

Annual publication

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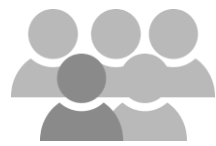
Coverage: Northern Ireland

Main stories

- There were **over 400,000 instances of participation** in **almost 30,000 core and regular activity sessions** run by Libraries NI in 2017/18. Despite a small **decrease** in **participation** and **no percentage change** in the **number of sessions** from 2016/17, the 2017/18 participation rates are the second highest so far since 2012/13 while the number of sessions is the highest.
- Although there were **decreases** in both **participation** and the **number of core activity sessions** (i.e. Class Visits, Got IT, Reading Groups, Rhythm and Rhyme and Storytime) from 2016/17, the 2017/18 figures are the second highest so far since 2012/13.
- There were **increases** in both **participation** and the **number of regular activity sessions** (i.e. Creative Writing, Go ON, Job Clubs, Knit and Natter, Mindful Colouring and Tea and Newspapers) from 2016/17 and the 2017/18 figures are also the highest so far since 2013/14 when this information was first recorded.

Participation

Small change on previous year's figures



Participation

3%
↓



Number of sessions

0%

Core activities

Decrease on previous year's figures



All



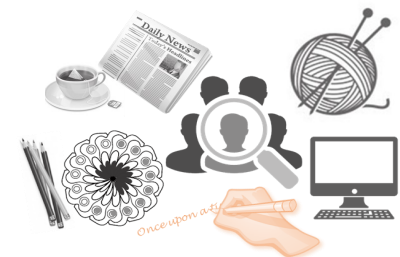
318,135 adults and children engaged in **17,601 core activity sessions**, representing a **4% decrease** in **participation** and a **5% decrease** in the **number of sessions** since 2016/17.

Regular activities

Increase on previous year's figures



Adults



84,348 adults took part in **11,685 regular activity sessions**, which is a **5% increase** in **participation** and a **10% increase** in the **number of sessions** since 2016/17.

In 2017/18, there were **402,483 instances of participation** (175,854 adults and 226,629 children) in **29,286 core and regular activity sessions**. This is a small **decrease (3%)** in **participation** and **no percentage change** in the **number of sessions** since 2016/17.

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Introduction

In 2017/18, Libraries NI's 96 branch libraries and several of its 16 mobile libraries delivered a range of programmes and activities focused on promoting reading, learning and access to culture, heritage and information.

Information on participation in these programmes and activities is recorded on the Libraries NI Activity Database and used to produce this annual bulletin. Due to the structure of the database and the detail collected when people participate in library programmes and activities, it is not possible to identify unique individuals. For example, 6 instances of participation may be 6 people attending once each or 2 people attending 3 times each etc.

Key findings on instances of participation in core and regular activities during the period 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 are presented on the following pages.

Core activities are defined as Class Visits, Got IT, Reading Groups, Rhythm and Rhyme and Storytime, while regular activities are defined as Creative Writing, Go ON, Job Clubs, Knit and Natter, Mindful Colouring and Tea and Newspapers.

Participation in the various activities for 2017/18, along with year-on-year comparisons from 2012/13 to 2017/18, are presented in tables separate from this bulletin: <https://www.librariesni.org.uk/media/emmhi3jr/Participation-in-Core-and-Regular-Library-Activities-2017-18-Tables-and-Year-on-Year-Comparisons.xlsx>

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Core and regular activities

Percentage change from 2016/17 to 2017/18



All

3%
↓
2%*
(*excluding Genealogy)

Instances of
participation
2017/18



402,483

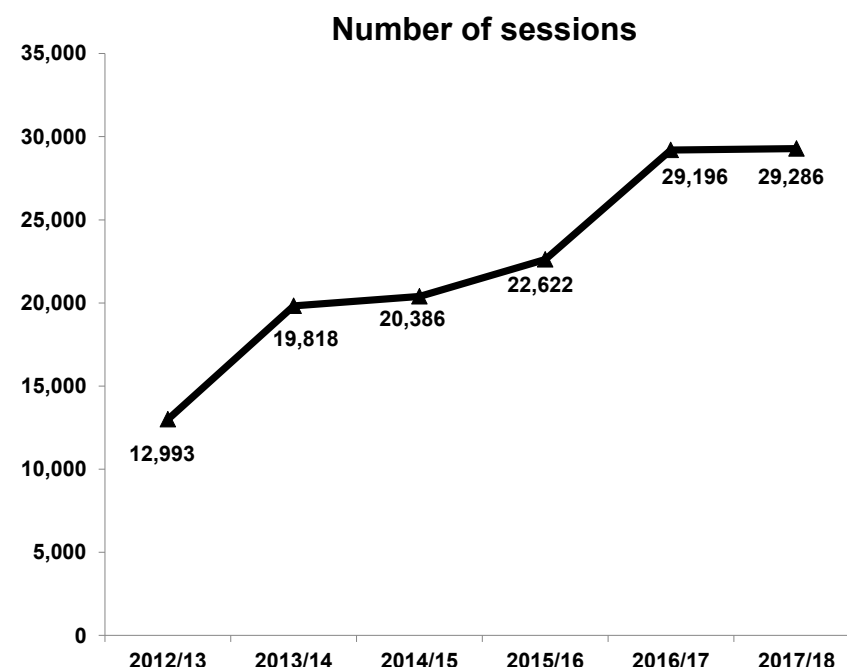
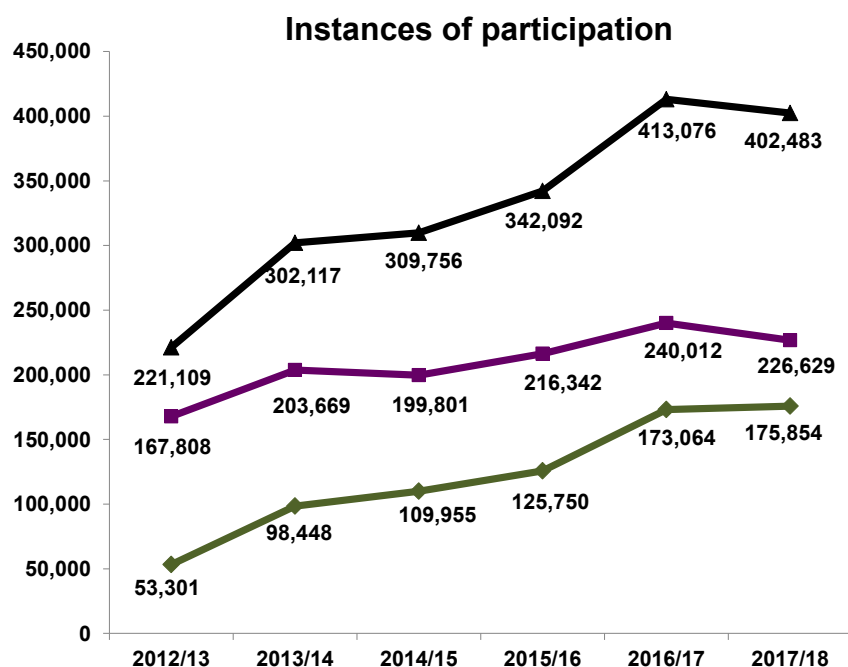
Number of
sessions
2017/18



