

GET Real

.Responsive. Engaged.
Aware Libraries

Cork City Libraries is **Responsive** to enhancing real inclusion, **Engaging** with citizens, minimizing barriers, **Aware** of the importance of inclusivity in all our **Libraries**. As this **Get Real** ethos (responsive, engaged, aware libraries) is fundamental to the mission statement of **Cork City Libraries** we have developed a range of programmes for making our service more inclusive.

Let's explore three such projects !

Conversation Café



- **The initiative** was created and developed by Cork City Libraries to support Cork City Council's vision for a City of Sanctuary.
- **The aim** is to encourage Cork's new citizens of migrant origin and Corks Denizens to meet in an informal café style setting in the City Library and discuss pertinent life and literary topics and make connections.
- **The result:** this initiative has attracted a wide variety of Cork's public. The use of the word **conversation** on the poster attracted people who felt lonely and isolated but did not want to join any target group like an active retirement group, but sought the conversation of all ages.
- Connections continue to be made, conversations flourish, inclusivity in its most natural form abounds.

No Silence in the Library Please!

- **The initiative** is the umbrella term we use for the innovations we have introduced in our service for **deaf and hearing impaired citizens**.
- **The aim** is to introduce simple changes making a library visit much easier for a deaf or hearing impaired person
- This included inviting Cork Deaf Association to audit and report on all our libraries
- **The result:** We introduced the changes they recommended such as
 - installation of a Loop System in each location
 - Use of Plain English on all posters and leaflets
 - Asking staff to wear staff badges so they are easily identified
 - Presence of a sign language interpreter at organised events
 - A signed story time monthly for both deaf children and those with full hearing so families can be catered for
 - Choral events with Cork Community Deaf Choir
 - Supporting ISL day by producing a book mark to raise awareness of same
 - A training day for staff dealing with issues encountered by deaf and hard of hearing patrons
 - Cork Deaf Association awarded Cork City Libraries with a Certificate of Best Practice.



Healthy Takeaway Sensory Book for Special Olympians and adults with intellectual disability.



- **The initiative** involves the creation of sensory tactile books based on the Special Olympics Ireland Health Toolkit.
- **The aim** is to make the contents of this hard copy tool kit also accessible to Special Olympians and adults with severe intellectual disability. The sensory books are created by the adults themselves in workshops held in our citywide network of libraries.
- **The result:** Cork City Libraries have subject appropriate tactile books in stock to offer Special Olympians and adults with severe intellectual disability that they may understand health issues and learn about them in a sensory way thus making the information accessible.
- This initiative is supported by Special Olympics Ireland and Healthy Ireland.