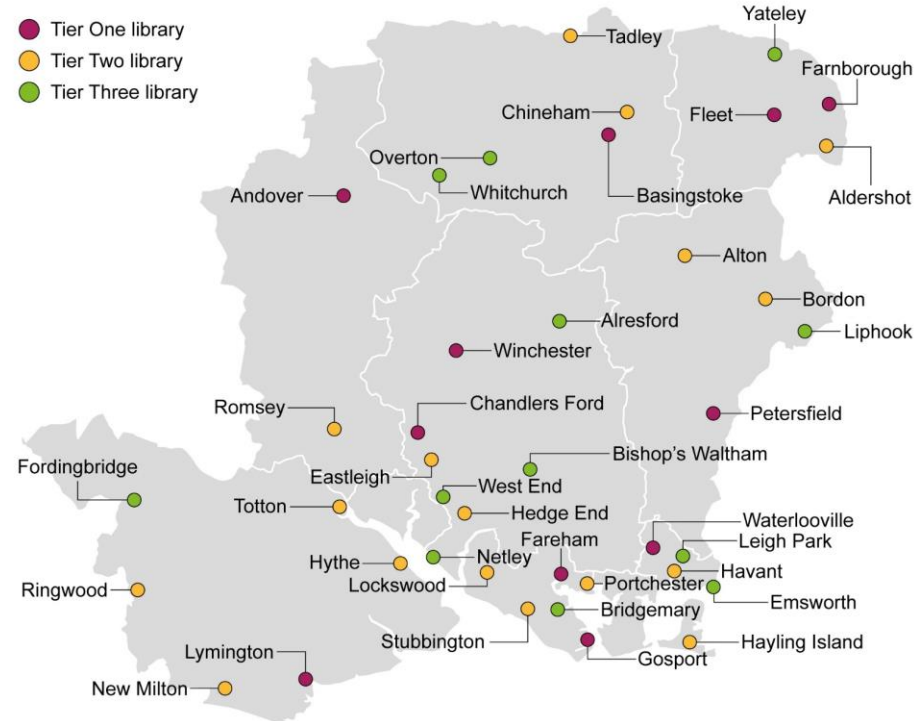
- 40 Public Libraries
- Home Library Service
- School Library Service
- Learning in Libraries
- Headcount of 421 (241 FTE)
- c. 40,000 volunteer hours per year

Hampshire
Libraries



Geography

Location of Hampshire Libraries



	No. of libraries
Tier 1	11
Tier 2	17
Tier 3	12
TOTAL	40

Legislation

Statutory requirement (Law) set out in The Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964:

- Provide a '**comprehensive and efficient**' Library Service, taking account of '**local community needs**' (including future need) and '**available resources**'.
- Lend books and other printed materials free of charge for those who live, work or study in the area.
- Keep adequate stock of books.
- Have facilities available for the borrowing of, or reference to, books and other printed matter and other materials, sufficient in number, range and quality to meet both the general requirement and any special requirements of both adults and children.
- Encourage both adults and children to make full use of the library service, providing advice and support about how to use and access services, information and resources.

Risk of challenge:

