

Libraries Connected 9 principles for reopening libraries

<https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/news/safety-first-recovery-library-services>

- a. Staff, user and volunteer safety is paramount. All planning should be based on risk assessments, carried out with staff, unions and health and safety teams. It must take account of public health guidance and be frequently revisited as risks evolve.
- b. Re-opening will be a phased process based on risk management, availability of staff and resources, and local priorities of need.
- c. Vulnerable and disadvantaged users may not be able to physically access libraries while the pandemic remains, so thought should be given to meeting their needs through alternative arrangements.
- d. Planning should anticipate the need to withdraw or suspend services, should public health and government guidance require it, or if there is a shortage of staff and resources.
- e. The practicalities and priorities for reopening will differ for each library service, and careful planning is needed down to branch level.
- f. Planning should take into account preparation time for new procedures, spaces and workflows, and for staff training.
- g. Clear communication is essential to manage public expectations of the service and behaviour within the library buildings.
- h. The situation is changing fast and detailed advice will also change over time, so any plans should be flexible and take account of updated guidance and context. Once in delivery, revised arrangements should be reviewed regularly.
- i. Library buildings should reopen with the foundations to reshape into the form that best meets the future needs of society, and their communities, and learn from this period of enforced change without being limited by it