

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"> • Workplace groups • Groups in care homes and their carers • Doctors' surgeries • Groups in prisons • Link with local radio • Using new technology to connect housebound people, e.g. disabled or vis. impaired 	<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"> • Shared reading groups • Thematic groups reflecting personal preferences in reading • Language/literacy focused reading groups • Talking Books reading group 	<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"> • Partnership with local FE college • Reading group funded by Better World Books • Young parents' group work with local poet • Arsenal in the Community
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"> • Encouraging referrals by health professionals • Putting notices in medical centres/doctors' surgeries • Notices in community centres and public spaces inviting people to come for a taster. 	<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"> • Shared reading groups (training essential) • Groups where there are individuals with specific needs 	<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"> • Helping other services understand the health and well-being benefits that reading groups can provide. • Joint leadership and funding of shared reading initiatives • Shared reading project for people living with dementia.
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"> • Book swaps • Reading champions • Council staff reading groups • Engaging in World Book Night • Cardboard Citizens: work with homeless young people • Link with local radio 	<p>Creating conditions that will foster the strong, dynamic communities that reading groups can become, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A free, welcoming venue accessible to all: • Holding meetings in public areas of the library • Keeping membership of library-based groups open • Attending to group and individual needs and interests. 	<p>Fostering social inclusion through long-term, community-wide <i>strategic</i> partnerships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community literary festivals • Sponsoring Reader in Residence at care homes • Links with local dementia groups • Local volunteer contributions

