PUBLIC LIBRARY POSITION STATEMENTS 2003

Authority: Milton Keynes **Assessor:** Carleton Earl **Code:** Code E0401

OVERALL ASSESSMENTS OF THE 2003 PUBLIC LIBRARY POSITION STATEMENT

1) The quality of the evidence that authorities are providing excellent policies and practice to implement Framework for the Future, in line with local needs.

Assessors are asked to provide their own subjective, professional judgement of the evidence in the public library position statement that the authority is providing policies and practice to implement Framework for the Future, in line with local needs. They should base their judgement on the scores that given to each of chapters 1 and 4 as well as sections 2.2.1 to 2.2.4.

The evidence of policies and practice was weak, and the policies and practices themselves, were weak.	The evidence of policies and practice, and the policies and practices themselves, were fair.	The evidence of policies and practice, and the policies and practices themselves, were good.	The evidence of policies and practice, and the policies and practices themselves, were excellent.
1	**2**	**3**	**4**

I recommend the following score for the overall quality of the evidence that this authority's public library position statement was aiming to implement the Framework for the Future, in line with local needs. **2**

2) Public Library Standards.

Assessors are asked to consider the authority's approach to meeting the public library standards, including evidence that the authority has demonstrated that resources are adequate. Assessors should include information from the CIPFA survey of public library authorities' performance in relation to the standards in coming to their judgement.

The public library position statement demonstrated a weak and unrealistic approach to meeting the Public Library Standards.	The public library position statement demonstrated a fair approach to meeting the Public Library Standards.	The public library position statement demonstrated a good approach to meeting the Public Library Standards.	The public library position statement demonstrated an excellent approach to meeting the Public Library Standards.
1	**2**	**3**	**4**

I recommend the following score for the quality of the evidence that this authority is meeting the public library standards. **1**

SECTION 1 - COMMENTS ON THE PUBLIC LIBRARY POSITION STATEMENT

Assessors are asked to give their overall assessment of the public library position statement as a focussed document demonstrating progress by the authority in shaping and delivering its services in response to the strategies in Framework for the Future, in line with local needs. They should consider the extent to which it is realistic and developmental; the nature of the evidence that the service developments are achievable in managerial and resource terms; and the extent to which the authority has demonstrated that it is aspiring to achieve excellence in the provision of its public library service.

Corporate Vision and Ambition

Comment on the extent to which the statement shows that the authority as a corporate body has taken steps to ensure that its library service is evolving and focusing on public value.

The library service's aims and objectives are linked very closely to the authority's corporate priorities. The framework is in place for the service to develop, but there is a clear problem of adequate resources, which could affect the library service's opportunities to continue to evolve and focus on public value.

Response to strategies in "Framework for the Future"

Comment on the extent to which the authority has provided evidence that it is seeking to identify and meet local needs, to provide an open, neutral and self help culture, to evolve and improve its library service, and to implement the strategies in Framework for the Future, including pursuing existing strategies mirroring those in Framework for the Future.

The service recognises the strategies identified in Framework for the Future and is setting up strategies in line with these to meet local needs. The need for 2 additional libraries has been recognised as the basis for the service to improve, provided appropriate resources are made available.

SECTION 1 - COMMENTS ON THE PUBLIC LIBRARY POSITION STATEMENT

Response to Public Library Standards

Comment on the extent to which the authority is meeting the public library standards currently. Note any contextual indicators, such as the provision of mobile libraries in relation to PLS 1. Comment on the realism of the authority's proposals to meet any standards not met by March 31st 2003, including the local standards identified in Comprehensive, efficient and modern public libraries.

The service only met 10 of the Standards at 31st March 2003. Measurement of the 'children's standards' awaits a PLUS survey, but there are no specific plans for meeting any of the other Standards and no indicative time scale. Local targets did not exist for 2002/3 but a limited range have been set for April 2004 or 2005.

Presentation

To what extent was the public library position statement well presented ?

The statement is well presented

Describe how the statement's presentation could be improved if appropriate.

Null

Level of Detail

To what extent did the public library position statement use the number of pages proposed in the Guidance and subsequent advice succinctly ?

Null

SECTION 2 - PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS

Assessors are asked to consider the authority's approach to meeting the public library standards, including evidence that the authority is demonstrating realism and effectiveness in relation to the availability of resources. Assessors should rate the approach to standards in a range of 1 - 4, using the definitions on page 2 of this assessment form. Assessors should consider the following guidance about the nature of the evidence an authority should show to demonstrate that it is providing an excellent approach to meeting the public library standards:

- 24 to 26 of the individual parts of the public library standards (PLS 1 - 18) for which there are measures were met or exceeded by March 31st 2003.
- Local targets were set for all sections in relation to "Comprehensive, efficient and modern public libraries" and at least 3 were met.
- Proposals to meet targets are convincing.
- Targets are developmental and challenging.

PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS	SCORE	ITEM COVERED ?	ASSESSOR'S COMMENTS	NOTES OF GOOD PRACTICE (Bookmarked)
Score for the approach to the standards as at 31st March 2003	**1**		Null	Null
Is there evidence that the authority intends to meet those standards not met at March 31st 2003 ?		No	There are no firm plans to meet any of the remaining Standards and no time scales. Children's PLUS survey will produce results for relevant standards.	Null
If the authority intends to meet some standards not yet met, but not others, note the standards not intended to be met by March 2004.			Null	Null
If the authority currently achieves high performance against some or all standards, is there evidence that it intends to maintain or improve this performance ?		No	Null	Null

SECTION 2 - PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS

PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS: LOCAL TARGETS	TARGETS PROVIDED ?	TARGETS MET ?	ASSESSOR'S COMMENTS	NOTES OF GOOD PRACTICE (Bookmarked)
LOCAL TARGETS FOR SERVICE TO CHILDREN.	No	No	Local targets are being developed for all categories for 2004/5, but these are not particularly challenging or wide ranging.	Null
LOCAL TARGETS FOR SERVICE TO SOCIALLY EXLCUDED PEOPLE.	No	No	see above	Null
LOCAL TARGETS FOR SERVICE TO ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES.	No	No	see above	Null
LOCAL TARGETS FOR SERVICE TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.	No	No	see above	Null