

Some key strategies for development

Purpose:	Strategy 1: Outreach	Strategy 2: Process	Strategy 3: Partnership
Reading and literacy	<p>Encouraging and supporting the establishment of reading groups in a range of locations as well as in libraries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workplace groups</li> <li>• Groups in care homes and their carers</li> <li>• Doctors' surgeries</li> <li>• Groups in prisons</li> <li>• Link with local radio</li> <li>• Using new technology to connect housebound people, e.g. disabled or vis. impaired</li> </ul>	<p>Offering a variety of different <i>kinds</i> of reading group to enable more people to engage with and enjoy literature and poetry, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared reading groups</li> <li>• Thematic groups reflecting personal preferences in reading</li> <li>• Language/literacy focused reading groups</li> <li>• Talking Books reading group</li> </ul>	<p>Extending the range of what libraries can do alone through partnerships of different kinds with local community groups, schools, arts organisations, charitable groups, etc., e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership with local FE college</li> <li>• Reading group funded by Better World Books</li> <li>• Young parents' group work with local poet</li> <li>• Arsenal in the Community</li> </ul>
Health and well-being	<p>Raising awareness of the preventative and therapeutic power of a reading group for all members, including people with health issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging referrals by health professionals</li> <li>• Putting notices in medical centres/doctors' surgeries</li> <li>• Notices in community centres and public spaces inviting people to come for a taster.</li> </ul>	<p>Appointing a skilled and knowledgeable facilitator contributes to the enjoyment and well being of all groups. For some groups, however, a trained facilitator is necessary or at least highly desirable, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared reading groups (training essential)</li> <li>• Groups where there are individuals with specific needs</li> </ul>	<p>Developing projects involving partnerships between libraries and adult social care/health and welfare services/ adult community learning, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helping other services understand the health and well-being benefits that reading groups can provide.</li> <li>• Joint leadership and funding of shared reading initiatives</li> <li>• Shared reading project for people living with dementia.</li> </ul>
Communities	<p>Setting up a series of carefully planned initiatives based on local knowledge and aimed at raising awareness of reading groups within the community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book swaps</li> <li>• Reading champions</li> <li>• Council staff reading groups</li> <li>• Engaging in World Book Night</li> <li>• Cardboard Citizens: work with homeless young people</li> <li>• Link with local radio</li> </ul>	<p>Creating conditions that will foster the strong, dynamic communities that reading groups can become, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A free, welcoming venue accessible to all:</li> <li>• Holding meetings in public areas of the library</li> <li>• Keeping membership of library-based groups open</li> <li>• Attending to group and individual needs and interests.</li> </ul>	<p>Fostering social inclusion through long-term, community-wide <i>strategic</i> partnerships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community literary festivals</li> <li>• Sponsoring Reader in Residence at care homes</li> <li>• Links with local dementia groups</li> <li>• Local volunteer contributions</li> </ul>

