

## **Accreditation Assessment Report, November 2015**

### Panel Narrative

The Panel commended the service's ethos of development planning and the service's strength of vision. There was an excellent approach to volunteering, particularly in ensuring different types of volunteers are supported to achieve different benefits – the developing work with mental health and back-to-work volunteering was particularly noted in this regard. The Panel recognised the challenges that the service faces within unsatisfactory premises but noted that risk management is strong. They wished the service well in building on these strengths and finding a solution which will safeguard collections and meet user needs.

### Assessors' Key Findings

A summary of the assessment for Cheshire Archives & Local Studies

1	The assessors found this to be a service with a strong vision for the future, which is based on a good understanding of the people and possibilities involved.
2	The service has good structures in place to deliver holistically against its policies, with strong management and leadership across the team.
3	Having tackled a number of legacy problems, the service really understands where its priorities lie for the future
4	The archive's primary home is working against them: being a drain on resources and preventing further development of the service offer. Staff are managing the risks well and are developing both temporary and long term solutions. The service's future development lies with finding new premises which will benefit the collections and allow its people-centred vision to be delivered more effectively than is currently possible.