

Stirling Library HQ
Outreach Services
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Dear Prospective Reader and Friend

Thank you so much for the opportunity to send you more information about Reading Friends.

Reading Friends is a new project by Stirling Library Service through the Scottish Book Trust. It matches volunteers to read to people within their communities who feel isolated. Although books act as the hinge we believe they can, depending on the participants, become a lot more to alleviate loneliness and improve well-being.

We are recruiting volunteers **Readers** who will undertake a short induction and receive a PVG check (a disclosure check for working with vulnerable groups). The volunteer can then read to individuals or groups, friends or family depending on preferences. However there is scope within the basic model to waiver from this format. Such activities might include doing a crossword together, reading poetry, reading newspapers/magazines or themed discussions on history or sport and reminiscences using props etc.

At Stirling Library Services we have all the required resources and support you will need. All that is expected from the volunteer is roughly a half hour every 2 weeks although most are now meeting weekly, and having a minimum age of 18 (unless agreed with the co-ordinator and carer).

On the other hand we are, of course, also looking for recipients **Friends** who feel isolated and would like someone to read to them, or discuss books in general and enjoy a chat.

We are now in the pilot phase and this will be funded until August 2019 then being rolled out even further across the country. At the moment there are only a few other projects in Scotland and a few in England, Wales and now Ireland.

“What an exciting time to get involved, as you can help to develop its’ future!”

There is no cost for the reader or Friend (e.g. travel- as we try for local matches) but if travelling further afield we will cover any travel costs. We shall also undertake the organising for the project. However any help with promoting Reading Friends through word-of-mouth and dissemination of leaflets electronically would be a tremendous help.

Please let me know if you are interested or would like more information whether as a Reader or Friend.

Kind regards
Morag Smith

Reading Friends, Volunteer co coordinator Stirling Council Library Services.
A project **matching volunteer readers to people who feel isolated**.

Morag Smith 01786 237549 or Helen Conway 01786 237881

