Awards Programme

The Community Libraries Network Awards Programme is a way to celebrate the achievements of individuals, teams and organisations in the community library sector. We are looking to recognise excellence and best practice across six categories, demonstrating the important impact of the work that you do on a day-to-day basis.

Nominations are open to any individual staff, volunteers or trustees, teams/collectives/working groups, or to whole organisations. We will ask you to nominate to one or more of the categories below, each nomination must be submitted separately. Nominations will be judged by a panel on the criteria listed below.

Key Areas

Health & Wellbeing

Arts & Culture

Reading & Literacy

Digital Inclusivity

Volunteers

Community Hubs

General Criteria

1. **Going above & beyond**
   -Developing new services that reflect the needs of the community, or filling gaps in local provision.
   -Improving existing services and provision.
2. **Forging partnerships**
   -Connecting with existing local/regional organisations to increase scope and impact.
   -Collaborating with new organisations.
3. **Thinking Outwardly**
   -Feeding into national & regional programmes and strategies.
   -Adopting wider Network strategies (e.g. through working groups).

4. **Accessibility & Inclusion**
   -Improving access to services for people with disabilities and long-term health conditions.
   -Making your offer more inclusive to diverse groups of people.
5. **Understanding your community**
   -Engaging with your local community and responding to need in a meaningful way.
   -Increasing the voice of your community in how you operate.

Additional Criteria

Health & Wellbeing

- Reducing health & socio-economic barriers.
- Improving mental & physical health through activities, services and signposting.
- Exploring/Adopting social prescribing activities and partnerships.

Arts & Culture

- Increasing participation in cultural activities.
- Enabling people to explore new creative skills and promoting talent, through exhibitions and events.

Reading & Literacy

- Increasing engagement with 11-18 year olds.
- Developing focus with key groups reflective of your community (e.g. early years, parents & carers, older people etc.).
- Expanding your literary resources (e.g. diverse authors, foreign language resources etc.).

Digital Inclusivity

- Improving digital access and support, particularly to marginalised groups.
- Developing a creative & innovative digital offer.
- Helping children & adults to feel safer online.

Volunteers

- Committing time, effort & resources above and beyond what is expected.
- Initiating new ideas and activities with positive results.
- Stepping up into new roles and taking on additional responsibilities.

Community Hubs

- Diversifying your income (e.g. new trading streams such as cafes, events, grants, donors and contracts).

- Thinking big – testing new and innovative ideas.
- Growth & sustainability – strengthening your long-term viability.

Nominations for 2026 will be announced and awarded later in 2026 (date TBC).

Closing date for nominations will be: **Friday 18th September 2026**.

Nomination Form: https://forms.gle/F6RN8pvWgqp4aceR7