

## 3.1 Detailed proposals for activities and volunteering

### Introduction

Our strengths are our collections, the information we know about them, and our unique skills. We will work with our communities and partners so that these are shared and enjoyed wherever this works for our audiences. These activities will make 'easy access to histories' possible. We have detailed here what we have developed and what has inspired and informed the activities. The action plan should be referred to for information about audiences, outcomes, timetabling and measures of success.

Our Learning Officers will play an important role in promoting these activities through interactions with the teacher networks based around local libraries, the Local Cultural Education Partnership, the Heritage Learning Network, Education Library Service, as well as at conferences and through social media.

### Collections

#### C1. Improve collections information

Audiences have told us that we fall short on the kind of immediate access that users, particularly digital natives, expect when they search online. Currently they must search multiple locations, searching the catalogue requires an understanding of how an archive catalogue works and they must know what they are looking for. Collections information is not visible to search engines, connections are not made, and serendipity does not happen. Our Interpretation Plan will deliver a seamless search of disparate collections information and digital assets, with a generous search interface that will allow subjective and personalised discovery (OPUS). This has been tested at development stage. To deliver this step change in accessibility we need more and improved collections information, indexing and metadata. We will plan and carry out catalogue improvements and this will include additional cataloguing, geolocating, metadata development and catalogue improvements. This links to activities as part of the volunteer programme (V2-V3). (Collections information improvement planning is carried out by the service for other reasons so also appears as part of action planning in the Conservation Plan.)

#### C2. How to guides for people new to archives

We will develop and test the content of a suite of guides to the collections that are most used by our audiences. We have learnt that different audiences, depending on where they are accessing information, need guidance in different ways. Our Interpretation Plan proposes to deliver digital guides online and onsite to answer the question 'How can I use the archive?'. We will identify, test, and develop content for the guides. We will create accompanying paper check list guides for searchroom visitors to use. We will adapt some guides for diverse audiences, for example, as family history detective worksheets for children and drawing on our experience working with the Learning Disability heritage project All Our Stories. The guides will be complemented by digital Searchroom Stories that will highlight what other users have achieved using our collections (PA4).

### Events

#### E1. Programme of talks and events at Crewe history centre

We will host regular presentations on themes inspired by our collections at Crewe history centre. We will develop the programme in discussion with researchers, enabling them to present their work, as well as with nearby community and voluntary groups, such as local history associations, family history societies and YMCA Crewe. We will ensure that regular programming is reflective of community interests. External speakers will be offered a fee for their contributions. Talks and events can be live in one centre and streamed to the other.

We will also ensure that programming considers local ongoing events and activities, coordinating with bodies such as the Crewe Cultural Forum, National Allotment Association, Crewe Town Council and with input from the Community Advisory Group (AG1) and Youth Panel (AG3). We will also build our relationships with local heritage producers, such as Squeaky Pedal, and show their productions as well as films through our partnership with the North West Film Archive. Vision Support Network have contacts with people involved in previous heritage displays on history of blind communities in Cheshire East and are happy to facilitate their participation in planning public-facing events.

#### E2. Programme of talks and events at Chester history centre

We will host regular presentations on themes inspired by our collections at Chester history centre. The programme will be developed through discussions with researchers, enabling them to present their work, as well as through continued discussion with nearby community and voluntary groups, local history associations, family history societies, CHAWREC and the University of Chester, ensuring that regular programming is reflective of community interests. We will also base these regular activities on input from the Community Advisory Group (AG1) and Youth Panel (AG3). External speakers will be offered a fee for their contributions. Talks and events can be live in one centre and streamed to the other.

We will also ensure that programming considers local ongoing events and activities, coordinating activities with West Cheshire Museums, Chester Heritage Festival, Chester Civic Trust, National Allotment Association and alongside producers such as the Hamilton Project, programmers for the upcoming Chester Biennial. We will ensure that joint programmes of lectures and film showings can be complementary, attracting visitors for themed heritage days. We will organise film showings through our partnership with the North West Film Archive.

