



aiming high: the library offer to young people

A Reading Agency conference
in association with LGA

Tuesday 29 January 2008

Local Government House
Conference Centre
Smith Square
London SW1

aiming high: the library offer to young people

A conference exploring the powerful role that public libraries' work with young people can play in delivering national and local government's ambitions for young people.

This highly topical event comes on the eve of the *National Year of Reading*, and at a time when new approaches to young people's services are being shaped by the government's ten year strategy *Aiming High for Young People*. This government push coincides happily with a library change programme called *Fulfilling their Potential*, which is putting young people at the heart of redesigned teenage library services.

Public libraries are a vast national resource offering young people positive things to do in safe, welcoming and increasingly youth-centred spaces in every community. The reach of libraries' work with reading and learning makes them a key resource in young people's lives. This is demonstrated by the new national Library Offer to Young People, which this conference will showcase.

key themes covered by the conference

The conference examines the role that libraries and their reading for pleasure work can play in helping young people to enjoy and achieve. It showcases a new national Library Offer to Young People, and explores:

- how libraries' work with young people is changing dramatically, and why this should matter to policy makers
- the potential of libraries' reading work to reach and inspire young people to help shape public services
- how reading and libraries can engage disenfranchised young people
- how libraries can help young people motivate each other through participation in library activities and decision making
- how young people's involvement in library activities can be recognised and accredited.

come to this conference to

- find out how the Library Offer to Young People will help you deliver on Aiming High and the National Year of Reading
- find out how libraries can actively support the development of services for young people
- explore local authority partnership opportunities for libraries and reading – with the media, cultural sector, education, youth services and others.

discussion sessions explore

- reading for pleasure – recognising and exploiting the opportunities
- how to use the National Year of Reading with young people to create a reading nation
- working in partnership to deliver the step-change

The Reading Agency is a charity which inspires more people to read more, working through a particularly close partnership with the public library network.

Visit The Reading Agency's website at www.readingagency.org.uk to find out more about our work with libraries and readers.

The morning programme

09.15 – 10.15	Registration and coffee
10.15 – 10.30	Chair's welcome and introduction <i>Miranda McKearney, Director, The Reading Agency</i>
10.30 – 10.50	Meeting the challenge: how libraries and culture support local authorities <i>Cllr Chris White, Chair, LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board</i>
10.50 – 11.30	Presenting the Library Offer to Young People <i>Sue Wilkinson, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Museums, Libraries and Archives Council</i> <i>Nicky Parker, Head of Libraries and Information Services, Manchester City Council</i> <i>Subnum Hariff, Bolton Library Service, and young people, Bolton MBC</i>
11.30 – 11.45	Refreshment break
11.45 – 12.15	Discussion sessions: unlocking their potential
12.15 – 12.45	A Children's Services Director's perspective <i>Anne Marie Carrie, Executive Director: Family & Children's Services, London Borough of Kensington & Chelsea</i>
12.45 – 1.00	Questions and discussion
1.00 – 1.45	Lunch

The afternoon programme

1.45 – 1.55	Chair's welcome back and introduction <i>Cllr Les Lawrence, Chair of Children and Young People's Board, LGA</i>
1.55 – 2.15	Panel discussion: raising the stakes <i>Cllr Les Lawrence (Chair), Jon Boagey, Leon Cych, Malorie Blackman, Miranda McKearney</i>
2.15 – 2.45	Keynote address: new policy context <i>David Bell, Permanent Secretary, Department for Children, Schools and Families</i>
2.45 – 3.30	The Library Offer in action: a choice of 3 Learning Sessions, involving young people 1: Reading now: how libraries can use new technologies to engage young people <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Leon Cych, Chief Executive, Learn4Life</i>• <i>jellyellie, teen entrepreneur, author, commentator, speaker and consultant</i>• <i>Maureen McCulloch, Finance Director, The Reading Agency</i> 2: Taking part: how libraries can proactively involve young people from hard to reach groups <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Jon Boagey, Head of Information and Research, National Youth Agency</i>• <i>Mary Dawes & Anish Harrison, Swindon Libraries, Josh Chesterman, UKYP Swindon</i>• <i>Sharon Kirkpatrick, Senior Manager, Dorset Libraries</i> 3: Reading, creativity and the media: how libraries can work creatively to promote reading for pleasure <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Malorie Blackman, award winning young people's author</i>• <i>Chris Wilson, Executive Producer, Audio and Music, BBC</i>• <i>Debbie Hicks, Director of Research and Strategy, The Reading Agency</i>• <i>Tricia Kings, Senior Project Manager, The Reading Agency</i>• <i>Debbie Cotterill, teacher, Coombe Boys Secondary School, Kingston</i> Conference round up in the Learning Sessions
3.30 – 4.00	Refreshments available on departure