0%
↑
1%*

(*excluding Genealogy) 29,286

During 2017/18, there were **402,483 instances of participation** (175,854 adults and 226,629 children) in **29,286 core and regular activities sessions** run by Libraries NI. This is **3% decrease in participation** and **no percentage change in the number of activity sessions** since 2016/17 (413,076 instances of participation and 29,196 sessions respectively). This decrease in participation is mainly as a result of lower overall rates in the core activities. Although one of the previous regular activities (Genealogy) was no longer delivered in 2017/18, the overall percentage changes remain similar (2% decrease in participation and 1% increase in the number of sessions) when comparing like with like (412,051 instances of participation and 28,908 sessions in 2016/17, excluding Genealogy).

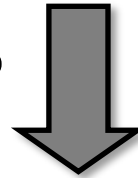


Core activities

Percentage change from 2016/17 to 2017/18



4%

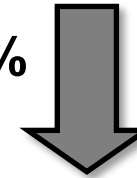


Instances of participation
2017/18



318,135

5%



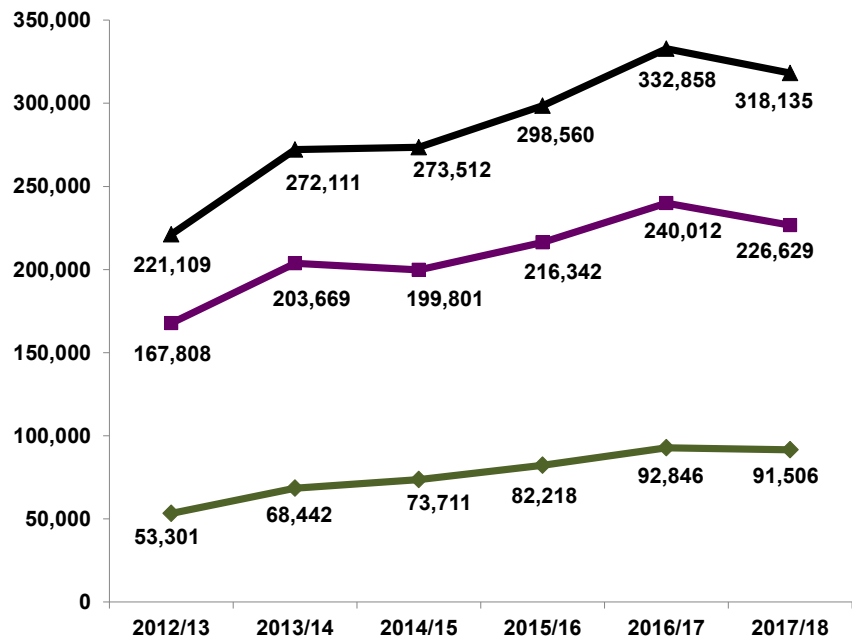
Number of sessions
2017/18



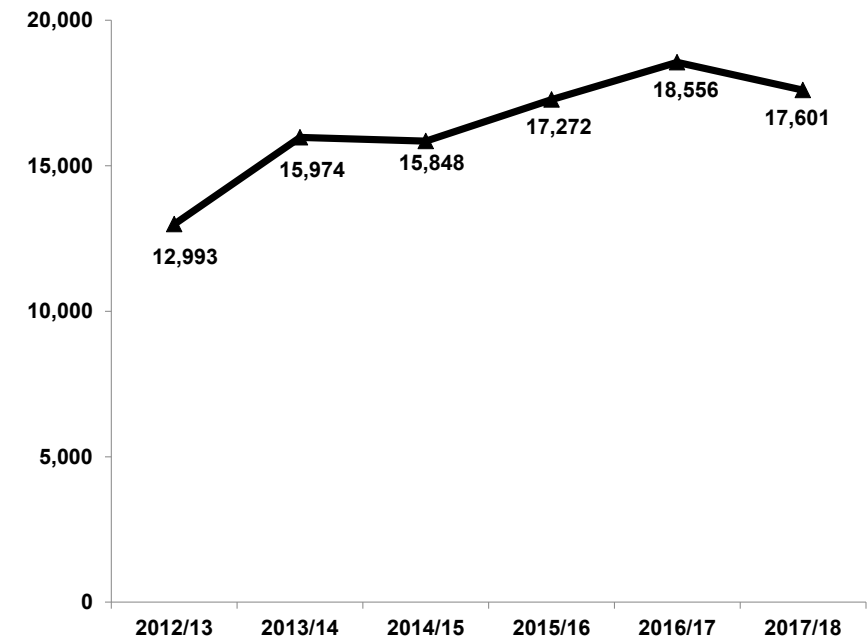
17,601

There were **318,135 instances of participation** (91,506 adults and 226,629 children) in **17,601 core activity sessions** (i.e. Class visits, Got IT, Reading Groups, Rhythm and Rhyme and Storytime) in 2017/18, a **decrease of 4% in participation** and a **decrease of 5% in the number of core activity sessions** since 2016/17 (332,858 participants and 18,556 sessions respectively). However, the 2017/18 core activity figures are the second highest so far since 2012/13.