### New staff posts

#### S1-S4. Recruit new post holders

We will draw up job descriptions and advertisements for each of the new posts: two Community Engagement Officers (CEO); Collections Information Improvement Officer (CIIO); Learning Officer (LO) and Volunteer Officer (VO).

#### S5. Recruit volunteer roles

We will review the role descriptions for each type of volunteer role: Collection Volunteers (CV); Short-term Project Volunteers (PV); Enabler Volunteers (EV) and Family History Volunteers (FHV).

### Talks and courses

#### T1. Introducing Archives - activities, talks and short courses in local venues for people new to archives

We will offer a range of introductory workshops on popular topics, such as researching your house history, family history or local area, and collections care with our conservators. These will rotate between the Crewe and Chester history centres incorporating behind the scenes tours, and other venues. Some will be programmed as 'lates' sessions. Where these are held on-site, we will record presentations so that they can be shared with organisations requesting further information for their members, with the option of an online interactive question and answer session held afterwards.

#### T2. Introducing Archives – training for library staff

We will develop courses and training modules to increase knowledge of archives and research skills for library staff. Library staff require regular awareness training to help them answer customer enquiries and understand our local studies collections held with them. We will improve the four pilot training modules we have developed based on feedback from the staff survey and create four new modules responding to their needs, particularly in relation to the new archives offer. Library management have confirmed that all library staff will be expected to complete this training, as will new members of staff as part of their induction. This will enable them to learn new skills and acquire the necessary knowledge to carry out their job roles and be advocates for our service.

#### T3. Introducing Archives – new audiences from underrepresented groups

We will programme sessions with groups from organisations representing communities with protected characteristics. We will introduce our service and the types of research that can be done using our collections, and we can offer histories of Cheshire for those less familiar with the region's past. We can also introduce documents and collections which reflect marginalised communities' experiences locally. These will be based at community and outreach centres operated by organisations we have spoken with during the development stage, and those recommended by members of our advisory groups.

## The Big Four: year-long projects rooted in place

### F1. Navigating the River Weaver

A three-metre-long plan of the River Weaver dating from 1720 was celebrated as part of 100 Archives North in 2018. Constructing the Weaver Navigation allowed salt to be transported from the heart of Cheshire to Lancashire, Liverpool, and global markets. The river's industrial, boatbuilding and trading history is well documented in our collections, but part of the story is missing. We don't have evidence of how local communities have experienced the river in the last five decades, now that it is transformed by leisure, pleasure, environmental and natural habitat conservation as well as its industrial past.

Working with organisations connected to leisure on the River Weaver we will collect spoken memories and the sounds of people's experiences of using the river. We will work with Mako Create to run a series of workshops with young people to use the collected memories, existing oral history recordings on the industrial history of the river, and archive documents, to develop a series of animations over ten workshops. Young people will work on different elements of the animation, with Mako Create drawing them together into a final video. These workshops will offer young people the opportunity to gain an Arts Award Explore accreditation. The young people will be recruited through engagement with colleges and youth sections or participants in community leisure organisations.

We will host an event to showcase the final production and run an exhibition of archive collections and the spoken memories that inspired the young creators.

### F2. Journeying to Cheshire

This project will build on the legacy of the Journeys to Cheshire oral history project using new oral history recordings with newly emerging migrant communities, Gypsy, Romani, Traveller (GRT) communities, and original participants from the 2011 Journeys to Cheshire project. The aim is to document changes in social attitudes and policies, and their impact on lived experiences locally. We will run a complementary appeal for materials, images, and documents which can augment the oral history collection.

CHAWREC (Cheshire Halton and Warrington Race Equality Centre) and Equality and Diversity teams from Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester local authorities will engage communities and recruit participants. Extracts from the final recordings will be made available online and images and documents collected through collections appeals will be used as part of a public display hosted at the Unity Centre at the end of the project year, which can later feature at both history centres.

