Academic Libraries NORTH

Mental Health and Well-being Advocacy Resource: Template

NORTH	
Name of the initiative Give a brief descriptive name for the activity or initiative you were involved in organising related to mental health and well-being	Leisure Reading Collection (And now a designated wellbeing collection)
Target group Was it aimed at all students or staff or a particular group?	This was mainly aimed at students, but our staff are also big fans of the collection
Description <i>Give a short description of what was involved in organizing</i> <i>the activity or initiative.</i>	In 2017 Salford launched its Leisure Reading Collection, started up with a £5000 fund for non- academic reading titles. We have subsequently spent approximately £1000 a year building up this collection, including as many wellbeing titles as possible. This includes books on prescription as well as self-help and fiction titles. We now have sufficient stock that we have been able to create a standalone Wellbeing Collection, that is located in our brand new Wellness Room in the library.
Partners Was this solely run by the library or were other stakeholders involved, and if so how? Were students involved in planning the session, if so, how?	This was solely run by the library, but we do take both staff and student requests on what titles to add to the collection.
Strategy How, if at all, was the activity linked into wider library or institutional strategy?	As well as aiding wellbeing, this was also done to try and encourage more students to read. Many studies point to more reading & library usage leading to higher attainment.
Evaluation <i>How, if at all, was the activity evaluated?</i>	Usage of the collection has been high, and we also continue to receive a large number of staff and student book requests for this collection
What worked Colleagues are looking for tips to help them run their events more effectively, what tips would you share to someone wanting to repeat what you have done? If applicable, please include how many people attended (if an event) or engaged (e.g. website clicks) or another appropriate measure for your initiative. Did this match expected engagement?	Having buy-in from managers was essential, as the initial setup required significant time away from everyday duties for a number of staff members. Having a designated fund also mean that every small purchase didn't need to be approved by different people.
What did not work What you would change if you were doing it again? Sharing what did not work can be as useful to help others as what did work.	Using non-collections staff to help with some acquisitions processes actually stalled the progress significantly, so I would suggest using acquisitions staff for any ordering/receipting wherever possible. We originally had a lot more people on the project team, and everybody wanted to recommend titles.

	Keeping the pool of staff picking/ordering small would help with this.
Photo Are there any photos you can share that give us a feel for the initiative?	Photos of the collection & wellness space included below.
Resources Is there a URL related to the initiative?	Leisure Collection, Wellbeing Collection, Article about Project / (on repository)

Your name, institution and contact details. Dean Brown, University of Salford, d.a.brown2@salford.ac.uk

Are you willing to share your contact details to other ALN staff so if they want to find out more they can contact you directly? YES



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