Instances of participation



Number of sessions



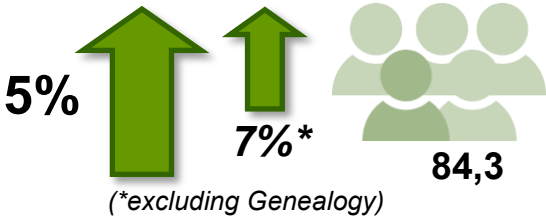
Regular activities

Percentage change from 2016/17 to 2017/18

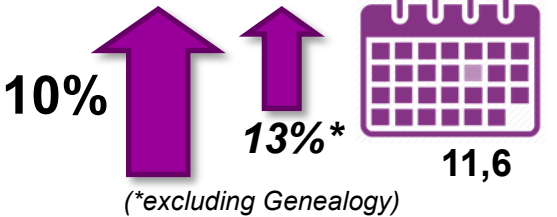


Adults

Instances of participation
2017/18

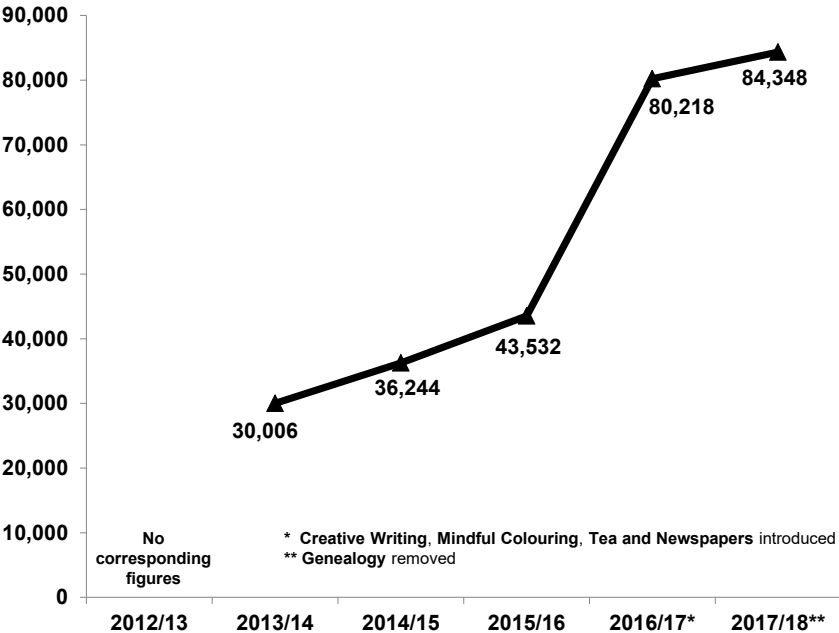


Number of sessions
2017/18

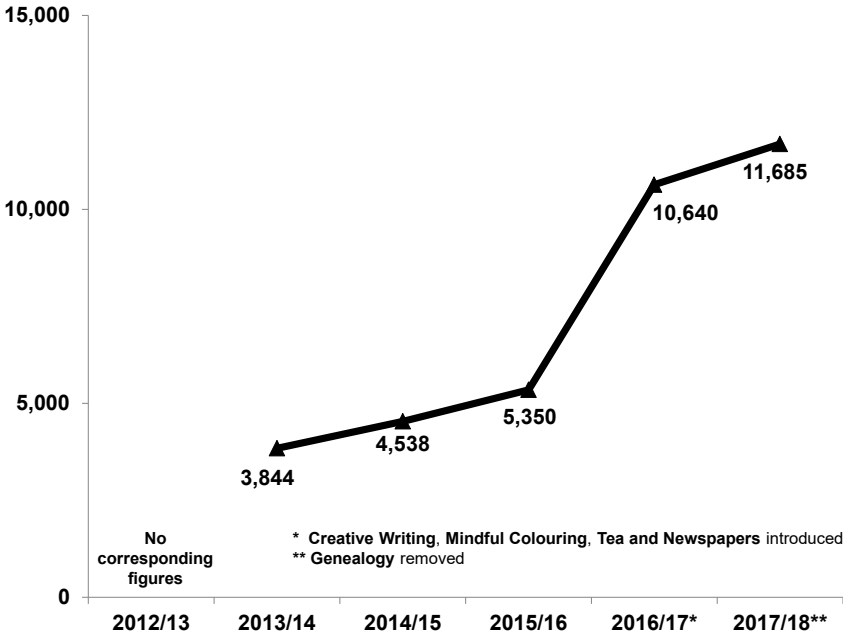


There were **84,348 instances of participation** by adults in **11,685 regular activity sessions** (i.e. Creative Writing, Go ON, Job Clubs, Knit and Natter, Mindful Colouring and Tea and Newspapers), a **5% increase in participation** and a **10% increase in the number of activity sessions** since 2016/17 (80,218 participants and 10,640 sessions respectively, including Genealogy). However, Genealogy was removed as a regular activity in 2017/18 so when comparing like with like, there was actually a 7% increase in participation and a 13% increase in the number of activity sessions since 2016/17 (79,193 participants and 10,352 sessions respectively, excluding Genealogy). Both participation rates and the number of sessions have steadily increased year-on-year since 2013/14. There are no corresponding figures for 2012/13.