At the same time, we will work with Filament to develop a series of three workshops with a group of young refugees and migrants, with the aim of developing recordings in which they are able to speak about their own experiences since arriving in Cheshire. Extracts from these recordings will be made available using 'The Exchange' – a replica telephone exchange, that can tour. These will be less formal than oral histories, but by running them concurrently with Unity Centre workshops we can ensure that people who have childcare responsibilities will have activities that their children can engage in, and that we hear from young people whose experience was not captured in earlier projects.

### F3. Beating the Bounds

We will use collections that record changing land use, biodiversity, and local common land rights to inspire celebrations of community uses of space and climate emergency actions. Passing on local knowledge by perambulating parish boundaries that are captured on tithe maps and described in manor court records became 'beating the bounds' ceremonies in some places. Our Local Studies collections capture some of them in early photographs. Our collections demonstrate Cheshire's tradition of naturalist and ornithological society recording, and as the home of notable artists and illustrators of the natural world such as Charles Tunnicliffe.

We will work with Wild Rumpus, who produce large scale outdoor events linked to the natural landscape, to organise a flagship 'beating the bounds' ceremony in Crewe. We will develop packs so that local community groups, already part of the network, can replicate elements of this ceremony based on their local area. Historic common land rights will be used to inspire the development of small-scale environmentally friendly local projects, based on sharing resources with a social purpose, for example, a shared herb garden or composting site.

Our historic tithe maps online site will be used to plot plans, events, and ceremonies, promoting and marking the legacy of the project.

### F4. Finding Refuge

Cheshire built a second county asylum at Macclesfield that opened in 1870. The records of the Parkside Asylum are complete and comprehensive and include detailed patient case notes with photographs. A remote volunteering project is working to index nineteenth century biographical, diagnosis and treatment information. Parkside was a modern forward-looking asylum, but new indexing is revealing difficult stories about women's mental health in the past. Barnaby Festival is a biennial arts festival in Macclesfield with the aims of celebrating its heritage in new, brave, and sometimes difficult ways and encouraging collaborative arts practice.

We will work with Barnaby Festival to meet young women who have experienced mental health difficulties and use records of women in the asylum and support from experienced performers to reflect on shared experiences.

We will work with LUNG theatre to organise a series of ten workshops in which participants will come to know the historic patients with the help of an archivist. Working with experienced practitioners, they will develop narrative scripts about what has changed, what has stayed the same, and what they hope the world could understand about their own experiences.

These narratives will be performed by the LUNG actors, recorded and displayed both at the Barnaby Festival and at the history centres.

## Outreach and participation

### O1. Living Memory

Our collections significance statement recognises weaknesses in our collections representing the post-war period, social history, and voices that are not often heard within the archive. We have also experienced increasing calls for capturing experiences informally and that tangible and intangible heritage is at risk of being lost if not collected quickly, on the closure of businesses for example. We have already piloted this activity by collecting people's memories of the Browns of Chester store, the department store that closed after over 200 years trading when Debenhams ceased trading. Our pilot project received a positive public response with over 30 memories submitted over the course of a day-long event at Chester Market. We successfully used pre-existing collections to prompt conversations and learnt that we needed to combine this with social media campaigns to encourage the submission of further memories from individuals not able to attend in person.

A programme of similar living memory campaigns will incorporate both online appeals and physical events aimed at gathering participants' reflections that can be written or spoken, on recent events, changes in their lifetimes, or their experiences of local reactions to global events, such as the Covid-19 pandemic. We will develop the skills and procedure needed to respond quickly to future active collecting demands and will have acquired collections we need to represent events and change in living memory at the history centres.

### O2. Taking Place

We will pop-up with presentations and displays in places such as markets, pubs and shops drawing on collections related to local social and commercial history. We will prepare visually engaging displays using our local newspaper and local image collections for advertisements and street scenes, and present local people stories to encourage curiosity. We will encourage discussion and answer questions, suggesting where further exploration might lead. Vivo has said that this would be of interest to their service users with Learning Disabilities, so potential to host pop-ups in day centres.

