



January 2008

HEADSPACE EFFORD WELCOMES YOUNG READERS

Plymouth Library Services is delighted to launch HeadSpace Efford, a completely different kind of library provision developed and run in partnership with young people and The Reading Agency, the independent charity working to get more reading to more people.

Date: Monday 14 January 2008

Time: 5-7pm

Venue: Efford Library, Torrington Way, Plymouth

Journalists, photographers and camera crews are invited to attend. To register for a media pass, please see [media contacts](#) box below.

HeadSpace Efford is part of a national project funded by the Big Lottery and managed by The Reading Agency to provide environments in libraries and youth centres where young people are involved in the design, planning and running of their new spaces where they can chill out and enjoy cutting-edge reading experiences. (For more background information, please see Notes to editors.)

Local young people have been at the heart of developing this visionary new approach to teenage library services in Plymouth, including Efford Youth Forum, Children's Participation and Lipson Community College.

"HeadSpace will be a nice place to go to read, do my homework, keep dry, go on the computers and have fun," says Kieron Jones, aged 13 years, from Efford Youth Forum.

HeadSpace will be a hub within libraries for young people to feel engaged and welcomed. Some of the most innovative elements of the project, such as the idea of young people being served drinks and a book of their choice by a specially-trained volunteer book waiter, came from the young people themselves.

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Commenting on the launch of HeadSpace, Ward Councillor for Efford and Lipson Andy Kerswell, said: ***“Ward councillors have been campaigning for these facilities for Efford for many years, it is therefore very exciting to see this project come to fruition. The young people of Efford chose the furniture and books for HeadSpace, and will be serving other young people with a book and refreshments. It will be a real community facility with young people in Efford leading from the front in the first newly built library for this city in 30 years. My ward colleagues and I are delighted that this new facility will be in the heart of Efford”.***

Liz Roberts, HeadSpace project manager for The Reading Agency comments: ***“The HeadSpace project is driven by young people’s ideas and Efford is really showing how libraries are working in partnership with young people to make their ideas happen. The project is bringing more young people into libraries by showing them that libraries are welcoming and inspirational spaces where they can get involved in their communities”.***

Efford Library is on the look-out for young people aged 11 to 19 years who are interested in accredited volunteering opportunities in HeadSpace. For more information please contact Julia Hale or Emma Sherriff on 01752 306799 or come to the launch to find out more.

For further information please contact:
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Notes to editors:

- Founded in 2002, The Reading Agency is an independent charity and reading development agency. It aims to get more reading to more people and is passionate about everyone having an equal chance to become a reader. For more general information, please visit: www.readingagency.org.uk
- During the summer of 2006 the Reading Agency worked with almost 700 young people to develop the concept resulting in a Big Lottery award of £575,000. This allowed The Reading Agency to begin work in Spring 2007 in partnership with young people and 20 library services in four English regions. Some of the most innovative elements of the project, such as the idea of being served drinks and a book of their choice by a specially-trained volunteer book waiter, emerged from the young people themselves.
- HeadSpace sites will be established between April 2007 and March 2010 in the following locations:
 - **East Midlands:**
Buxton Library, Derbyshire
Corby Library, Northamptonshire
Worksop Library, Nottinghamshire

- **North West:**
 - Halewood Library, Knowsley
 - Halton Lea Library, Halton
 - Haslingden Library, Lancashire
 - High Street Library, Bolton (open)
 - Longsight Library, Manchester

- **South East:**
 - Burgess Road Library, Southampton
 - Café IT, Folkestone, Kent (open)
 - Crawley Library, West Sussex
 - High Wycombe Library, Buckinghamshire
 - Lordswood Library, Medway

- **South West**
 - Barcode Youth Café, North Somerset
 - Central Library, Swindon
 - Efford Library, Plymouth (opens 14 January)
 - Hartcliffe Library, Bristol
 - Lyme Regis Library, Dorset (open)
 - Melksham Library, Wiltshire
 - Padstow Library, Cornwall

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