

Ms Tracey Logan
Chief Executive
Borders Council HQ
Newton St. Boswells
Melrose TD6 0SA

1st June 2018

Dear Ms Tracey,

I am writing in response to a recent newspaper [report](#) which suggests that Border Council is seeking to replace professionally trained school library staff with pupils as part of a pilot initiative with a view to a regional rollout.

The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in Scotland (CILIPS) is the country's professional membership body for library and information staff. We set, support and accredit professional standards and training for library staff via our affiliate UK body CILIP.

The newspaper report has prompted many expressions of concern from our members, local parents, teachers and other partners who work with schools. CILIPS contends that secondary school pupils should have access to a school library and be guided by a standard of excellence set by classroom teachers in collaboration with a school librarian who understands pedagogy and is trained in managing resources to support the curriculum, literacy and reader development.

We therefore seek more information on how this proposal will support raising attainment in schools. For example, how will pupil volunteers be trained to replace professional library staff support in

- Partnering teachers in supporting delivery of the Curriculum for Excellence;
- Supporting pupils in choosing, evaluating and using information appropriately and effectively;
- Working with teaching staff to provide pupil focussed specialist support when needed;
- Delivering training in information literacy – a key skill for active citizenship;
- Supporting personal and social development of the pupil population;
- Selecting and providing age and stage appropriate resources for each subject.

On a more practical level

- Which award scheme is being used to train and accredit pupils to deliver school library services?
- Who will be responsible for delivering pupil training and assessment for their role as 'school librarians'?
- What core hours will the school library service be available each day?
- How will data protection issues be managed in relation to the library management system?

Finally, we understand that you have stated that the proposed initiative has worked successfully elsewhere and would be grateful if you could share more information on this.

Yours sincerely



Catherine Kearney
Director CILIP in Scotland