

Read Easy North Somerset - 'Service in North Somerset'



Read Easy North Somerset offers a reading coaching service delivered by trained volunteers, using the established 'Turning Pages' programme developed by the Shannon Trust. They have successfully helped numerous adults nationally to learn how to read, which helps them no longer be excluded from the many opportunities, services, and facilities which most of us take for granted.

Read Easy used their UKSPF Community Grant to support 18 coaches to work with aspiring readers, with 5 of these coaches newly trained with project funding.

UKSPF Achievements

1 project completed

23 people engaged directly by the project, including new coaches and readers.

Wider impact

The UKSPF grant award and its impact on developing more reader-coach pairs was valuable leverage for Read Easy to obtain further funds to enable them to continue their work.

There are inevitably a range of positive outcomes from those who successfully learn to read. In some areas, up to 10% of working-age adults struggle with reading and would find difficulty to connect with others, read for pleasure, pursue job opportunities, improve mental health, go out for a meal, go to the doctor's surgery etc. Learning to read gives people the confidence to do these things and opens up a wealth of opportunities.

Feedback from Read Easy's national work has included:

"I would see friends running businesses and buying houses and none of that was accessible to me. My confidence was rock bottom, and I didn't think I was capable of anything... Now I know I have achieved something in life and to show my kids that you can do anything if you put your mind to it."

“I know that I have the tools to progress and Read Easy and my coaches have gone above and beyond to help me. I still get scared when I compare myself to my colleagues, but I know that I can use my new skills and my improved confidence to do my job and not hide.”