



Justice

Draft Culture (Scotland) Bill and Draft Guidance on Cultural Planning and Provision of Local Cultural Entitlements.

Dear Greig Chalmers, Head of Culture Bill Team,

As a representative of older people living in the Perth & Kinross Council area, and being particularly interested in the way education is orientated towards older people through the various Library Services, with the Local History Archives, and Museums, which I consider to be public culture, I would like to make a few observations regarding accessibility and value.

Libraries themselves are multi-functional and user friendly with staff who are friendly, co-operative, and knowledgeable, and are faced with the problem of providing a modern day service, while the public demand more facilities.

I would like to see either a electronic suggestion and satisfaction indicator where users of the services could indicate their preferences, or a small committee with representatives from the public who use the library.

I know that the search for knowledge is popular and many people use the warm, quiet, and increasingly more comfortable areas to study and browse.

One of the recent successes was the course set up to introduce older people to computers in easy stages, and I have been told many times of the new horizons which have been reached, and the sheer enjoyment of being able to send e-mails and source web-sites.

The education of children may be enhanced if there was a series of projects initiated through teachers and the library staff, introducing pupils to local history and archives material, on how people lived and worked in 1507, 1607, 1707, 1807, and 1907.

The fact that National Archives and the Archives which are the

responsibility of the local authority and therefore are further away from funding, means that this type of project lies dormant.

I would be the last person to restrict the necessary funding required by mainstream educational needs, but sometimes the wider less well known areas should be considered.

As always, more services come at a cost, and budgets tend to be tight, but education is important to all age groups, and must be a continuous process.



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