

# North Yorkshire Libraries

## Annual review 2024-2025



Literacy &  
Learning



Health &  
Wellbeing



Digital



Communities

# North Yorkshire Libraries 2024-2025

1,797,332 visits to our libraries



81,898 non-library enquiries

72,942 active users

1,556

volunteers



139,681

Volunteer  
hours

1,007

individuals  
received our  
Home Library  
Service  
deliveries



7,884

Summer  
Reading  
Challenge  
participants

1,662

under 5s  
joined our  
reading  
scheme

414,230 eBook & audio book loans



920,548 magazines & newspapers

1,986,378

items borrowed



4,153 helped with  
Household Support Fund

2,313 Blue Badge  
applications supported

£150,000 grant funding  
for our new Mobile Library

107,772 hours spent on library computers

23,084 assisted digital sessions

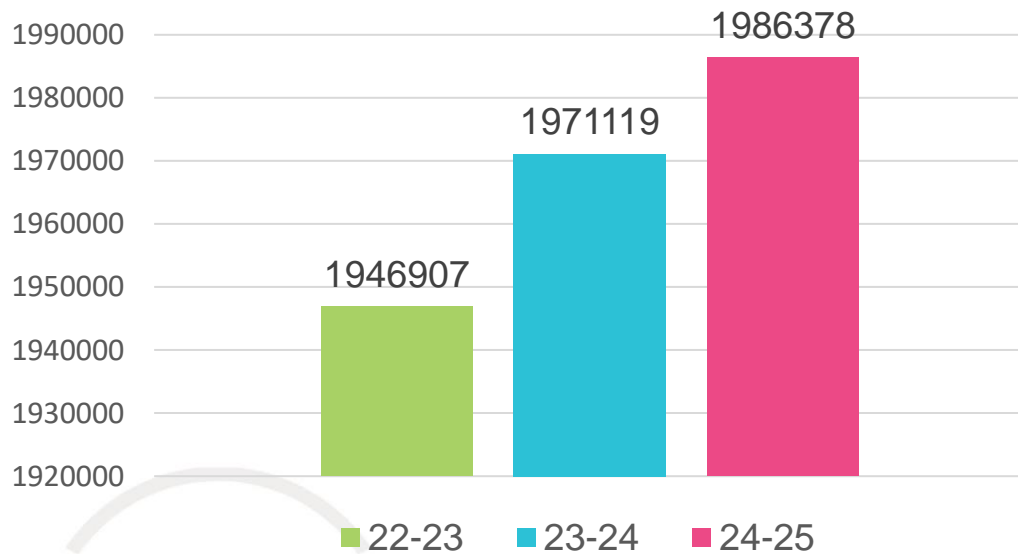


# How are we doing?

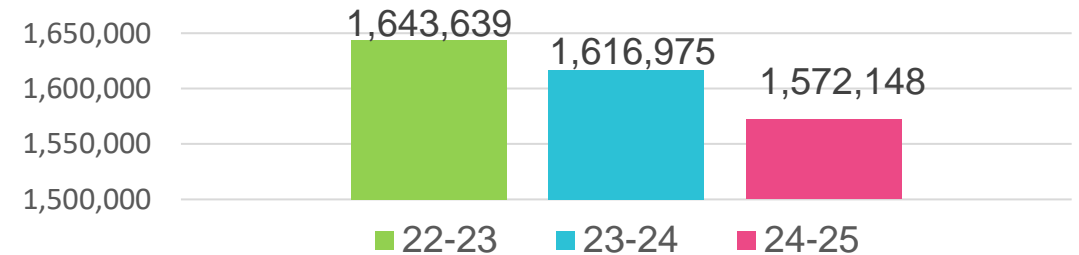
## Issues:

Stock issues continue to increase and last year reached almost 2 million. Whilst there has been a small drop in physical book issues from our libraries, but our digital offer (e-books and e-audiobooks) is performing strongly and now makes up a fifth of our overall issues.