### O3. Memory Sharing

We will use the experience of our two reminiscence pilot activities to develop new reminiscence resources and support partner organisations to use them in memory sharing activities. We will build upon existing relationships with voluntary and community groups and seek to establish new partnerships within health and care networks. We will create multimedia packs containing images, maps or town plans, film clips and sound archives relating to themes and places within Cheshire.

We will use them in an interactive pop-up room with museum objects to create an immersive experience for older adults at venues such as community spaces, libraries, and in the history centres.

### O4. ESOL and BSL resource packs

We will support the work of organisations that lead classes in English for Speakers of Other Languages, such as Chester Halton and Warrington Racial Equality Centre (CHAWREC) and British Sign Language, such as the Deafness Support Network, through providing documents related to local heritage content, which can be used as part of reading exercises and structured discussions. We will select collections and content based on participants' interests, and make original documents available for in person sessions, or copies for use elsewhere.

### O5. GEMS with the community

We will pop-up with presentations and displays in places such as markets. GEMS has been developed as part of interpretation planning (IP 4.1) to increase appreciation and awareness of the archive amongst the residents of Cheshire by enabling local subjective storytelling through digital archive items. We need help choosing 100 items for each township with a population over five thousand that will be elevated to 'GEMS' status. We will identify items from our collections that mean the most to that community and tell their unique story by working with representatives on the ground in each township drawn from, for example, local history societies, parish councils and local community groups. The development stage has helped us establish guidelines for selection and understand the content that offers the best experience. GEMS items will then be digitised and information about them will be developed so that the digital platform can make the most connections and tell the best stories. (See also V3).

### O6. Talking Tours

Significant oral history collections from the early 1980s for Chester and Macclesfield have been newly digitised as part of the Unlocking Our Sound Heritage project. We will make extracts available as self-directed walking tours, linking evocative human voice recordings with the sites and places that they relate to. A Talking Tour has already been tested. In late spring 2021 we created a park and River Dee tour for Chester, and trialled available platforms and formats.

We will promote the tours as part of heritage and creative festivals, for example, Chester Heritage Festival, Heritage Open Days and Barnaby Festival. They will be available with maps and historic images, online or with physical maps available to download and print or collect locally.

The Talking Tours have already been tested. In late spring 2021 we trialled one of four potential Chester tours using our newly digitised oral history collection

identified as significant as part of the British Library's Unlocking Our Sound National Lottery Heritage Fund project. A comparable Macclesfield oral history project is currently being digitised as part of the same project.

Deafness Support Network have offered advice and have stated that they can continue to do so on how to make these accessible to people with hearing impairments.

### O7. Food storytelling events and activities linked to Lache Larder and Hoole Young Chefs

Our collections include manuscript recipe and remedy books from the sixteenth century onwards, one includes the first known recipe for marmalade in English from 1677. Our rare books collection includes early editions of Gerard's Herbal of 1597 and Elizabeth Raffald's Experienced English Housekeeper from 1769, both with Cheshire connections. One of our significant business collections includes the recipe books distributed with New World Radiation Cookers with their innovative regulo gas temperature control. We have celebrated Cheshire cheese and our culinary collections on social media and at small scale events and realised the potential. Cooking historic recipes not only brings the archives back to life in a tangible way, but historic ingredients, pickling and preserving have a lot to tell us about food miles, food waste, local supply and seasonality.

We have piloted an online event led by theatre chef Leo Burtin where the focus is on shared eating and cooking as performance. We will continue to run these as paid events, online and in-person in response to feedback from participants.

We will expand this model to free community-focused cooking events, working with groups such Hoole Young Chefs and the Lache Larder, sharing cooking and healthy eating skills along with the background to the recipes handed down through generations in our collections.

Chester and Crewe markets, both developing as 'foodie' destinations have both expressed an interest in our proposal to run a heritage bake-off. Stallholders will be asked to create their own twist on a local historic recipe from the archives in a competition judged by the public.