Instances of participation




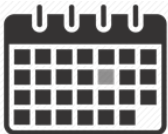







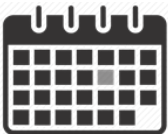



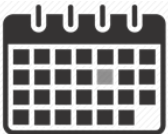



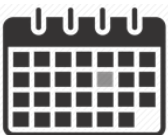


Number of sessions



Core activities - overview

Percentage change from 2016/17 to 2017/18

				Instances of participation 2017/18		Number of sessions 2017/18
Class Visits		 Children	8% ↓	 96,793	9% ↓	 3,974
Got IT		 Adults	19% ↓	 2,404	16% ↓	 2,283
Reading Groups		 All	12% ↓	 13,560	5% ↓	 2,074
Rhythm and Rhyme		 All	1% ↑	 183,135	3% ↑	 7,014
Storytime		 Children	20% ↓	 22,243	9% ↓	 2,256

Regular activities - overview

Percentage change from 2016/17 to 2017/18

Creative Writing



Adults

9%



Instances of participation
2017/18



2,133

9%



Number of sessions
2017/18



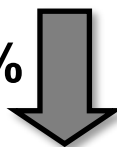
311

Go ON



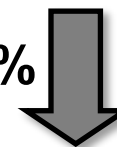
Adults

20%



2,320

12%



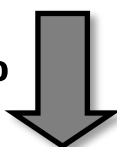
405

Job Clubs



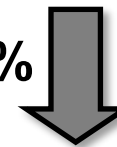
Adults

32%



2,466

16%



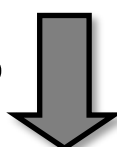
727

Knit and Natter



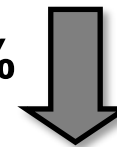
Adults

3%



38,282

2%



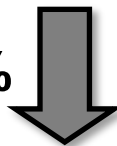
4,030

Mindful Colouring



Adults

5%



5,764

6%



1,319

Tea and Newspapers



Adults

33%



33,383

45%

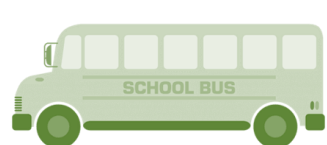


4,893

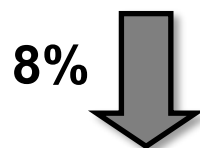
Core activities

Percentage change from 2016/17 to 2017/18

Class Visits



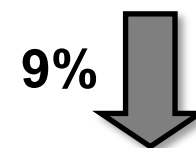
Children



Instances of
participation
2017/18



96,793



Number of
sessions
2017/18



3,974

Nursery schools / Primary
schools with nursery unit

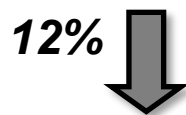


15,643



577

Primary schools / Special
Needs schools

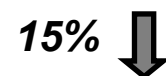


77,845

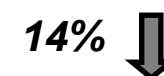


3,193

- Structured activities to support Key Stage 1 & 2 with regard to language and literacy skills

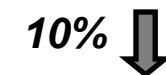


29,236

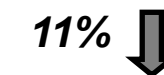


1,165

- Exchanged books and/or listened to stories, took part in crafts etc.

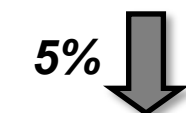


48,609



2,028

Post Primary schools



3,305



204

Core activities

Class Visits (continued)

During 2017/18, **96,793 children** took part in the school class visits programme (**3,974 sessions**), an **8% decrease in participation** and a **9% decrease in the number of sessions** since 2016/17 (105,190 children and 4,359 sessions respectively). The 2017/18 figures are the third lowest since 2012/13.

- **15,643** were pupils from nursery schools or primary schools with an associated nursery unit (**577 sessions** - 264 of which were outreach sessions held on school premises). This represents a **19% increase in participation** and an **11% increase in the number of sessions** since 2016/17 (13,107 children and 521 sessions respectively). The 2017/18 figures are the highest so far out of the 6 years since 2012/13.
- **77,845** were pupils from primary or special needs schools (**3,193 sessions**), a **12% decrease in both participation and the number of sessions** since 2016/17 (88,604 children and 3,641 sessions). The 2017/18 figures are the lowest out of the 6 years since 2012/13.
 - ◇ **29,236** participated in a set of structured activities aimed at pupils in Year 4 and Year 6 to support Key Stage 1 & 2 of the NI curriculum with regard to language and literacy skills (**1,165 sessions**), a **15% decrease in participation** and a **14% decrease in the number of sessions** since 2016/17 (34,524 children and 1,356 sessions respectively). The 2017/18 figures are also the lowest since 2012/13.
 - ◇ The remaining **48,609** exchanged books and/or listened to stories, took part in crafts etc. (**2,028 sessions** - 130 of which were outreach sessions held on school premises), which represents a **10% decrease in participation** and an **11% decrease in the number of sessions** since 2016/17 (54,080 children and 2,285 sessions). The 2017/18 figures are the second highest out of the 6 years from 2012/13.
- **3,305** were pupils from post primary schools (**204 sessions** - 2 of which were outreach sessions held on school premises) which is a **5% decrease in participation** and a **4% increase in the number of sessions** since 2016/17 (3,479 children and 197 sessions). Although participation rates are second highest in 2017/18, the number of sessions is the highest out of all the years so far since 2012/13.

