

Invitation for Expression of Interest: Association of Senior Children's and Education Librarians (ASCEL)

Title: Developing Principles for Working with Young People in Libraries

Deadline for receipt of Expressions of Interest: 5pm on 28 October, 2018

Summary

The Association of Senior Children's and Education Librarians (ASCEL) wish to identify a set of principles for working with young people that will underpin ASCEL's Children's Promise¹ and shape the way in which libraries work with young people.

Background

In 2013 The Reading Agency received a five-year anniversary gift from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation which provided the opportunity to create and develop Reading Hack, a programme for young people aged 13-24 years in public libraries and schools.

In the first two years The Reading Agency worked with young people, library and youth organisations to develop the programme from concept to its delivery from April 2015. The programme aimed to engage young people in reading by making it relevant to their passions and motivations and supporting their personal and skills development. Examples of how young people have taken part in the programme include managing author events, setting up book clubs, planning activities and events to support reader development initiatives in libraries such as the Summer Reading Challenge and planning and delivering small scale library festivals.

In year one, 53 library authorities participated in the programme with this rising to 170 library authorities in the third year. 27,000 young people have taken part as volunteers, cultural programmers and peer advocates from 1,790 libraries across the UK.

In 2015 OPM Group, an experienced independent evaluator were commissioned by The Reading Agency to evaluate the Reading Hack programme and the final report was published in May 2018² The evaluators found that the success of the programme has demonstrated the demand for a co-produced, locally owned volunteering offer that young people can build and adapt for themselves.

1

<https://ascel.org.uk/childrens-and-young-peoples-promise>¹

<https://readingagency.org.uk/young-people/001-news/why-reading-hack.html>

2

Scope and Specification

Funding from Paul Hamlyn is allowing for the identification of a set of principles to underpin library work with young people which will form part of the legacy of Reading Hack. ASCEL is looking for individuals/organisations to work with ASCEL, The Reading Agency, Libraries Connected and Reading Hack young advisors to develop some principles for working with young people for the library sector.

The scope of the work should look at and build on the following:

- ❖ Key learning from the last five years of Reading Hack and including library and young people's priorities
- ❖ Arts Council England Quality Principles.

As a result of this work, library services will be able to:

- ❖ Draw on a set of principles to help shape their work with young people.

Methodology

ASCEL welcomes innovative proposals of how to achieve the above, but the following elements would need to be incorporated into proposals:

- Draw on the research findings that have shaped Reading Hack over the last five years and the recent OPM evaluation findings and recommendations
- Adhere to Arts Council England Quality Principles for working with children and young people
- Consultation with ASCEL members, young people, Libraries Connected and The Reading Agency to test findings
- A workshop with young people to agree the principles
- Final report to include recommendations for a final version of principles to underpin the Children's Promise and work with young people.

Budget

Please submit a budget for up to £5,000 including all expenses and VAT. This amount is also inclusive of young people's incentives and expenses. Fees will be made payable in two instalments with 50% offered up-front and 50% paid against agreed milestones.

Skills and experience

ASCEL wishes to appoint an individual or organisation who can demonstrate the following:

- An understanding of Reading Hack
- Knowledge of Arts Council England Quality Principles for working with children and young people

- Good interpersonal and professional communication skills. The successful applicant will work with stakeholders and partners on the organisation's behalf and so this is crucial
- Stakeholder management experience
- Existing relationships with library strategic and delivery partners
- Experience of developing national offers and programmes for young people
- Experience of working directly and consulting with young people
- DBS checked
- Good project management skills and ability to work to a clear deadline and budget.

Application submissions

All correspondence in relation to this exercise (including general enquiries, questions of clarity and final submissions) should be addressed to Sue Ball, ASCEL national committee chair – sue.ball@staffordshire.gov.uk.

Your Expression of Interest (800 words limit) should arrive no later than 5pm on 28 October, 2018. Your submission should include:

- Your understanding of the brief
- An outline methodology with timeline for achieving the brief
- A statement of your skills and experience in context of this brief. Examples and links to relevant reports you have written or contributed to should be included
- A clear breakdown of costs which includes all rates, fees, incentives and expenses you are anticipating for the project. If you are VAT registered this must be included in your costings
- Two contactable referees who could provide a relevant reference of your suitability to work on this project.

Evaluation criteria

All applicants will be assessed on the material they supply and any supplementary information they are asked to provide. The selection panel will assess all responses to this Expression of Interest across four broad areas; methodology and meeting the brief, skills and experience, contextual understanding, and the cost effectiveness of the submitted bid. The criteria are explained as follows:

Criteria	Weighting
<p>Methodology: A high-quality understanding of the brief and how you will develop the set of principles.</p>	35%
<p>Contextual understanding: Demonstration of a solid understanding of the Reading Hack and Arts Council England Quality Principles for working with children and young people.</p>	25%
<p>Cost: The proposal represents good value for money and is considered fit-for-purpose. Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A breakdown and justification of costs - Clear value for money 	25%
<p>Skills and experience: How your expertise and track record has led to successful and tangible outcomes for organisations</p>	15%

Process

Timetable

- Deadline for submissions: 5pm, 28 October 2018
- Appointment November 2018
- Commencement of work: November/December 2018
- Duration of project: We would expect this work to be completed between November/December 2018 – beginning of March 2019

Project management

The suppliers will report to a sub-group consisting of ASCEL national committee representatives, Libraries Connected and The Reading Agency. This group will provide the top-level steer to the successful bidder for the project.