

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 or as a combination of modules.

If you are refurbishing or building a library then our HeadSpace module supports you to involve young people in designing the space, services and activities. If you are not developing a physical environment then you can use the Involving young people and Creative reading modules 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 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.

“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. 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 Participate.

“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 four modules 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**
 Use HeadSpace to develop partnerships with young people that support them to plan and deliver services, choose stock, design reading spaces, run activities and gain accreditation for volunteering. If you also subscribe to our new website for young people, groupthing.org, either separately or through the Creative reading module, then you can access the HeadSpace microsite and create your own web pages.

What does it cost?

Participate options	Participate costs
Participate full programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making change happen Involving young people Creative reading (including groupthing.org) HeadSpace 	£6500 + VAT
Making Change Happen	£2500 + VAT Or free when subscribing to <i>Involving young people</i> , <i>Creative reading</i> or <i>HeadSpace</i>
Involving young people	£2500 + VAT <i>get Making change happen free</i>
Creative reading (including groupthing.org)	£2500 + VAT <i>get Making change happen free</i>
HeadSpace	£2500 + VAT <i>get Making change happen free</i>
groupthing.org website subscription only	1 Year and 2 year subscription rates are available from £600. For more info contact info@groupthing.org