

Learning and Outreach Policy

Hull History Centre is a partnership between Hull City Council and the University of Hull. The City Council's obligations to the partnership are administered and delivered on its behalf by Hull Culture & Leisure Ltd a wholly owned Hull City Council company. The partners aim to provide a seamless service to stakeholders and the following should therefore be read as applying to both partners unless otherwise stated.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the History Centre's Forward Plan and Access Policy.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This policy demonstrates how the Centre uses learning and outreach opportunities to engage with existing users and potential audiences.
- 1.2 This policy details how we can enable learning through the promotion and use of the Centre's archives, special collections, and local and family history material both on and off site.
- 1.3 Learning can be achieved formally or informally and can be directed or self-directed. The work of the Centre will encourage learning in all its forms regardless of age or ability.
- 1.4 Outreach activities which promote the work of the Centre to external audiences include but are not limited to talks, exhibitions, use of social media platforms, workshops, and community partnerships.
- 1.5 Through this policy the Hull History Centre can fulfil its vision:
to make history available for all, for research, for learning and for leisure and to inspire interest in the City of Hull, its significant past, present and future.

2. Aims and Objectives

2.1 We aim to:

- a) provide access to the collections and professional advice on their use.
- b) promote the use of our local history and archival collections to inspire interest in the history of the City of Hull and its people.
- c) promote the use of our nationally and internationally important archival collections to support research and learning.
- d) engage people in inspiring educational experiences, helping to raise educational

aspirations and attainment, foster lifelong learning and develop skills.

- e) raise public understanding of the importance of archives.
- f) improve access to the collections through the creation and use of both published material and online guides, catalogues, and images.
- g) develop partnerships which enhance the implementation of our aims and objectives.
- h) attract potential users and broaden our user base.

2.2 Our objectives are to:

- a) create a friendly welcoming environment for users of all backgrounds, ages, and abilities.
- b) create resources that support skills development and aid discovery of collections.
- c) provide hard copy and digital catalogues which are user friendly and easy to access.
- d) provide support and guidance for formal and informal learning activities to those working in the local education sector, and to partners working within HCAL and the University of Hull.
- e) offer voluntary experience to young people, the public, and University of Hull students and alumni.
- f) offer informal activities and events aimed at children and families based around our collections.
- g) host externally curated or mount our own exhibitions to promote our collections and the work of the Centre.

3. Method of Delivery

We will deliver our objectives by:

- a) seeking opportunities to improve our front of house and enquiry services.
- b) continuing to provide regular updates for our website to promote collections, events, and activities.
- c) using social media to promote events, activities, and the work of the Centre.
- d) continuing to organise the monthly *Lunchtime Club* series of talks and other opportunities aimed at adult learners.
- e) offering children's and families' craft and other related activities.
- f) developing and running volunteer programmes.
- g) developing external partnerships to deliver events and activities.
- h) working with schools to deliver learning activities. working with the Hull City Council to provide work experience opportunities to young people.
- i) working with local and family history societies and other local community groups to put on regular activities and exhibitions.
- j) working in partnership with academics at the University of Hull to develop outreach and engagement opportunities.



4. Equality and Diversity

In delivering learning and outreach activities, the Hull History Centre is aware of the need to consider the diverse nature of our current and potential audiences, and to cater for these differences to ensure equality of service provision for all users. We seek to do this by:

- a) Using software tools to monitor and improve the accessibility of all resources produced, in both printed and digital formats.
- b) Consulting education specialists with the University of Hull and HCAL when developing resources and activities to ensure different learning styles are catered for.

5. Evaluation

The History Centre's learning and outreach activities will be evaluated by:

- a) recording numbers attending school visits/workshops/activities.
- b) evaluating the success of visits/workshops/activities by questionnaire or informal feedback
- c) collecting data on social media usage.
- d) recording feedback in hard copy or digitally.
- e) by monitoring information collated by the ARA National Surveys Group (formerly the *Public Service Quality Group*), SCONUL and The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) returns.

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Last updated October 2024

To be reviewed October 2026