

the reading agency

What is HeadSpace?

HeadSpace is a safe space in a library or youth centre designed by and for young people aged 11 to 19 that offers them somewhere to meet friends, share their reading, find information or take part in activities. It's a project from The Reading Agency who manage and develop it with libraries and young people.

What difference can HeadSpace make?

If you are refurbishing or building a new library space then you can use HeadSpace to involve young people in designing areas for them to read, listen, surf and chill. HeadSpace can support you to:

- involve young people in making decisions and shaping services
- demonstrate that you are meeting key local and national government requirements to provide positive activities and safe local spaces for young people
- provide volunteering opportunities for young people that can be accredited
- implement a strong brand understood and developed by young people
- develop staff skills in working with young people
- draw in strategic partners from the youth sector
- understand and meet the needs of socially excluded young people

We are already running HeadSpace with 20 local authorities, who report outcomes including:

- more socially excluded young people joining and actively using their library
- fewer behaviour issues in libraries by young people
- more young people volunteering in their community

Young people that are working with HeadSpace have also told us that they feel more self confident, participate in more positive activities as a result of their involvement and want to continue to be involved with the library service.

“Because of HeadSpace we are also involved with the Bolton Children’s Book Awards. There’ve been lots of exciting opportunities like that. We’ve even made a presentation about HeadSpace to a conference of 200 people.” Sameeta Patel, young volunteer at HeadSpace Bolton

How can you develop HeadSpace?

If you are interested in developing one or more HeadSpace sites in your authority you can purchase HeadSpace as part of our new Participate programme. HeadSpace can be purchased on its own or with the other Participate modules, Involving young people and Creative reading, which will support core staff skills development. The creative reading module also incorporates a subscription to our new social reading website for young people, groupthing.org. Libraries running HeadSpace who are subscribed to groupthing.org will be able to create HeadSpace web pages as way of getting young people reading and engaged in creative word-based activities.



For more information on the Participate programme and how it can help your service to meet the full range of requirements under the national Library Offer for Young People go to www.readingagency.org.uk/young/library-offer-for-young-people

What does HeadSpace include?

A three-year single HeadSpace site licence gives you access to all the support, resources and tools that you will need to build your HeadSpace project covering:

- consultancy support to help you plan your project
- access to HeadSpace network online discussion boards
- access to HeadSpace project resources online
- use of HeadSpace message boards on groupthing.org and own HeadSpace microsite (if also subscribed to groupthing.org)
- hard copies and any updates of all HeadSpace resources

The comprehensive range of HeadSpace resources that you will receive include:

- HeadSpace brand guidelines and Create your HeadSpace design and furnishing catalogue (includes up to date supplier details, costs and discounts)
- HeadSpace volunteering handbook
- HeadSpace evaluation toolkit
- HeadSpace accreditation handbook
- HeadSpace press and PR pack
- copies of brand artwork files including logos, low cost templates (book plates, invitations etc) in a range of formats for use online and in print
- HeadSpace promotions pack worth £200, including posters (A3/ A3 Empty belly/A4), A5 flyers, T-shirts (medium and large sizes), button badges, book marks, library card wallets, mousemats

Further benefits of HeadSpace

When you purchase HeadSpace we will provide the Making change happen module from the Participate programme for free. This module helps you to develop vital partnerships and embed the values of young people's participation across your service. Making change happen also helps authorities to discover new funding and policy opportunities for work with young people.

Costs

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| HeadSpace three-year single site licence | £2500 + VAT get Making change happen free |
| Additional site licences | £500 for first two sites |
| Thereafter | £200 |
| Other Participate modules | |
| Making change happen | Free when subscribing to HeadSpace |
| Involving young people | £2,500 + VAT get Making change happen free |
| Creative reading (including groupthing.org) | £2,500 + VAT get Making change happen free |
| groupthing.org website subscription only | 1 Year and 2 year subscription rates are available from £600. For more info contact info@groupthing.org |