Core activities

Percentage change from 2016/17 to 2017/18

Got IT



Adults

19% ↓

Instances of
participation
2017/18



2,404

16% ↓



Number of
sessions
2017/18

2,283

One-to-one
session



14% ↓



2,215

14% ↓



2,215

Small group
session



51% ↓



189

47% ↓



68

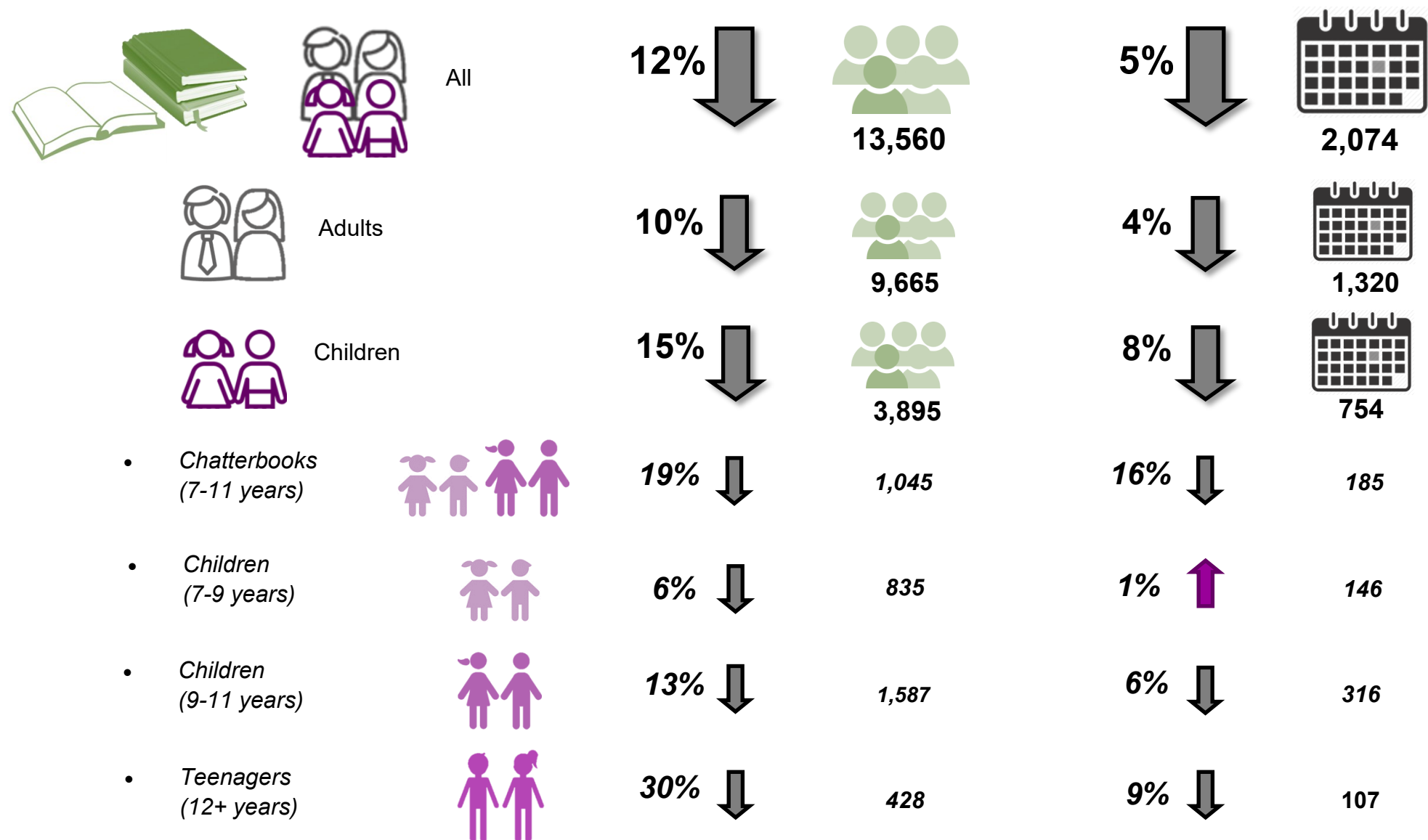
2,404 adults participated in **2,283 Got IT sessions** in 2017/18, compared to 2,970 adults and 2,710 sessions in 2016/17. This is a **19% decrease in participation** and a **16% decrease in the number of sessions** from 2016/17 to 2017/18. The 2017/18 figures are the lowest so far out of the 6 years since 2012/13 but similar to those in 2012/13.

- **2,215 adults** participated in **Got IT on a one-to-one basis** in 2017/18 compared to 2,582 in 2016/17, a **decrease of 14%**. The 2017/18 figures are the lowest so far out of the 6 years since 2012/13.
- **189 adults** took part in **68 small group Got IT sessions**, which represents a **51% decrease in participation** and a **47% decrease in the number of sessions** since 2016/17 (388 adults and 128 sessions). The 2017/18 figures are similar to those first recorded in 2012/13 (164 adults and 69 sessions).

Core activities

Percentage change from 2016/17 to 2017/18

Reading Groups



Core activities

Reading Groups (continued)

During 2017/18, **13,560 participants** engaged in **2,074 reading group sessions** compared to 15,354 participants and 2,186 sessions in 2016/17. This is a **12% decrease in participation** and a **5% decrease in the number of sessions** from 2016/17 to 2017/18. Although the participation rate in 2017/18 is the third lowest since 2012/13, the number of sessions is the second highest.

- **9,665 adults** took part in **1,320 reading group sessions**, compared to 10,751 adults and 1,368 sessions in 2016/17. This is a **10% decrease in participation** and a **4% decrease in the number of sessions** from 2016/17 to 2017/18. Although the participation rate in 2017/18 is the second lowest since 2012/13, the number of sessions is the second highest.
- **3,895 children** took part in **754 reading group sessions**, compared to 4,603 children and 818 sessions in 2016/17. This is a **15% decrease in participation** and an **8% decrease in the number of sessions** from 2016/17 to 2017/18. Although the participation rate in 2017/18 is the third lowest since 2012/13, the number of sessions is the second highest.
 - ◇ **1,045 children** took part in **185 Chatterbooks sessions for 7-11 year olds** compared to 1,286 children and 219 sessions in 2016/17. This is a **19% decrease in participation** and a **16% decrease in the number of sessions** from 2016/17 to 2017/18. The 2017/18 figures are the second highest since 2014/15 which was the first year information was recorded for this type of reading group.
 - ◇ **835 children** took part in **146 sessions for 7-9 year olds**, a **6% decrease in participation** and a **1% increase in the number of sessions** since 2016/17 (885 children and 144 sessions respectively).
 - ◇ **1,587 children** took part in **316 sessions for 9-11 year olds**, a **13% decrease in participation** and a **6% decrease in the number of sessions** since 2016/17 (1,824 children and 337 sessions respectively).
 - ◇ **428 children** took part in **107 sessions for those aged 12+ years**, a **30% decrease in participation** and a **9% decrease in the number of sessions** since 2016/17 (608 children and 118 sessions respectively).