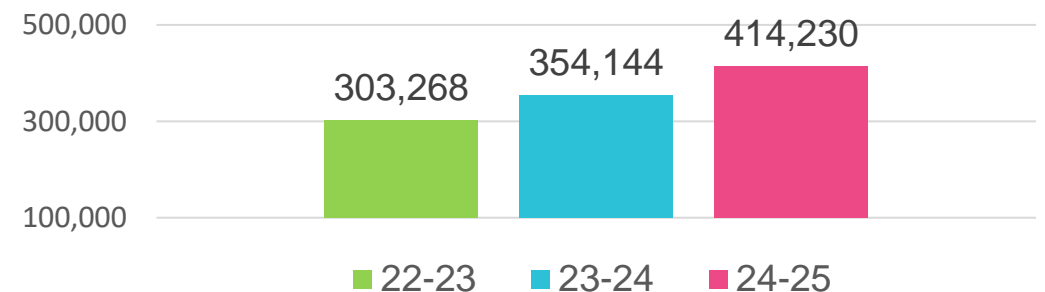
Combined physical and digital issues for books and audiobooks



Physical book issues



Digital Library issues



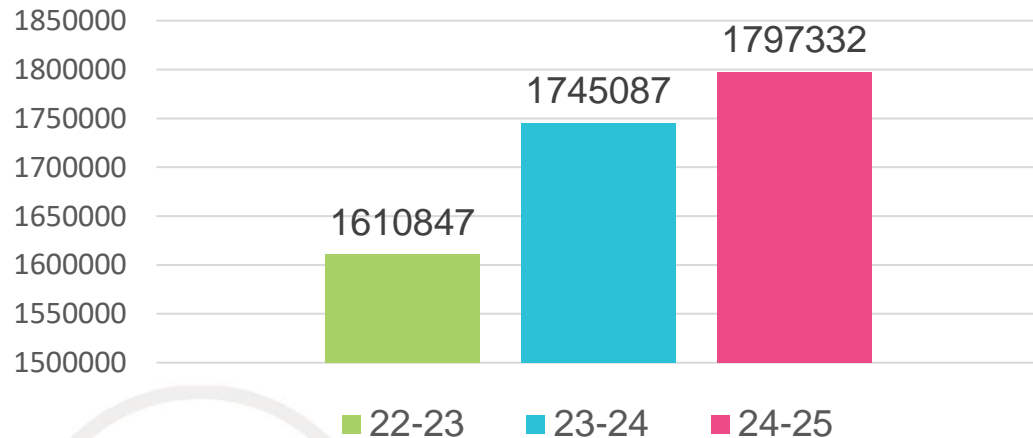
# How are we doing?

## Visits:

Libraries have evolved to be community spaces to socialise, work and study, connect and participate. 9,146 events were held last year bringing people through our doors.

Libraries are registered as Warm and Welcome spaces and host a range of partners who support the community with information, guidance and other community services.

Annual visits to our libraries

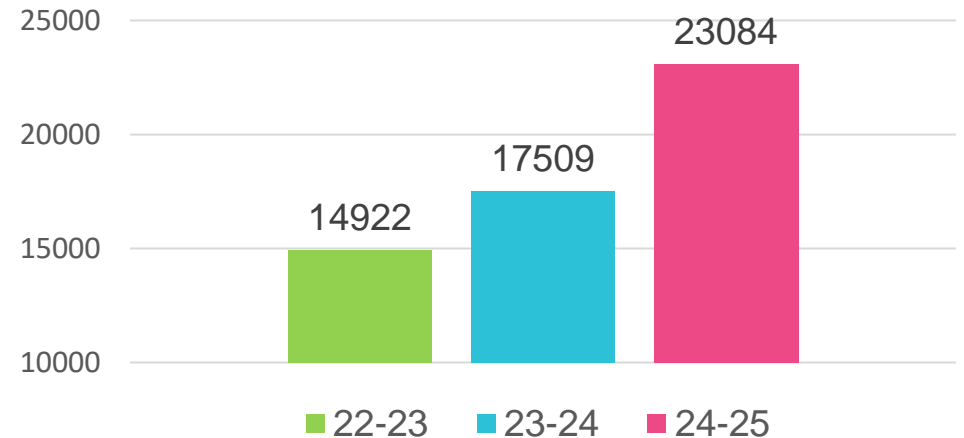


**11.6%**

## Assisted Digital:

The last three years have seen a significant uptake for this offer, which includes free one-to-one support to build digital literacy skills, and assistance accessing council services such as bus passes, blue badges and Household Support Fund vouchers as well as other online services.