### O8. Family activities delivered by archive staff in off-site locations

We will deliver off-site events for families, held in local libraries, with heritage partners, and at local festivals. We will make use of in-house knowledge to organise participatory craft sessions based on our collections and skills. Examples of activities include 'Write like a Tudor' with original iron gall ink and quills, designing coats of arms, kirigami (paper-folding) and simple bookbinding.

We will move half of these sessions into the history centres when the buildings open, encouraging local visitors to see the archives as a welcoming space for all age-groups.

## Participatory Activities

### PA1. Community projects with Lead Artists

We will appoint a creative practitioner to develop artistic interventions with members of the community using the archive collections as inspiration. These interventions and the archives used as inspiration will be relevant to the local heritage of each history centre. The focus will be on active community engagement with new and local audiences and local colleges. The appointed artist will work alongside the Activity Planning Consultant and the Design Team to conduct community engagement, consultation and research. Students will gain experience and insight into the work of professional creative practitioners. The artist will consider place, the people who use the space and the surrounding environment to explore and reveal layers of Cheshire's history and narratives while developing design concepts and proposals. We will ask them to take into consideration

- The range of collections
- The importance and relevance of the archive collections to Cheshire communities and within a national context
- How the physical infrastructure can reflect the intent and vision of the archives service
- Curiosity – creating a place that encourages exploration of the histories and stories held in the archives
- Creating a place that allows access to the collections, welcomes and invites

### PA2. Installation of Lead Artist community project artistic interventions

Narrative to be written following further development

### PA3. Performance inspired by the collections

We will work with local theatrical and musical organisations to promote interest in, and engagement with, both existing key collections and living memory projects. Our collections include sheet music, programmes and posters, photographs, recordings, and memoirs. We will develop collections with Minerva Arts based around the history of local music scenes and memories of attending local gigs. Clonter Opera will use our workhouse collections to inspire participatory performances developed with local schools.

We will make our resources and space available to local creative groups and practitioners who want to develop place and heritage-linked content, such as Lyceum Theatre Youth Groups, and the Dope Boys Dance Crew (Crewe) and Minerva Arts, Action Transport Theatre, and Storyhouse youth groups (Chester).

Performances will be held on-site, making use of the stage space with complementary displays using original documents, or off-site in spaces such as Chester Bandstand and Lyceum Square in Crewe.

### PA4. Searchroom Stories

We have previously produced and published Searchroom Stories, short text-based interviews with searchroom users, on our Instagram page in celebration of Explore Your Archive week. Feedback from the how-to guide focus group participants suggested that users would be interested in seeing digital films showing how our collections can be used to aid research. The videos will be created as envisaged by the cross-cutting case studies in the Interpretation Plan. We will develop the content with participants who may be past or current searchroom users, volunteers, and social media followers. Searchroom Stories will work alongside the new paper how-to guide resources to inspire and support people new to archives. centres.

### PA5. Hidden Histories

We have successfully presented online Hidden Histories exhibitions promoted during LGBT+ and Black History months. We will curate content for a touring Hidden Histories exhibition. We already hold 52 Journeys to Cheshire recordings and 13 Body Positive Prejudice to Pride project recordings, and the All Our Stories learning disability heritage project will shortly deposit oral histories with us. We will share the spoken stories of underrepresented groups in Cheshire, including people with learning disabilities, older people, and people from ethnic minority and LGBT+ communities. This activity will involve working alongside project partners Cine Window in Winsford and co-curating stories with the communities.

## Advisory Groups

### AG1. Community Advisory Group

Each history centre will have its own Community Advisory Group offering input and feedback on the archives project and future programming and activities.

These advisory groups will be organised and attended by senior archives staff alongside the Community Engagement Officers and Learning Officer. They will include representatives from support and advocacy groups for marginalised communities, local authority arts and heritage bodies, community history organisations, educational institutions, local businesses and voluntary groups.

Their remit will be to provide advice on the accessibility and representation of marginalised groups within the service's work and activities, offer input on educational programmes, public-facing events, and exhibitions to ensure that they are reflective of local community interests. By inviting representatives from other local authority services, we will also be able to make sure that activities and public-facing programmes are complementary to wider city- and borough-wide initiatives on for example, environmental sustainability and public health.