Core activities

Percentage change from 2016/17 to 2017/18

Rhythm and Rhyme



All

Public session

Dedicated session



Instances of
participation
2017/18



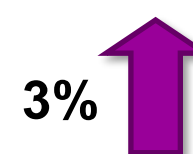
183,135



155,961



27,174



Number of
sessions
2017/18



7,014



5,643



1,371

During 2017/18, **183,135 participants** (79,437 adults and 103,698 children) engaged in a total of **7,014 Rhythm and Rhyme sessions** for pre-school age children (0-4 years), which represents a **1% increase in participation** and a **3% increase in the number of sessions** since 2016/17 (181,698 participants and 6,831 sessions respectively). Both participation rates and the number of sessions have increased year-on-year since 2012/13.

- **155,961 participants** (71,016 adults and 84,945 children) took part in **5,643 sessions open to the public**, a **1% increase in participation** and a **2% increase in the number of sessions** since 2016/17 (154,922 participants and 5,508 sessions respectively). Both participation rates and the number of public sessions have increased year-on-year since 2012/13.
- **27,174 participants** (8,421 adults and 18,753 children) took part in **1,371 dedicated sessions** held exclusively for day nurseries, playgroups and parent and toddler groups etc., which is a **1% increase in participation** and a **4% increase in the number of sessions** since 2016/17 (26,776 participants and 1,323 sessions respectively). Both participation rates and the number of dedicated sessions have increased year-on-year since 2012/13.

Core activities

Percentage change from 2016/17 to 2017/18

Rhythm and Rhyme (continued)



All

1%



Instances of
participation
2017/18



183,135

3%



Number of
sessions
2017/18



7,014

Library premises /
mobile library session



0%



169,917

3%



6,337

Other location session

7%



13,218

3%



677

- **169,917 participants** (75,865 adults and 94,052 children) attended **6,337 sessions** that were held on the library premises/mobile library, which represents **no percentage change** (although there is an actual increase) in participation and a **3% increase in the number of sessions** since 2016/17 (169,392 participants and 6,173 sessions respectively). Participation rates and the number of library sessions have increased year-on-year since 2012/13.
- **13,218 participants** (3,572 adults and 9,646 children) attended **677 sessions** that took place at another location, which is a **7% increase in participation** and a **3% increase in the number of sessions** since 2016/17 (12,306 participants and 658 sessions respectively). Participation rates and the number of outreach sessions have increased year-on-year and the 2017/18 figures are more than four times higher than those in 2012/13.

Core activities

Percentage change from 2016/17 to 2017/18

Storytime



Children

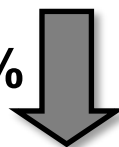
Public session

Dedicated session

Instances of
participation
2017/18

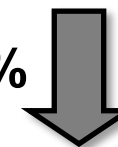
Number of
sessions
2017/18

20%



22,243

9%



2,256

18%



15,919

7%



1,865

22%



6,324

14%



391

During 2017/18, **22,243 children** engaged in a total of **2,256 Storytime sessions** for 4-8 year olds, a **20% decrease in participation** and a **9% decrease in the number of sessions** since 2016/17 (27,646 children and 2,470 sessions respectively). The number of sessions in 2017/18 is the third highest so far since 2012/13 while participation rates are the third lowest.

- **15,919 children** took part in **1,865 sessions open to the public**, an **18% decrease in participation** and a **7% decrease in the number of sessions** since 2016/17 (19,513 children and 2,013 sessions respectively). Although the number of public sessions is slightly lower in 2014/15 (1,853 sessions), participation rates are the lowest in 2017/18.
- **6,324 children** took part in **391 dedicated sessions** held exclusively for external organisations attended by children of an equivalent age range such as Rainbows/Cygnets/Brigíní (Girl Guides), Beavers (Boy Scouts), Explorers (Girls' Brigade), Anchor Boys (Boys' Brigade) or after school day care facilities etc., which is a **22% decrease in participation** and a **14% decrease in the number of sessions** since 2016/17 (8,133 children and 457 sessions respectively). The 2017/18 participation rates are the third highest so far since 2012/13 while the number of dedicated sessions is the second highest.

Core activities

Percentage change from 2016/17 to 2017/18

Storytime (continued)



Children

Instances of
participation
2017/18

Number of
sessions
2017/18

20% ↓



22,243

9% ↓



2,256

Library premises /
mobile library session



19% ↓



19,862

9% ↓



2,061

Other location session

21% ↓



2,381

3% ↓



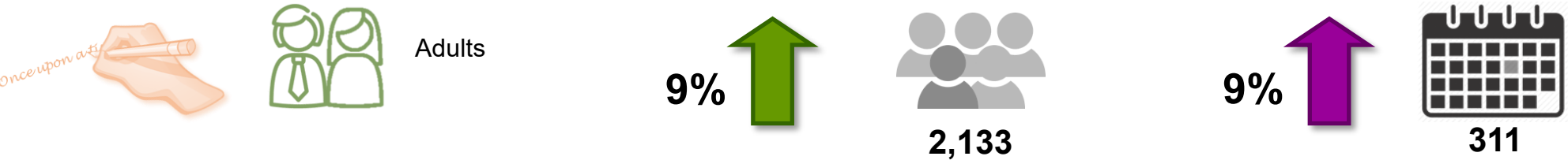
195

- **19,862 children** attended **2,061 sessions** that were held on the library premises/mobile library, a **19% decrease** in participation and a **9% decrease** in the number of sessions since 2016/17 (24,647 participants and 2,269 sessions respectively). Participation rates in 2017/18 are the third highest since 2012/13 while the number of library sessions is the third lowest.
- **2,381 children** attended **195 sessions** that took place at another location, which is a **21% decrease** in participation and a **3% decrease** in the number of sessions since 2016/17 (2,999 participants and 201 sessions respectively). Although 2017/18 participation rates are the lowest since 2013/14, they are still more than three and half times those in 2012/13. Meanwhile, the number of outreach sessions in 2017/18 is the third highest since 2012/13.