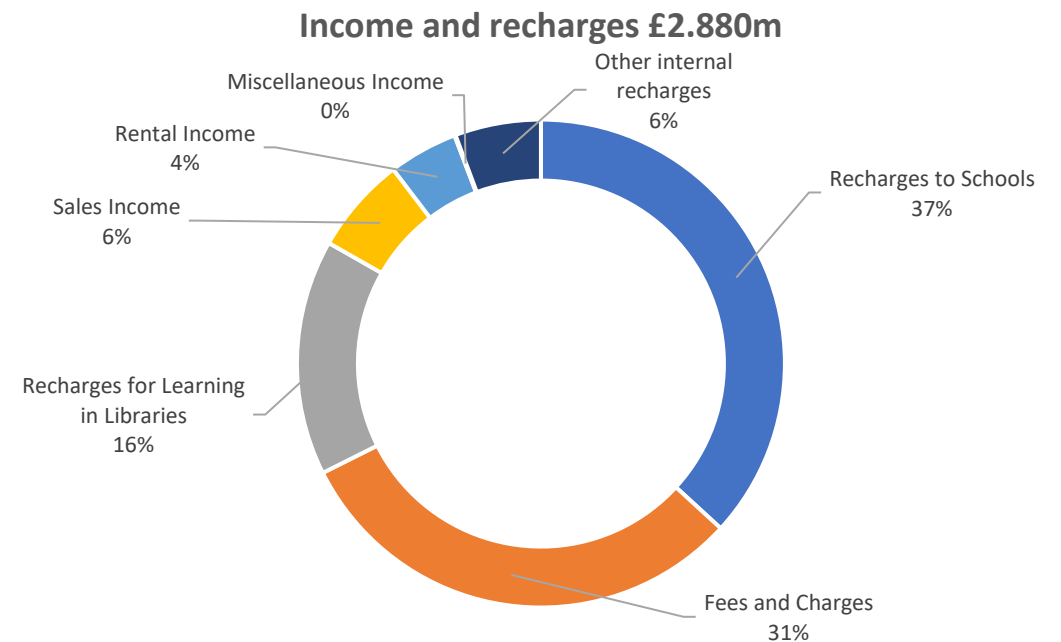
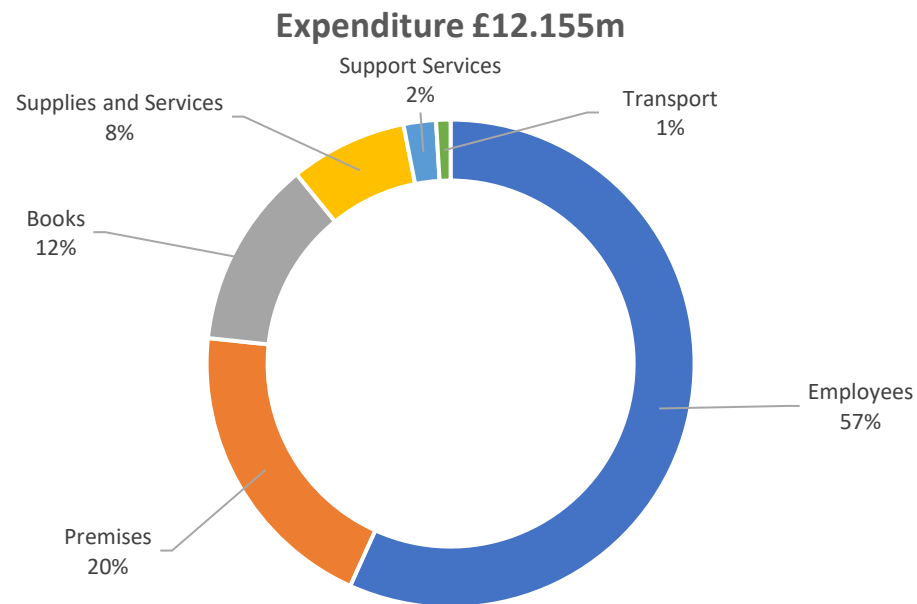
1. Judicial review of Authority's decision;
OR
2. A letter from any Hampshire resident to the DCMS.

Successful challenges elsewhere linked to:

- Failure to properly consider community need.
- Failure to properly consider/address equalities impacts.

Finance

The 2022/23 net cash limit for the Library Service is £9.275m, comprising:



Finance – savings journey since 2010

- **Overall net expenditure reduced by 63%**, from £25.25m in 2010/11 to £9.28m in 2023/24
- **Staffing reduced by 50%** –Staffing expenditure down by 61%
- **No. of physical library buildings reduced by 26%**, from 54 to 40 – lowest number per 1000/population in the country (CIPFA 2021/22)
- **Opening hours reduced by 46%** from 2,240 p/w to 1,216 p/w including removal of all evening and Sunday hours
- **Removal of entire Mobile Library Service** and all targeted outreach
- **Stock** and collections reduced. Budget expenditure reduced by 59%

