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| Greater Manchester Health Libraries Managers Meeting July 2024 |

# Present

Mary Barden: Stockport NHS Foundation Trust / Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust (S, T&G)

Steve Glover; Manchester University NHS Trust (MFT)

Tracey Pratchett: Royal Bolton NHS Foundation Trust (RBFT), covering for Dawn Grundy while she is on secondment.

Sue Steele: Northern Care Alliance (NCA)

Lindsay Wallace: (NCA)

Gil Young: NHS England Knowledge & Library Services

Paula Younger: Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (WWL).

Matt Holland: Northwest Ambulance Service (NWAS) – arrived part way through.

# Apologies for Absence

Laura Jeffreys: Pennine Care Foundation Trust

Dan Livesey: The Christie NHS Foundation Trust (Christie)

Jane Roberts: Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust (GMMH)

# News

News was exchanged between colleagues.

Tracey Pratchett (RBFT) reported on her temporary appointment to cover for Down Grundy who is on secondment, and that they were due to appoint a new clinical librarian.

She told the meeting about progress with the new Bolton Institute of Medical Sciences Building at the hospital and the challenges of a building shared with the University.

Paula Younger (WWL) explained how she had found the service on her appointment in March after a gap since her predecessor left and the challenges of two libraries and another PG education center with 2.8 FTE staff together with expecting increased numbers of students and foundation trainees from Edge Hill and the University of Manchester. They are hoping to get interesting projects off the ground but are unsure how they will fit those in around the day-to-day stuff.

Sue Steele (NCA) told the meeting that they were supporting several systematic reviews and have met with the patient information team to support more evidence being used and providing health literacy and a little bit of plain English support. They were planning an all-day event to promote the new wellbeing area in Fairfield Library which has been partly refurbished with comfortable seating and a coffee machine. It is a nice space where people can relax and do mindful activities.

Steve Glover (MFT) reported that they are doing the specifications for the North Manchester Education Centre. It will be like Wythenshawe and have fewer print books and more eBooks than currently - it will be more of a learning space.

They have finished QIOF – happy to chat to colleagues about that.

MFT have decided to join Koha next April and are changing their purchasing strategy - more eBooks and fewer multiple copies of textbooks.

They finished the LibKey rollout around February/March which has had a significant impact on their usage data.

They are working within the restrictions on non-pay expenditure due to Greater Manchester ICB financial difficulties. They negotiated a saving on a new ophthalmology collection and justified it by comparing it to the print costs. They are just starting January journal subscriptions renewals work.

Gil Young (NHS England KLS)

Nothing to report that will not be included in the Managers meetings in the next two weeks.

Mary Barden (S, T&G) told the meeting that she has written a joint strategy for the two trusts. One strategic objective is to encourage collaboration between the two tiny KLS teams. It has been important to take the service forward and is working well.

They have Koha at Tameside, and it is going live in Stockport in December – both libraries on the same system will be good. They are reviewing the collection in both Trusts, weeding both and then using a previous VAT rebate to bolster the collections.

Matt Holland - NWAS

Not much news – business as usual.

**VLE Books Consortia** – Steve Glover

Steve proposed amalgamating the GM, Cheshire, and Lancashire consortia to create one – it would include non-Koha users.

He thought that the biggest potential impact would be running out of credits on the books but considered that unlikely for most. It would potentially enable more purchases to the group but there would be no compulsory buy in.

He suggested also considering whether we would be happy to extend it to Liverpool.

Colleagues expressed concern about additional workload for The Christie staff, but agreed with Steve running out of credits was unlikely. This may mean that the supplier, Browns, may not be able to agree to the increased users on the licences.

All as the meeting were happy in principle providing issues of workload and licences can be resolved, so Steve was asked to take the proposal to the GM VLE Group meeting.

# Any other business

Discussion of who is due to take over as chair of the group.