Regular activities

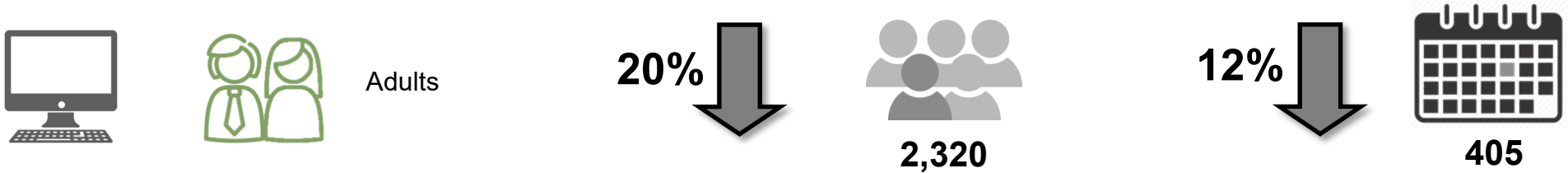
Percentage change from 2016/17 to 2017/18

Creative Writing



2,133 adults participated in **311 Creative Writing sessions** in 2017/18, compared to 1,955 adults and 286 sessions in 2016/17. This is a **9% increase in both participation and the number of sessions** from 2016/17 to 2017/18. 2016/17 was the first year that information was recorded for Creative Writing so there are no corresponding figures for earlier years.

Go ON



2,320 adults participated in **405 Go ON small group sessions** in 2017/18, compared to 2,884 adults and 458 sessions in 2016/17. This is a **decrease of 20% in participation** and a **decrease of 12% in the number of sessions** from 2016/17 to 2017/18. Although lower than the previous 3 years, the 2017/18 figures are still higher than those in 2013/14 (1,757 adults and 331 sessions) when information was first recorded for Go ON.

Regular activities

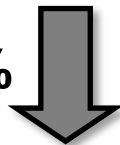
Percentage change from 2016/17 to 2017/18

Job Clubs



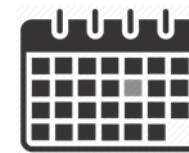
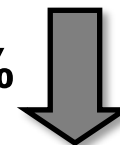
Adults

32%



2,466

16%



727

2,466 adults engaged in **727 Job Club sessions** in 2017/18, compared to 3,626 adults and 870 sessions in 2016/17 which is a **32% decrease in participation** and a **16% decrease in the number of sessions**. Participation rates in 2017/18 are the lowest so far since 2013/14 and the number of sessions is the second lowest.

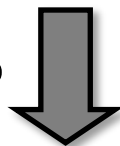
- 1,374 adults** engaged in **310 sessions held in partnership with the Jobs & Benefits Office** in 2017/18 compared to 2,078 adults and 399 sessions in 2016/17. This is a **34% decrease in participation** and a **22% decrease in the number of sessions** since 2016/17 and the lowest participation rate and number of sessions to date.
- 1,092 adults** engaged in **417 sessions held in association with other organisations** (e.g. Job Assist, Kickstart to Work, Supported Employment Solutions etc.) compared to 1,548 adults and 471 sessions in 2015/16. This is a **29% decrease in participation** and an **11% decrease in the number of sessions** since 2016/17. Although the number of sessions is the second highest so far since 2014/15, participation is the lowest.

Knit and Natter



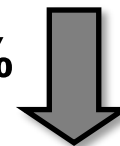
Adults

3%



38,282

2%



4,030

38,282 adults participated in **4,030 Knit and Natter group sessions** in 2017/18 compared to 39,629 adults and 4,107 sessions in 2016/17 which is a **3% decrease in participation** and a **2% decrease in the number of sessions**. Both participation rates and the number of sessions in 2017/18 are the second highest since 2013/14 when figures were first recorded for Knit and Natter.

Regular activities

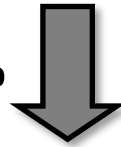
Percentage change from 2016/17 to 2017/18

Mindful Colouring

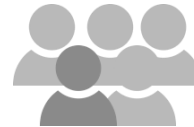


Adults

5%



Instances of
participation
2017/18



5,764

6%



1,319

5,764 adults participated in **1,319 Mindful Colouring sessions** in 2017/18, compared to 6,067 adults and 1,245 sessions in 2016/17. This is a **5% decrease in participation** and a **6% increase in the number of sessions** from 2016/17 to 2017/18. 2016/17 was the first year that information was recorded for Mindful Colouring so there are no corresponding figures for earlier years.

Tea and Newspapers



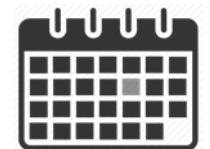
Adults

33%



33,383

45%



4,893

33,383 adults participated in **4,893 Tea and Newspapers sessions** in 2017/18, compared to 25,032 adults and 3,386 sessions in 2016/17. This is a **33% increase in participation** and a **45% increase in the number of sessions** from 2016/17 to 2017/18. 2016/17 was the first year that information was recorded for Tea and Newspapers so there are no corresponding figures for earlier years.

Definitions and technical notes

Core activities

Class Visits

The Class Visits programme is open to all Northern Ireland nursery, primary, post primary and special needs schools and aims to give pupils an insight into the range of services available at their local library, and to encourage them to become members. Classes can come to the library for book exchange, storytelling, craft sessions, to use computers etc.