Assisted digital sessions

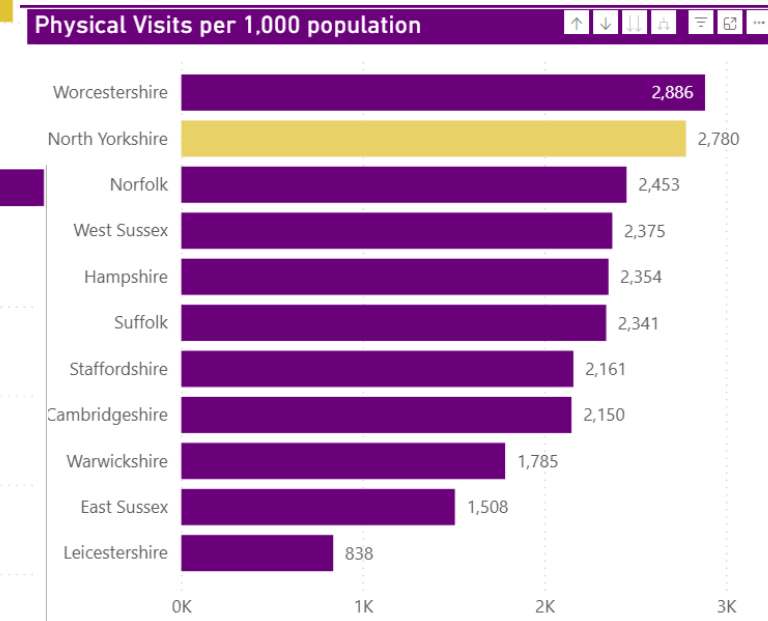
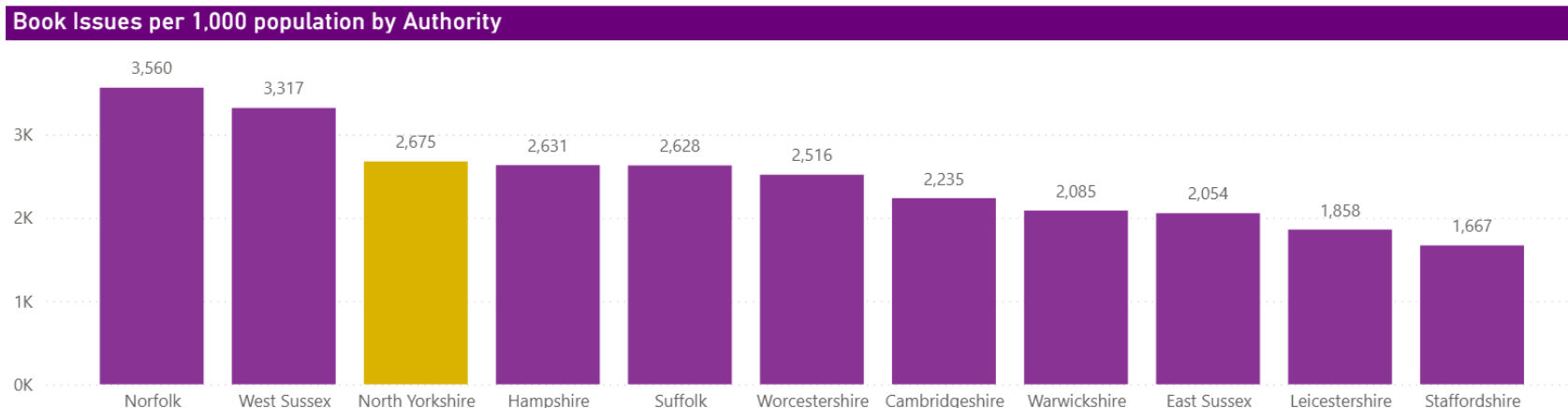
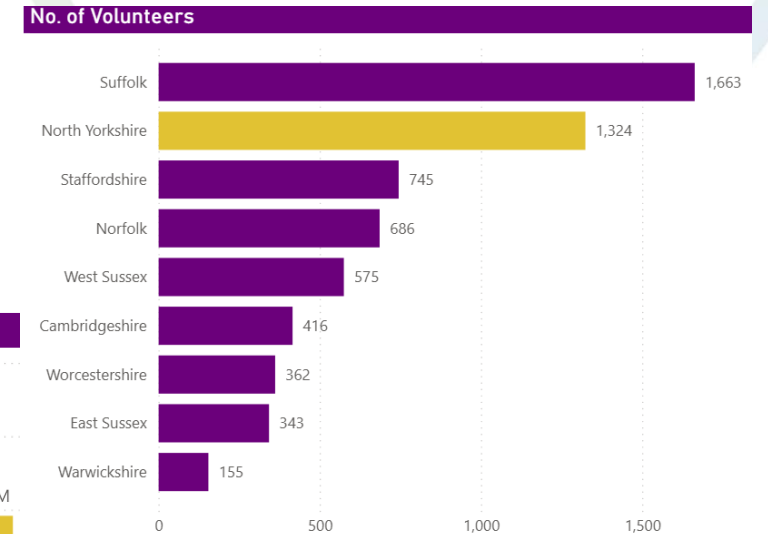
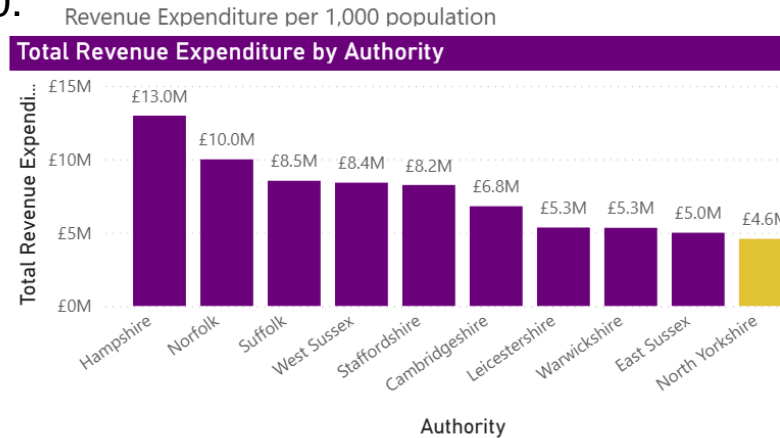


