

Kilkenny County Council Library Service

Charter of Inclusion

We aim to provide an accessible library service for everyone in our local community. This charter helps us to be mindful of how we can promote autism awareness and autism acceptance in our libraries and wider communities.

Sensory Environment

Sensory boxes are available to use in each of our 8 library branches and mobile library which include a number of small calming toys.

Ear defenders are available for people with sound sensitivities to use whilst visiting the branches to improve their sensory experience. We also have sound reducing defenders and Lulls, which have white noise and relaxing music pre-loaded for listening.

We will be mindful of best practice regarding guidance around sensory-friendly buildings when developing new library buildings i.e. our new City Library.

Communication

All staff have been trained in “Autism Understanding and Awareness”.

We will review our website to ensure that the language used is clear.

We will commit to ensuring our library signage is clear and accessible

Predictability & Control

An online visual guide will be available for each library is available both online and at your local library.

We commit to providing online short clips of sounds /noises that a service user may encounter so that people can familiarise themselves with the aural sensory environment prior to their visit.

Judgement and Attitude

We have recently invested in a new specialist sensory-friendly book collection and a new Toy & Sensory Resource collection.

We will continue to invest in these collections and will continue to engage with partner schools/interested parties to promote these collections.

We will continue our programme development to include specialist events/talks to support people with autism/their families/teachers.