

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

THE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE IMAGINATION LIBRARY REPORT 2021

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To introduce the North Lincolnshire Imagination Library Report.
- 1.2 To approve and publish the North Lincolnshire Imagination Library Report.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 In North Lincolnshire we are passionate about giving all our children the best possible start and we know developing a love of reading is critical to the effective development of a child's future. This report is a celebration of the North Lincolnshire Imagination Library and the many achievements that have been enabled for children and families. It also sets out our plans for the future ensuring that children's early literacy continues to be a priority within North Lincolnshire.
- 2.3 This report demonstrates the impact of the investment made by North Lincolnshire council since the programme's inception in 2013. Children who first registered with the Imagination Library when it was launched in 2013 reached the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage in 2016. Since 2016, we have collected and analysed data which clearly shows that children registered with the Imagination Library outperformed their unregistered counterparts each year. The impact of the Imagination Library is not confined to the EYFS and continues to evidence itself on a child's journey throughout school. In 2017 and 2018 research was undertaken to whether children who were previously registered with the Imagination Library continued to outperform their unregistered counterparts in the end of Year 1 Phonics Screening Test. The cohort of children registered with the Imagination Library outperformed their non-registered counterparts in each year. In 2019 further research was undertaken to whether children who were previously registered with the Imagination Library continued to outperform their unregistered counterparts at the end of Key Stage 1. The cohort of children registered with the Imagination Library outperformed their non-registered counterparts in each subject area.

- 2.4 The North Lincolnshire Imagination Library continues to go from strength to strength and is promoted as a model of international excellence. North Lincolnshire's Imagination Library is the highest achieving UK programme since its launch in 2013. Parents frequently comment about how lucky they feel that North Lincolnshire Council supports the Imagination Library programme and the difference it makes to their children's lives, and a love of sharing reading in the home.
- 2.5 The extensive reach of the Imagination Library across North Lincolnshire makes the biggest impact on some of our most vulnerable families and young children. In North Lincolnshire the Imagination Library makes a real difference to our children who do not have the same opportunities as their peers or are at risk of underachieving - most notably for summer born children (boys in particular), children with special educational needs and children whose first home language is not English.
- 2.6 By working in partnership and taking a 'One Family Approach' we have created a pathway of expertise and resources that are easily accessible, creative, and simple which enable families to build and extend their children's home learning environment. Almost 2,000 residents access the North Lincolnshire Imagination Monthly newsletter for ideas and inspiration. Sharing books in the home supports so much more than a love of reading. Time together enjoying books promotes secure attachments that support the development of confidence, self-esteem, health, and well-being.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Adopt and publish the North Lincolnshire Imagination Library Report 2021

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 This report is a celebration of the North Lincolnshire Imagination Library and the many achievements that have been enabled for children and families. It also sets out our plans for the future, ensuring that children's early literacy continues to be a priority within North Lincolnshire.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g., LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

- 5.1 There are no specific financial or other resource implications in relation to adopting / publishing this plan.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

- 6.1 There are no other relevant implications.

- 6.2 Equalities issues under the Equalities Act 2010 have been considered and included in this plan.
- 6.3 This plan is closely linked to the Council Plan, supporting its aspiration and ambition to be the #BestPlace for our residents and the #BestCouncil we can be.
- 6.4 No environmental implications or significant risks have been identified as arising from the recommendation to adopt this plan.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 7.1 N/A

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

- 8.1 No conflicts of interest have been identified.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That the Imagination Library Report for 2021 is approved and published.

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING, SKILLS AND CULTURE

Church Square House
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
Author: Sandra Simmons
Date: 02/06/2021

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –

North Lincolnshire data and international research led by Swansea University on behalf of Dolly Wood UK.