These advisory groups will begin to meet in advance of the construction of the history centres, ensuring continuous input into the project. Attendees from voluntary and community organisations will be remunerated for their time.

Disability Positive have offered support in advertising for participation in the advisory board amongst people with lived experience of disability, and have indicated that they can offer advice on ensuring that meetings are accessible for people with specific access requirements.

### AG2. Digital Advisory Panel

Our digital strategy and project development have reinforced our commitment to embedding a digital approach that is bold, well-crafted, audience-led, flexible and sustainable. We will assemble a Digital Advisory Group with a complementary range of expertise, experience and knowledge from the digital and digital creative sectors. The group can include members from the private and public sectors, at the Crewe centre our closest neighbour is Christ Church that has Future High Streets Funding confirmed for conversion into a digital co-working space. In Chester we will be located close to the University of Chester's Creative Campus. We have already worked closely with Cheshire East Council's digital arts programme 'Shift'. Joining the group will be of mutual benefit, creating links and sharing knowledge between digital, higher education and heritage communities across Cheshire. The group will be asked to support, advocate for and advise the project, but also to challenge us to strengthen our proposals.

### AG3. Youth Panel

We will work with West Cheshire Museums both to recruit a cohort of young people, and to support their activities, building on their experience and connections developed through the Hope Streets project that has linked heritage and youth sectors in the North West. During consultation we also identified interest in participating with young members of Minerva Arts, the University of Chester's Archaeological Dig, YMCA Crewe, and Cheshire College South and West. This panel will not only advise but participating young people will also have the opportunity to develop their skills through organising an annual event drawing on archive and museum collections, experiencing a range of heritage service delivery.

The Youth Panel will have an initial role in determining appropriate means for youth voices to be embedded within the service, and that events and programmes are made accessible. After the construction of the history centres, the panel will also play an active role in programming including an annual event in each centre.

We will employ a youth ambassador for one day per week, who will play an active role in recruiting, consulting on behalf of, and convening the Youth Panel. They will work alongside our Community Engagement Officers.

## Learning and skills sharing

### L1 Mixed-Media Streamed Education Sessions

For all these activities we will work with an educational specialist who has experience of developing materials for SEND students with SEND. We will develop a series of four digitally-deliverable sessions, suitable for Key Stages 1 and 2, which make use of digitised documents, videos, and live interactions with archival staff, to introduce case studies from local history which align with curriculum requirements. Each session will culminate with a teacher-led creative activity which enables students to recap the information whilst engaging different learning styles.

We will encourage schools to upload their classes' creative responses to the stories online as a means to continue engagement with them in the wake of the session, and further advertise the sessions to other schools through social media reach. We will develop these sessions with our archivists and external consultant during the first 18 months of the project, before trialling them with selected local partner in the following 6 months. We intend to deliver 25 sessions of this type after opening the History Centres.

### L2- Local Learning Packs for Educators' Use

We will develop a series of four packs which contain both resources and suggested activities on case studies and topics that have been requested by educators during and beyond the delivery phase, and which support Key Stage 1 and 2 curriculum local history activities. These packs will combine replica archival sources, digitally-available content, and interactive activities/ handling objects. These will be available through the Education Library Service, and as digitised packs available on our websites.

The resource packs will have shared thematic links with the digitally-delivered sessions mentioned in L1, as well as the physical visits to the site in L4, enabling educators to have an ongoing engagement with our service, based on their students' and schools' preferences.

### L3 - School visits to libraries delivered by library staff using Local Studies collections and resources by archives

This activity will provide 8 libraries with resources and guidance to enable them to host school class visits on the topic of local history. Packs containing records from Cheshire Archives will be designed to be used in conjunction with local studies material in the libraries such as maps and photographs, and online resources. Content will be linked to the programmes of study in the current National Curriculum for History in Key Stages 1 and 2, and developed by our Learning Officer, Archivists and Local Studies Adviser. We will offer guidance on using these different materials and online resources to local library staff.