**54.7%**

# How do we compare to similarly sized rural authorities?

Our performance and expenditure compare favourably with our peer authorities and show us to be a high performing low-cost service. These statistics are taken from the latest CIPFA report 2023-2024 and show North Yorkshire Libraries to be the lowest cost of our peer authorities. The annual cost per head of the Library Service is around £7.60.

Despite the low expenditure, our book issues are the third highest and our physical issues are the second highest. Our number of volunteers is the second highest, reflecting our community library model.



## Literacy & Learning

**1,594** storytimes and **286** rhymetime sessions delivered supporting school readiness and family engagement.

**433** school visits connected children and young people with library resources and supported their learning.

**294** events engaged **6,211** children, including **10** led by young volunteers, as part of the Summer Reading Challenge.

**Over 400** books gifted via World Book Night through local partners including Skipton Food Bank and Scarborough MIND.

## Digital

**9** new IT volunteers recruited to offer digital support on the Mobile library, bringing IT support and access to some of our most rural communities.

**2,313** people supported to apply for a blue badge and **919** customers supported to apply for a bus pass.

**125,410** sessions on our public computers.

**23,084** assisted digital sessions delivered.

**414,230** eBooks/eAudio loaned.

## Health & Wellbeing

**Over 700** people attended events during Self-Care week ranging from breastfeeding support groups, to Parkinson's friendly chess sessions, to Dancing for Wellbeing.

