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**(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require an Integrated impact assessment, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)**

**Title of meeting:** Culture, Leisure and Economic Development Decision Meeting

**Date of meeting:** 16 October 2020

**Subject:** The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection

**Report by:** Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

**Wards affected:** All

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**1. Requested by**

1.1 This report was requested by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development.

**2. Purpose of the report**

2.1 To update the Cabinet Member on the move of the 'You Don't Know Sherlock Holmes, Yet' exhibition from Portsmouth Museum to the Third Floor of the Central Library.

2.2 To show how the Conan Doyle Collection Study Packs and social media engagement have been used during the lockdown period to engage with a wider audience and more volunteers.

2.3 To outline the continuation and adaptation of programming under the City of Stories project within the current Covid19 restrictions.

**3. Background**

3.1 The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection - Lancelyn Green Bequest is the tangible result of Richard Lancelyn Green's lifelong interest in Conan Doyle and his work. The Collection testifies to the worldwide interest in Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes over the last century and to the wide range of Conan Doyle's interests.

**4. You Don't Know Sherlock, Yet exhibition move**

4.1 The 'You Don't Know Sherlock, Yet' exhibition at Portsmouth Museum infrastructure was moved and re-installed into the Third Floor Central Library just before lockdown in March. There will be facsimiles instead of real archives due to the environmental factors of the space and these have been produced and re-installed ready for the beginning of September.



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Due to the current hygiene and cleaning rota within the café, the interactives will not be re-installed until it is feasible to do so.

4.2 This new exhibition will now be referred to as 'Holmes at Home' in its new location around the Third Floor café and communal space.

4.3 We are exploring options for an online launch of 'Holmes at Home' rather than a physical one that will go showcase the collection in more depth, such as a talk through and show of the original 'Beeton's Christmas Annual: A Study in Scarlet'.

## 5. **Conan Doyle Collection Resources**

5.1 Throughout the last ten years, the Conan Doyle Collection has amassed many resources and activities through all the different projects delivered in Portsmouth, gained through projects like the HLF funded Sharing Sherlock, the HLF funded RNIB Sensing Culture project and the recent ACE funded City of Stories project. Some of these resources have been invaluable during the Covid19 lockdown.

5.2 A range of Study Packs for key stage 1 - 4 were produced from the HLF Sharing Sherlock project and other resources. In the early days of lockdown, these were emailed out to all schools via the School Library Service and also advertised on the Conan Doyle and Libraries social media pages. There were 30 direct requests, with many of these people sharing them with others through group and other school networks.

## 6. **Volunteers**

6.1 The Conan Doyle Collection has a long history of working with volunteers, and the Covid19 pandemic has been no barrier to this continuing. During lockdown we have taken on two new volunteers - both young women are between education courses. Using the many resources collated over the years along with their own research, they have been writing and devising adult study packs for use by vulnerable adults. They include text on a specific topic along with further reading/website link lists, crosswords and puzzles. When completed, these will be sent to any vulnerable adults wishing to use them and afterwards with other community groups. There has also been further cross service working with links made with the vulnerable adults who volunteer at the Waterfront Garden Centre.

6.2 One volunteer who only started as a social media volunteer in January 2020 has been on hand virtually from home, posting onto all the social media platforms throughout lockdown, and still continues to do so. By following the Conan Doyle social media marketing strategy, we have seen an increase in visits to the website by 45%. <https://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk/conandoyle>. These hits were mainly to past exhibition pages promoted on Facebook, showing that there is a real interest in the actual collection items.

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**7. City of Stories**

7.1 The ACE funded City of Stories project now has an extension to April 2021 due to Covid19. The final projects and delivery has changed, and we are now in the process of setting up a virtual Sherlock dance project with Portsmouth's young people, inspired by dance images from the collection. We will also be looking to develop an online 'create your own comic book' workshop too, to further promote the *'Mr Doyle Presents A Study in Sherlock'* graphic novel.

The celebratory event we had wished to have to mark the end of the City of Stories project is currently being adapted into a celebratory film, which we anticipate will be a celebration of all aspects of the City of Stories project of which the work around the Conan Doyle Collection was an integral part.

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Signed by:  
**Stephen Baily**  
**Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services**

**Appendices:**

None

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

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Signed by:  
**Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development**