

# Libraries are... teaching people basic skills

RESULTS FROM  
LOFE-FUNDED  
LIBRARY PROJECTS

LIBRARIES  
OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR  
EVERYONE

INNOVATION FUND

## Libraries

→ helped people to improve their digital skills so they can look for work, access services and apply for jobs online

“It’s helping with my job searching which pleases the Jobcentre. [...] I am now able to spot the word ‘cleaner’ and if there is a phone number I can call them to ask about the job. I couldn’t have done this on my own before.”

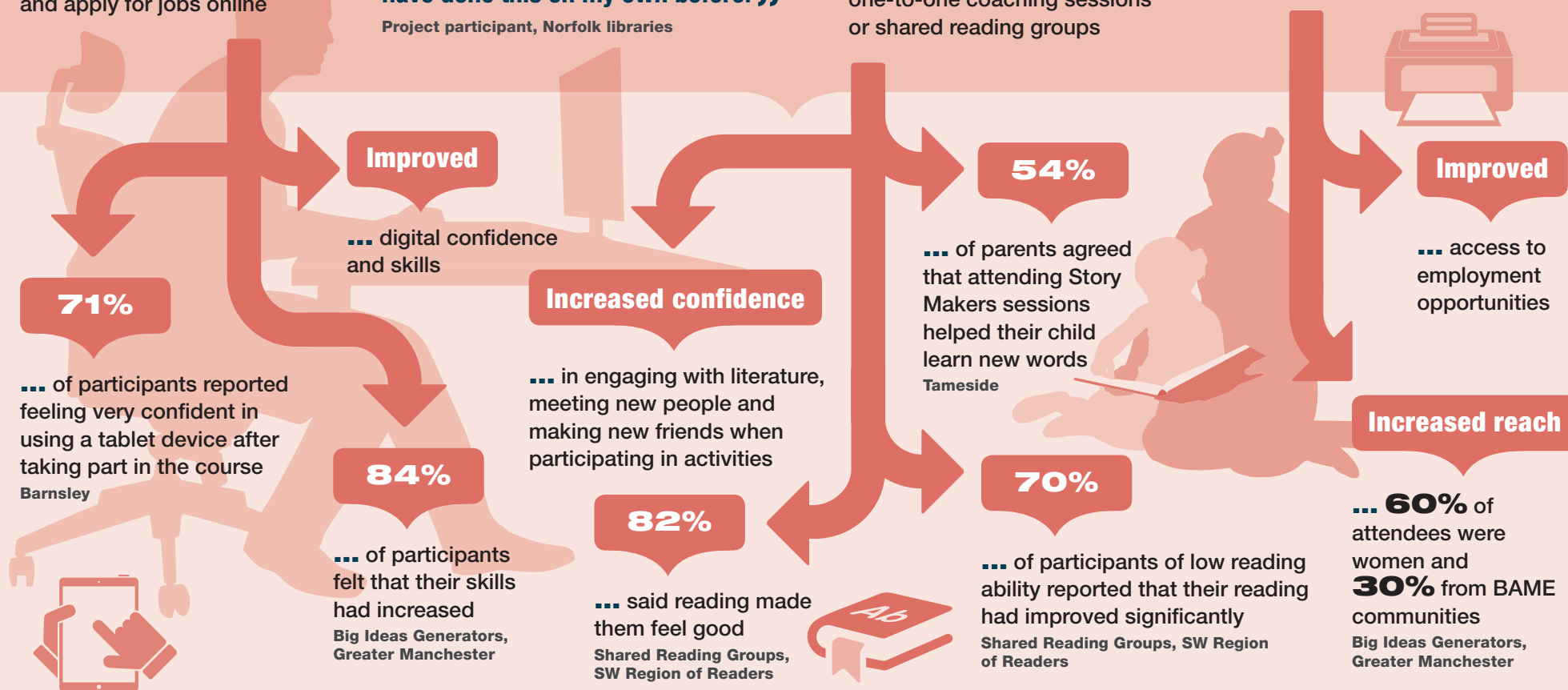
Project participant, Norfolk libraries

## Libraries

→ developed reading skills in one-to-one coaching sessions or shared reading groups

## Libraries

→ provided advice, support and access to tools for people starting and running a business



# Libraries are... helping people explore things in different and creative ways

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## Libraries

→ created gaming hubs teaching young people to create games using specific software



## Libraries

→ created dedicated arts spaces to exhibit participants' work



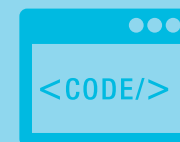
## Libraries

→ ran arts based activities and workshops on creative writing, photography, drama and poetry



## Libraries

→ developed skills in art, design, photography and music, as well as coding



## Libraries

→ ran projects focussed on local history and civic engagement through a creative exploration of the local area



## We saw results in

... increased engagement with creative and cultural activities

83%

... of participants said that they had more confidence after taking part in the project  
Middlesbrough

Almost 100%

... of participants with special educational needs or learning disabilities fed back that they had enjoyed looking at and reading the books as part of the Books Beyond Words reading groups

Harrow

67%

... of participants reported feeling a stronger connection with their local community than before  
Middlesbrough

“Storysmash helped me find my love for coding again and it's definitely helped me be more social, even if it was daunting at first.”

Nottingham

## Sense of place

Participants reported a greater appreciation for their local area  
Lewisham



# Libraries are... designing spaces and schemes for people to be creative and try new things

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## Libraries

→ created inclusive spaces which support people with special educational needs or learning disability

## Libraries

→ co-designed spaces and co-produced activities with communities

## Libraries

→ provided access to a range of technologies and training, such as digital photography, coding, animation, robotics and iPad loan schemes

### Accessible

... activities were provided, which helped these participants overcome the perception that they would not be welcome in libraries

**30% increase**

... in first time engagement with creative and arts activities by participants  
Tameside

### Audiences

This developed new audiences for the library and people were encouraged to visit more

### Sense of ownership

the community developed a sense of ownership over the new spaces and activities

**71%**

... of participants felt that having access to this technology had been beneficial to their wellbeing  
Barnsley

**67%**

... of participants reported that they had increased skills as a result of taking part in the project  
Merton

“I want to become a computer expert.”

Participant in Kent's Digital Dens

“I want to tell people about coding and how fun it is.”

Participant in Kent's Digital Dens

# Libraries are... helping people to live healthier and happier lives

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“It has been the best thing I have done for my mental health and confidence.”

Project participant,  
Bournemouth

## Libraries

→ ran activities which increased social contact and built connections between people working together



## Libraries

→ created wellbeing boxes which helped increase people's knowledge on how to support their own and their families' wellbeing



## Libraries

→ worked with communities and partners to design spaces that support health and wellbeing



### Provided people

... with a space to meet and spend time with others

95%

... of participants strongly agreed or agreed that the project had increased their wellbeing  
Sandwell

### Reduced social isolation

... by providing opportunities to meet new people from the local area

84%

... of participants said that the project had enabled them to improve contact with friends and family  
Hampshire

“I have a reason to leave the house.”

Project participant,  
Bournemouth



93%

... of self-reflection sheets showed that the co-production sessions improved participants' knowledge on how to support child development  
Staffordshire

### Helped

... health providers better engage with customers



“I'm more mindful to [take] a few minutes of quiet to listen to my child playing. [...] I don't need to control the situation, just enjoy the process with her.”

Staffordshire