Reduced breadth and depth of offer

Significantly reduced offer to rural and isolated communities

Less staff availability and capacity to support vulnerable (and all) customers

Business continuity – more unplanned closures

Less ability to flex and respond to key national policy issues – e.g. Cost of Living

Footfall driven down – spiral of decline

Performance

CIPFA Public Library statistics 2020/21 (ranked against other County Council services):

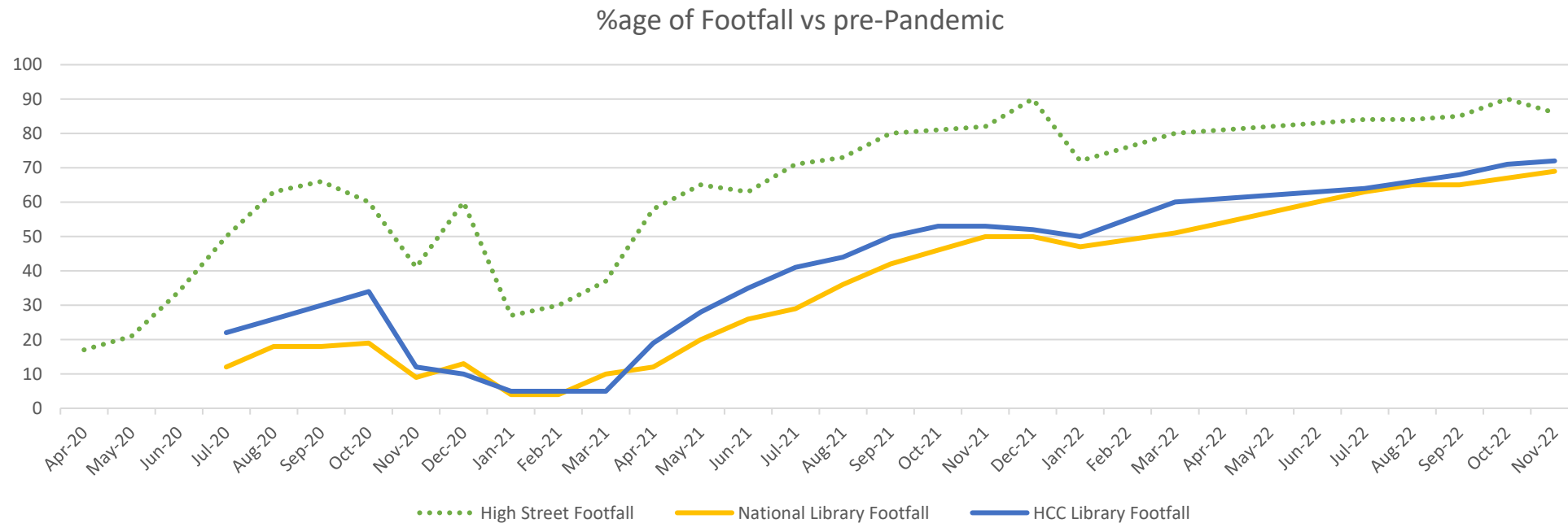
Service provision

Measure	HCC rank	HCC figure
Population	3	1,382,500
Number of visits	1	586,063
Total book stock	1	1,415,799
Total book issues	1	1,771,757
Adult fiction and non-fiction issues	2	956,644
Children's fiction and non-fiction issues	1	815,113
eBook issues	1	568,816
Audio issues	1	500,043

Efficiency

Measure	HCC rank	HCC figure
Total revenue expenditure per 1,000 population (£)	12	9,509
Number of staff per 1,000 population	12	0.17
Population per service point	20	31,420

Performance



However, total book issues (physical and digital) in Dec 2022 have now reached 95% vs Dec 2019.



Vision

Priority one:

Promoting reading

- i. **Providing a service for everyone** - championing reading for pleasure.
- ii. **Developing children's literacy, particularly within the Early Years (ages 0-5)** - giving children the best start in life.
- iii. **Investing in Hampshire's Digital Library** - reflecting increasing use of electronic books and offering greater choice to readers.