**22** loanable and static blood pressure monitors launched in libraries across the county.

**3,644** families supported to access their Household Support Fund vouchers

**8,884** events across county supporting the wellbeing of our communities.

## Communities

**1,556** volunteers provided over **139,681** hours to support delivery of library services.

**9,146** events and activities were held in libraries last year, from storytimes and craft sessions to talks, coffee mornings and exhibitions.

**16** pop up archive and museum events across our libraries for Local and Community History Month attracting over **10,000** visitors.

Home Library volunteers delivered books to **1,007** customers.



Slime making during a Summer Reading Challenge event at Harrogate Library

## Literacy and Learning

Delivered a countywide Under 5s Week promotion and refreshed our Under 5s 'Buzzy Bees' scheme with a new look. Working with registrars, we joined 1,392 new babies to the library – an early step in fostering a lifelong love of books.

Gifted over 400 books to individuals who are hard to reach or experiencing disadvantage, through World Book Night partnerships with organisations such as Skipton Food Bank and Scarborough MIND.

Distributed 2,100 Bookstart free book packs to 3–4 year-olds in targeted settings, ensuring families most in need received quality books and resources to inspire reading.

Produced new guidance for staff and volunteers and delivered training to build confidence in engaging new readers.



Rhyme Time at Bentham Library



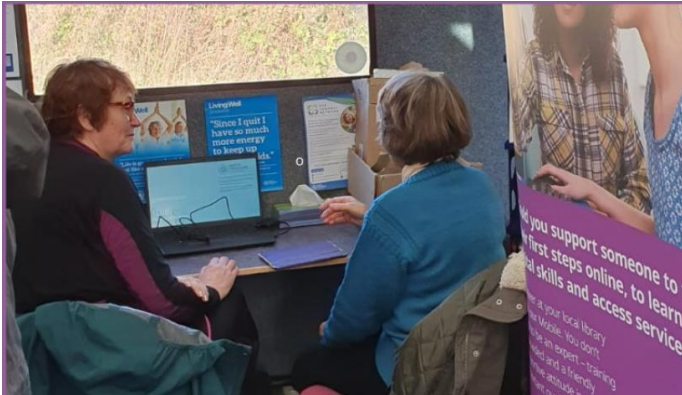
A collaborative event hosted by artist Paul Digby and poet Ian McMillan as part of the Time and Space exhibition at Selby Library



An author event with poet and comedian Kate Fox at Northallerton Library

# Digital

Utilised UKSPF funding to launch one to one digital support on our Mobile Library and to purchase 16 tablets for improved digital support across our main libraries. 77 people supported on our Mobile Library since the project launched.



One to one IT support delivered on our Mobile Library



A Lego coding session at Scarborough Library

Successfully bid for a grant-based project bringing STEM opportunities to our communities through LEGO Coding.

Promoted our free new service from the British Film Institute, offering access to high quality film archives at events such as Slipper Socials and through partnership working with Carers Plus and local museums.



Footage from Pickering Mobile library circa 2000 from the British Film Institute Replay service.



Relaunch of Wellbeing bags at Skipton Library

## Health and Wellbeing

Opened access to preventative healthcare by introducing 22 (loanable and static) blood pressure monitors to our libraries in partnership with Public Health.

Received £8,500 in funding to host 12 events gifting over 1000 pairs of slippers, supporting falls prevention. Events were attended by partners from North Yorkshire Fire Service, North Yorkshire Sport, colleagues from Culture and representatives from local organisations and charities.

Granted £3,600 from Libraries Connected to launch Unlocking Memories, a project bringing together carefully curated items to evoke memories and encourage conversation for people with memory loss.



Reading to Dogs supporting wellbeing and reading available at some libraries. Sam the Spaniel pictured here at Harrogate.



Young volunteers welcoming a Summer Reading Challenge participant.



Slipper Social at Northallerton Library

# Communities

Hosted the Black British Ballet at Scarborough Library as the first stage of a National Lottery Heritage Fund project with Libraries Connected and Oxygen Arts.



