



September 2007

## **Fulfilling their Potential Yorkshire and Humberside**

### **A new regional initiative for young people and libraries**

The Reading Agency, the independent charity working to get more reading to more people, is delighted to announce that Fulfilling their Potential (FtP) is under way in Yorkshire and Humberside. (Please see Notes to editors below for more information about FtP.)

During autumn 2007, intensive training will be made available for staff at all levels in the 11 participating library authorities. Building on existing best practice in the region, training will focus on involving and engaging young people in the work of libraries, with a further emphasis on sustaining participation. Each authority will, in 2008, run a service development project to put what they have learned into practice. Young people will design spaces, choose stock, run reading groups... and perhaps train staff themselves.

Support for the library authorities will be provided by a partnership managed by The Reading Agency and including the National Youth Agency, the Regional Youth Work Unit, and Museums Libraries and Archives.

“Library authorities in Yorkshire and Humberside have taken pride in their work with and for young people. With the Fulfilling their Potential project, we expect to develop this work into a full-scale, sustainable regional programme, with a focus on participation and partnership,” says Fiona Williams, head of libraries and heritage for York Libraries.

***“The Reading Agency is delighted to be working with libraries in Yorkshire and Humberside on this project. We know young people want more of a say in their library services and this project will enable that to happen in libraries across the region,”*** says Elizabeth Dubber, director of programmes for The Reading Agency.

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### Notes to editors:

- The Reading Agency is passionate about reading, and everyone having an equal chance to become a reader. Reading opens doors to knowledge and an inner imaginative life and connects people to each other.
- Founded in 2002, The Reading Agency is an independent charity and reading development agency. We work with public libraries, running national programmes like the Summer Reading Challenge, Fulfilling their Potential (changing library services for teenagers), and the Vital Link programme for emergent adult readers.
- **Fulfilling Their Potential Yorkshire and Humberside** is part of a national strategy called Fulfilling their Potential, which aims to transform young people's experience of public libraries. Fulfilling their Potential is part of Framework for the Future, the government's ten year strategy to modernise public library services across England. For more information about Fulfilling their Potential, visit [http://www.readingagency.org.uk/projects/children/fulfilling\\_potential.html](http://www.readingagency.org.uk/projects/children/fulfilling_potential.html)
- The Reading Agency also sets up and runs national partnerships, linking libraries to broadcasters, the book trade, youth services and the basic skills sector. Partners include the BBC, major publishers, Orange, the National Youth Agency and the National Literacy Trust.
- The Reading Agency engages in research, policy and advocacy, exploring the benefits of reading and libraries. We also develop practical resources to support people working with readers: training, toolkits and promotional materials.
- For more general information, please visit: [www.readingagency.org.uk](http://www.readingagency.org.uk)

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