Priority two:

Supporting healthy, creative communities

- i. **Establishing council - run libraries as 'community hubs'** - bringing individuals, communities and services together, thereby making better use of available public funds and improving outcomes for people.
- ii. **Taking the Library Service into communities** - engaging with residents in the most deprived areas, where use of library services is lowest, and partnering with voluntary and community sector organisations.
- iii. **Delivering a programme of learning and activities that meet the needs of library users** - promoting literacy, health, wellbeing and digital skills.



Priority three:

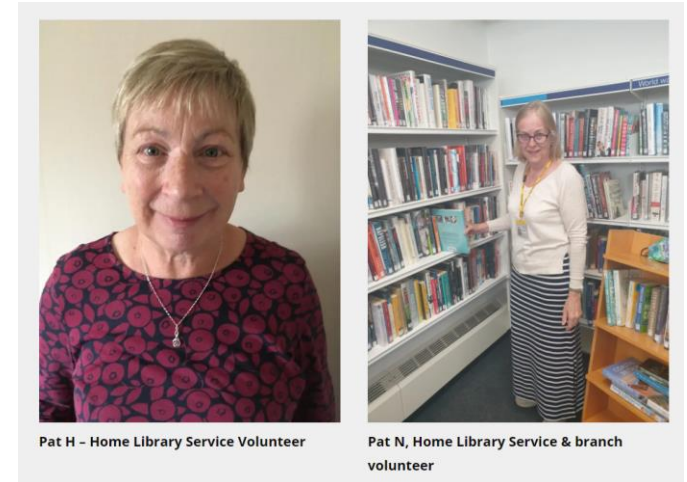
Investing in digital services

- i. **Providing access to technology, prioritising those at risk of digital exclusion** - working with partners to help people access information, opportunities and services online.