*A performance of Island Movements by the Black British Ballet at Scarborough Library*



*A Cultural Connections event at Scarborough featuring among others a Ukrainian choir, an Iraqi bagpipe player and a Syrian poet.*

Delivering a flourishing monthly Cultural Connections event; founded in Refugee Week, it brings together a diverse section of the community to celebrate with music and poetry.

*Now Then:* working in partnership with our Culture Team to deliver events as part of Selby Place.



*One of three miniature books on display at Selby Library as part of the Emergence commission taking inspiration from the local community and environment.*

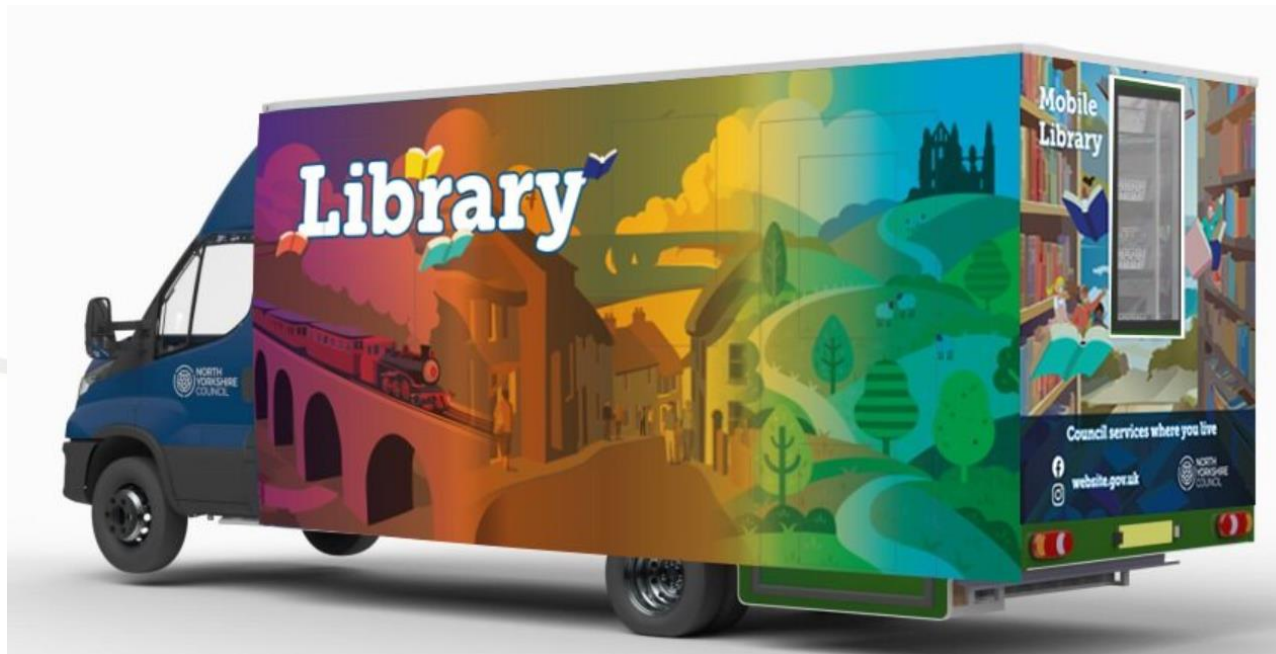
# We will continue to support the wider Council Plan 2025-29



- **Support thriving places and empowered communities that live, work, visit and do business in North Yorkshire** through our network of 43 libraries, including 31 run in partnership with local communities
- **Develop more sustainable and connected places across North Yorkshire** by supporting access to digital services and promoting digital inclusion
- **Ensure the people of North Yorkshire are safe, healthy and living well** by working with partners to provide support and information as well as spaces to meet
- **Maximise the potential of North Yorkshire's people and communities** by offering free access to books and learning opportunities to help with early speech and language development

## Looking forward.....

- Launch the new Mobile Library in 2025, visiting more communities and offering opportunities to access wider council services
- Support the National Year of Reading: 2026
- Library Strategy 2020-2030 mid-term review
- Support the development and rollout of Customer Access Points in Libraries



## Your library, your place 2020-2030

Libraries strategy  
2020-2030