### L4 – School Visits

We will develop a series of four cross-curriculum sessions for school visits, which combine an introduction to archives with discovery sessions where documents and reproductions can be seen and handled, and facilitate creative responses from students using the space provided in The Stage.

These sessions will be led by the Learning Officers at each site, and a tour of the collections with archival staff will be made available as an option for visiting classes.

During the first two years of project funding we will partner with one local school to pilot and develop these sessions and select case studies and documents based on local educators' feedback gained from the development phase and piloting.

After the new centres open we aim to run 10 visits per centre, per year. We will focus on developing connections with local schools in Crewe and Chester, prioritising those with higher-than-average numbers of SEND student numbers as those we advertise to in the first instance, supporting regional initiatives to improve the calibre of SEND provision.

There will be audio alternatives provided for all written documents. We will develop guides which familiarise teachers and students with what they can expect from a visit to the archives- both in video and printed formats. These will show the layout of the building, quiet spaces where students can take a moment or participate in activities away from the wider group, placements of restrooms, cloakrooms and eating areas, interpretation spaces, storage and conservation areas, reading rooms, parking facilities, and members of staff they will meet. This will build on best practice around SEND accessibility, ensuring that students are familiar with what they can expect from the day, while also facilitating easier access for teachers by laying out the practicalities of a visit.

The documents used for these sessions will contain thematic links to the ELS lending packs, enabling them to act either as a 'launch event' for schools which are starting projects using these materials, or to work as stand alone events.

### L5 Community Archive Training

Our community archive training programme will be developed as a modular online offer. This can be offered as an ongoing support resource or to deliver blended in-person sessions. We have experience of delivering bespoke sessions and workshops to representatives of multiple groups. Our training will also allow promotion of community-held assets and community collecting.

### L6 Research Skills for FE and HE Students

Our Learning Officers will deliver digitally-streamed seminars which will not only introduce students to the processes of using our service, but the value of particular types of sources to their areas of study, strengthening their source literacy. This will support FE students in their transition to HE institutions, and undergraduate HE students in gaining familiarity with source materials available on their local area, encouraging academic engagement with the history of our county. We will further run streamed sessions about volunteering opportunities at the archives and careers in heritage at the request of local FE colleges. We anticipate running six of these sessions per year once new staff have been employed.

## Volunteering

The project will offer 232 volunteering opportunities over four years. Given that people may volunteer for more than one role, that will probably translate to 180 people and 2,080 volunteer days. We expect approximately 40 of these to be existing volunteers. We will create the following volunteer roles. Volunteering is valued at £150 per day (skilled) and will contribute £312,000 to project value.

Onsite	Remote
<p>Collection volunteers (Years 1-4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cataloguing/indexing.</li> <li>Repackaging (especially in preparation for the move of the collections Years 1-2).</li> <li>Research for interpretation, projects and resources including GEMS in the community.</li> </ul>	<p>Collection volunteers (Years 1-4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indexing projects.</li> <li>Research for interpretation, projects and resources.</li> <li>The above can also be flexible/short term.</li> </ul>
<p>Short term/flexible opportunities/placements (Years 3-4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research for interpretation, projects and resources including GEMS in the community.</li> <li>Assisting with events and activities.</li> </ul>	
<p>Enablers (Years 3-4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet and greet at the history centres.</li> <li>Explainers in the interpretation/exhibition areas.</li> <li>Assisting with evaluation.</li> </ul>	
<p>Family history (Years 1-4, in history centres Years 3-4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family history help desks at the history centres and libraries in Cheshire.</li> </ul>	

In terms of volunteer days, this equates to:

- Year 1 - 250 days
- Year 2 - 310 days
- Year 3 - 760 days
- Year 4 - 760 days

Total volunteer days 2,080

For information on the management of volunteers including recruitment and training, please see Section 2.10 and the Volunteer Plan in the Appendix.