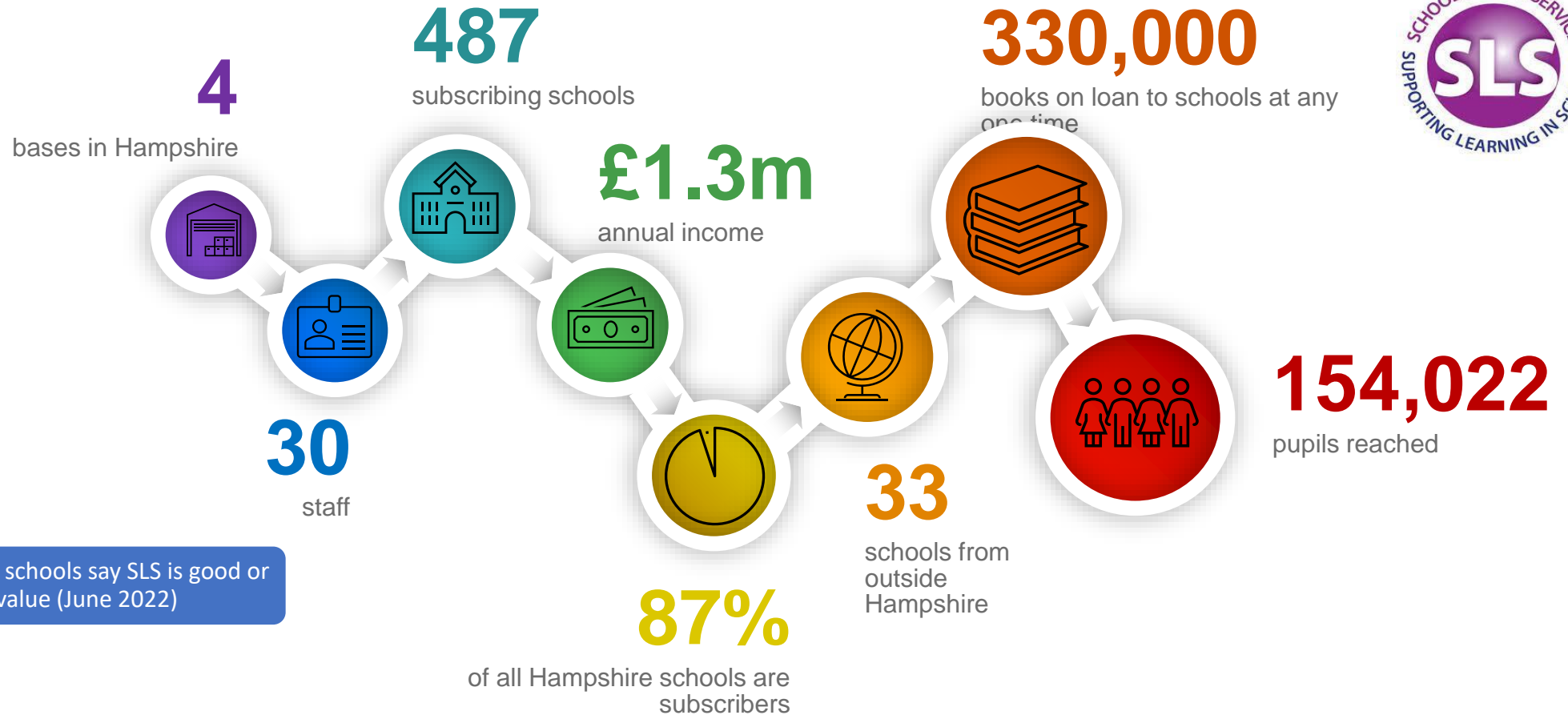


Home Library Service

- For those who can't get to the library due to ill-health, disability or caring responsibilities.
- 4,550 Home Library Service visits in 21/22.
- 8,000+ Volunteer Hours during year.
- The Reminiscence collection was relaunched during Dementia Action Week in May 2022.
- Volunteers Week (June) we celebrated our HLS volunteers, wrote to thank them all personally.
- Shortlisted for national award during 2021.



Hampshire School Library Service

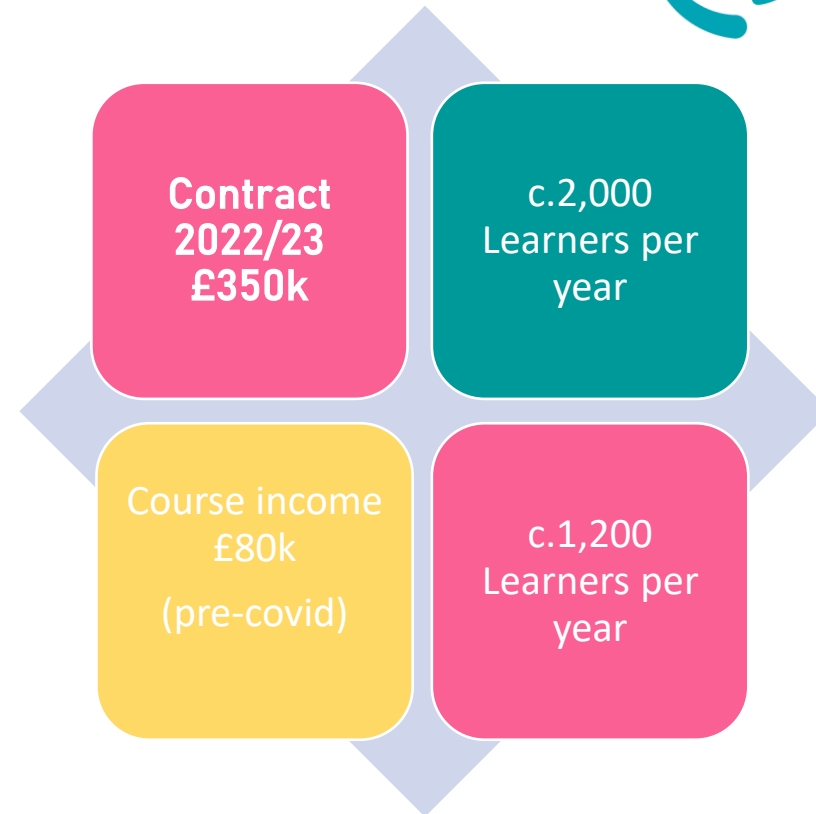


99% of subscribing schools say SLS is good or excellent value (June 2022)

Learning in Libraries



Hampshire Learns
Skills & Participation



Partners