Within the Class Visits programme, there is a set of activities specifically aimed at primary school age children in Years 4 and 6 and supports Key Stage 1 and 2 language and literacy skills as detailed in the NI Curriculum. This element of the programme offers a series of 3 one hour visits for pupils in these year groups which include a general introduction and tour of the library, activities to help explain the layout of library stock and instruction on the various uses of computers in the library. One-off visits are also available which give pupils a general overview of library services and resources. At the end of each visit, the pupils will listen to a story and there will be an opportunity for them to browse and exchange books.

Libraries NI staff also deliver outreach visits to many schools to promote the various library services and read stories to the pupils.

Got IT

Got IT is a free programme to support people with little or no knowledge of computers and help them develop basic IT skills. The programme is aimed at adults and delivered by Libraries NI staff on a one-to-one or small group basis, with sessions covering the following topics:

- Introduction to computers
- Introduction to the Internet
- Introduction to email

Definitions and technical notes

Core activities (continued)

Reading Groups

Reading groups cater for both children and adults and encourage people to read for pleasure, read adventurously, share their enthusiasm about books and develop the confidence to formulate and express opinions about reading.

Libraries NI staff host reading groups for adults and children/teenagers, including those aimed at specific groups in society (e.g. visually impaired, deaf etc.). Such groups generally meet in the library premises, although some are run by Libraries NI staff in other locations. Reading groups hosted by external organisations that meet in the library premises with input from library staff and/or use library resources are also facilitated. A flexible type of children's reading group called Chatterbooks, run in conjunction with The Reading Agency was introduced in libraries in 2014/15. Sessions are suitable for 7-11 year olds of all different abilities.

Rhythm and Rhyme

Rhythm and Rhyme is a free programme of stories, rhymes and songs delivered on a regular or seasonal basis by Libraries NI staff (or held in partnership with SureStart¹) for parents, carers and pre-school children (aged 0-4 years). The aim of the programme is to improve children's language and communication skills before they enter formal education.

In addition to sessions that are open to the public, the programme is also available to young children attending day nurseries, playgroups, parent and toddler groups etc. These dedicated sessions are mostly held on the library premises but some are also delivered by Libraries NI staff at external locations (e.g. on playgroup premises, at community centres etc.). On occasions, public sessions are also delivered at external locations as part of community festivals etc.

A number of the mobile libraries now also deliver Rhythm & Rhyme sessions so these are included in the figures.

¹ SureStart is a government led initiative aimed at giving every child the best possible start in life and which offers a broad range of services including Early Years Care and Education to children aged 4 years and under.

Definitions and technical notes

Core activities (continued)

Storytime

Storytime is a free programme of stories, rhymes and poems delivered on a regular or seasonal basis by Libraries NI staff for children aged 4-8 years.

In addition to sessions that are open to the public, the programme is also available to external organisations attended by children of an equivalent age range (e.g. Rainbows/Cygnets/Brigíní (Girl Guides), Beavers (Boy Scouts), Explorers (Girls' Brigade), Anchor Boys (Boys' Brigade) or after school day care facilities etc.). Such dedicated sessions are mostly held on the library premises but some are also delivered by Libraries NI staff at other locations (e.g. at community centres, church/parish halls etc. or to groups of children who are unable to come to the library, e.g. those in hospice care). On occasions, public sessions are also delivered at external locations as part of community festivals etc.

A number of the mobile libraries now also deliver Storytime sessions so these are included in the figures.

Regular activities

Creative Writing

Creative Writing groups led by library staff provide facilities, support and encouragement to adults who enjoy writing poetry, short stories, novels and beyond. Budding writers or poets can come along and meet like-minded people and share ideas.

Go ON

Go ON is a free programme to support people who are able to use a computer, email and the Internet and want to further develop their IT skills with regard to everyday computer tasks, such as paying utility bills or shopping online, online banking, social networking, digital photography, online health enquiries etc. The programme is aimed at adults and modules are delivered by Libraries NI staff on a small group basis.

Definitions and technical notes

Regular activities (continued)

Job Clubs

Job Clubs held in partnership with the Jobs & Benefits Office on library premises offer free internet access and other library services to adults who are unemployed. They give people an opportunity to develop their IT skills using the library's computers and participants receive assistance with job hunting, online applications, preparing CVs and interview practice.

Other organisations (e.g. Job Assist, Kickstart to Work, Supported Employment Solutions etc.) use the library facilities to offer similar advice and services to the unemployed and therefore are also included.

Knit and Natter

Knit and Natter groups are held in libraries across Northern Ireland and are for adults who enjoy knitting, sewing, crochet, cross stitch and other needle crafts. They are free of charge and participants have the opportunity to share hints and tips, swap patterns, meet new people and learn new skills and can bring along whatever they are already working on or start a new project.

Mindful Colouring

Mindful Colouring groups are for anyone who wants to explore the world of adult colouring with intricate colouring patterns and designs. They can enhance well-being, help calm the mind and relieve stress through relaxed, meditative colouring in.

Tea and Newspapers

Tea and Newspapers groups give adults the opportunity to meet new people, socialise and discuss local and national affairs in the newspapers while enjoying complimentary tea/coffee and biscuits.

Definitions and technical notes

Notes to users:

1. All participant numbers refer to instances of participation rather than individual people.
2. All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.
3. Year-on-year comparisons are figures compared with corresponding ones from the previous year.

Copies of this bulletin are available on the Libraries NI website at: <https://www.librariesni.org.uk/media/v1gj2b2c/Participation-in-Core-and-Regular-Library-Activities-2017-18-Report.pdf>

Official Statistics

The statistics presented in this bulletin are 'Official Statistics' as defined in Section 6 of the Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007. A statistician from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency is seconded to Libraries NI and is responsible for ensuring that the statistics comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.