

12 June 2008

Young people have their say in north west libraries

Project celebration event: York: 18 June 2008

A project that has enabled over 288 young people aged 11 to 19 years across Yorkshire and Humberside to make key decisions about what they want from their local libraries celebrates its success with a special event on Wednesday 18 June in *explore*, Library Learning Centre, Acomb, York.

Best-selling teen author Kevin Brooks (author of hit books such as *Candy*, *Martyn Pig* and *Black Rabbit Summer*) will meet some of those young people as they speak about their experiences at the event, which marks the end of a highly-successful first year for the Fulfilling their Potential (FtP) Yorkshire and Humberside initiative. (Event starts at 1700, please see „Notes to editors“ for more details.)

Young people have been involved in FtP Yorkshire and Humber in a whole variety of ways – everything from advising on the design of local library spaces to choosing books for other young people, to joining reading groups and publishing their reviews on local radio.

FtP Yorkshire and Humber is managed by The Reading Agency, the independent charity working to get more people reading more. It has been funded by 11 library services across the Yorkshire and Humberside region, and Yorkshire Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA). Its work is guided by a Board with members from senior stakeholder organisations

- ***Photographers and journalists are invited to attend this event. Kevin Brooks, the young people speaking at the event, and Liz Dubber, Director of Programmes with The Reading Agency will all be available for interview on the day. Photographs will be available after the event.***

The event also marks the publication of an evaluation report which provides detailed evidence of the impact that FtP Yorkshire and Humber has made so far on young people and libraries across the Yorkshire and Humberside region. The evaluation shows that FtP Yorkshire and Humber has:

- been successful in reaching significant numbers of young people
- enabled library staff from across Yorkshire and Humberside to develop their skills and confidence in working positively with young people
- encouraged library staff across the region to share good practice and learn from one another's experiences

Looking forward, libraries involved in the project all have plans to continue, develop and embed the work they have done with young people.

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Notes to editors

- Founded in 2002, The Reading Agency is an independent charity and reading development agency. It aims to get more people reading more. (www.readingagency.org.uk)

- **18 June event schedule:**
 - 1700 Registration and refreshments. Visit displays of work and share ideas
 - 1745 Presentations from:
 - Young people involved in the project
 - Fiona Williams, Head of Libraries and Heritage, York
 - Liz Dubber, Director of Programmes, The Reading Agency
 - 1830 Author talk – Kevin Brooks
 - 1910 Conclusion – Fiona Williams
 - 1915 Final opportunity to mingle
 - 1930 Finish

- FtP Yorkshire and Humber 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 visit www.readingagency.org.uk/projects/children/fullfilling_potential

- A group of senior stakeholders inputs into the strategic direction of the initiative through the FtP Yorkshire and Humber Board. Members of the Board include:
 - Erica Ramsay, MLA Yorkshire
 - Fiona Williams, Head of Libraries and Heritage, York
 - Brenda Hooper, ASCEL Yorkshire and Humberside
 - Miriam Jackson, Director, Youth Work Unit Yorkshire and Humberside
 - Fran Farrar, Development Officer, Participation Team, Nat. Youth Agency
 - Brenda Read-Brown, Project Manager, The Reading Agency
 - Claire Styles, Senior Project Manager, The Reading Agency

- The FtP Yorkshire and Humber evaluation reports available for downloading from the end of June 2008 at www.readingagency.org.uk/projects/children/FtPNoW

It's time to stop reading. It's time to get someone else to start.