

the reading agency

Participate

Participate is the new, flexible package of programmes and products that helps libraries to meet young people's needs. You can run Participate as a complete programme alongside your HeadSpace project or select particular modules to develop your work.

HeadSpace is included as a module in the programme for purchase by any English library authority. It provides the training and support that authorities who are part of the Big Lottery HeadSpace programme have already had to develop one HeadSpace site. Authorities such as yours who have already been through training and developed significant experience and expertise in HeadSpace are exclusively able to purchase stand alone three-year single HeadSpace site licences providing a fast track way to develop more HeadSpace sites.

If you are not able to develop further physical environments the Involving young people and Creative reading modules can help you to provide more support for core staff skills development and find other ways to include young people in your work.

The requirement to involve young people in your work is underpinned by national and local government targets and if you are able to demonstrate that you are doing this across the service then you may be able to lever in extra funding. Participate allows you to demonstrate that you are meeting government targets.

What does Participate deliver?

Participate is based on achieving tangible service improvement outcomes including:

- increased staff skills and confidence when working with young people
- new partnerships with the youth sector and young people, to lever in extra funding
- more young people involved in developing and delivering library services
- improved the skills, knowledge and self-esteem of young people
- young people motivated to get involved in their local library
- reaching young people who are socially excluded
- responding to local needs.

Why now ?

A huge shift in government policy following Every Child Matters and Aiming High means local services have to involve young people and offer them positive activities. Local authorities are embracing an approach that puts young people at the centre of running services.

The Youth Libraries Board, including The Reading Agency, has devised the national Library Offer to Young People that shows what libraries need to do to deliver national and local policy requirements. It also outlines what young people could, and should, expect from their local library and is reflected in what HeadSpace delivers.

“Any authority that delivers the full national Library Offer to Young People is delivering Aiming High.” Katharine Davies, DCSF Youth Task Force

Participate supports you to achieve the full Library Offer to Young People in all parts of your service and to develop more HeadSpace sites. Through Participate you can show how your libraries meet local authority targets, such as Local Area Agreements and National Indicators. You may be able to access funds such as the Children's Plan budget, youth opportunities or youth capital fund to support development of Participate including roll out of HeadSpace sites.

"The library has been a good thing to get involved with. Our ideas were listened to, our choices about design and books and this makes a big difference locally. I know it will help get people away from hanging around on the streets because they can come into the library and get involved with something productive." Connor Parsons, Young volunteer at HeadSpace Efford

What is Participate?

Participate combines the expertise and knowledge we gained from running our Fulfilling their Potential programme. The evaluation from this tells us that when young people are actively engaged through their local library their self-confidence and esteem improves. Participate particularly helps libraries to work with young people who are socially excluded.

It is a modular programme that you can tailor to your service. You can buy the three modules and HeadSpace site licences as a complete package, one by one, over a year, or longer – whatever suits your needs.

Each module is supported by all the training, consultancy and online resources you need, from strategic planning to staff core skills development and improved outcomes for young people.

- **Making change happen**

Use Making change happen to embed the values of young people's participation across your service. Use it to plan service improvement, develop vital partnerships and to discover new funding and policy opportunities. This underpins all the other Participate modules so you get it free when you sign up to any other module.

- **Involving young people**

Use Involving young people to engage more young people, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to measure the improvement in their skills and self-esteem, and to help young library volunteers achieve accreditation.

- **Creative reading (including groupthing.org)**

Use Creative reading to inspire more young people with reading by developing positive activities in your libraries and online

- **HeadSpace Site Licence**

A three-year single HeadSpace site licence gives you access to all the support, resources and tools that you will need to fast track the development of a further HeadSpace site in your authority. If you also subscribe to our new website for young people, groupthing.org, either separately or through the Creative reading module, this licence also gives you access to the HeadSpace microsite and option to create your own HeadSpace web pages.

What does it cost?

| Participate options | Participate costs |
|--|---|
| Participate full programme: Making change happen Involving young people Creative reading (including groupthing.org) HeadSpace site licence | £5500 + VAT |
| Making Change Happen | £2500 + VAT or free when subscribing to <i>Involving young people</i> or <i>Creative reading</i> |
| Involving young people | £2500 + VAT get <i>Making change happen</i> free |
| Creative reading (including groupthing.org) | £2500 + VAT get <i>Making change happen</i> free |
| HeadSpace 3 year site licence | £500 + VAT for first two sites Thereafter £200 + VAT |
| groupthing.org website subscription only | 1 Year and 2 year subscription discount subscription rates for HeadSpace authorities are available from £500. For more info contact: info@groupthing.org |