

the reading agency

Embargoed until 0001, 15.12.08

New chair for The Reading Agency: Liz Cleaver of BBC Learning

The Reading Agency is delighted to announce that its new chair will be Liz Cleaver, Controller of BBC Learning. Liz takes over from Martin Molloy in March 2009 and says of her appointment: "I'm thrilled to become chair of an organisation I have long admired and that is doing such innovative work to spread a love of reading."

The Reading Agency is an independent charity working to inspire more people to read more. Since its formation in 2002, The Reading Agency has created highly successful programmes for children, teenagers and adults right across the UK library network. It is funded by the Arts Council and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.

Miranda McKearney, director of The Reading Agency, paid tribute to the outgoing chair: "Martin led the transition board overseeing the merger of the agencies forming The Reading Agency, and went on to steer us through six years of dynamic growth. He has been a superb chair – steady, strategic and insightful, and I am so pleased he has agreed to become our first president. He has helped our experimental work with libraries take root. For instance the Summer Reading Challenge now involves 690,000 children a year."

Martin Molloy said: "It has been a privilege to be part of a creative and dynamic organisation which in a few years has made such an impact on the world of libraries, books and reading. I hand over the chair to Liz Cleaver with every confidence that The Reading Agency will achieve even greater successes under her leadership. I am delighted that someone with Liz's skills and integrity is taking on the role."

For more media information please contact **Debbie Hyde**

07956 320 486 or debbie.hyde@oasismedia.co.uk

Notes to editors

- For general information about please visit: www.readingagency.org.uk
- The Summer Reading Challenge is run by The Reading Agency and challenges children aged four to 12 years to read six books over the summer, through their local library. Research shows it improves their reading range, confidence and enjoyment.