

opening **the** book

PRESS RELEASE

NEW ONLINE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



“Stories can be healing. If we’re drowning in chaotic thoughts of our own, to step inside someone else’s head, just for a while, is a kind of freedom.”

Ann Cleeves

Crime writer Ann Cleeves marked the 21st anniversary of *Vera* by sponsoring a project to give back to the north-east region. **Reading for Wellbeing** partners with public health, libraries, voluntary organisations and social prescribing. Ann commissioned Opening the Book to create an online induction course to train and support the workers appointed to this new role. The course proved invaluable to those who took it. Here’s what they said:

The reflective nature of the information was really thought-provoking and the case studies were great – they really got me thinking about applying the knowledge. I found having discussions with my mentor really helpful and it made it a more personal experience.

Helen Parker, Newcastle Libraries

I have absolutely loved this course and everything I have gained from it has been so valuable. Thank you for the brilliant feedback. I learned a lot from my mentor and I would feel a lot less confident, even on completing the course, if I hadn't had their guidance and suggestions.

Georgia Timmins Gateshead Libraries

I have really enjoyed the experience of the Reading for Wellbeing course – thank you so much for your feedback and encouragement! I'm sure the practice will inform our projects, especially in terms of how we prepare to engage with a wide audience of people from different backgrounds/situations/issues and encourage them to read without making them feel intimidated.

Lola Miller, The Queen's Reading Room

Following this success, the course has now been opened to all library and community-based reading workers who wish to take on the role of engaging directly with individual readers and groups who are dealing with the tough things in life. It will give them confidence to talk positively to people about their reading lives, including those who don't read books and those who haven't read for a long time. It will help them develop the resources they need to be ready to connect reading for pleasure with everyone they meet.



Creating themed collections is a new course for library staff responsible for selecting and curating the book offer to catch reader interest both physically and online. The course has been tested with 35 librarians in a specific project and is now opened out to the wider sector. A special feature of Opening the Book advanced courses is the way each participant

can apply the learning to their own work situation and projects with support from an experienced personal mentor.

Mentor feedback on this course was incredibly helpful. My mentor was a great combination of supportive, objective and encouraging.

Mark Kirkby, Leeds Libraries

I found the input of my mentor really useful – especially as the learning is interactive and autotomous, very different from the usual type of training.

Caroline Holdsworth, Calderdale Libraries

The tasks were interesting and cleverly designed to encourage you to think latitudnally. My mentor offered clear advice, giving me areas to think about without ‘spoon-feeding’ the correct answers.

Robin Crawshaw, Lancashire Libraries

Opening the Book courses are hugely fun and enjoyable. Over the last 21 years, more than 20,000 staff have taken courses across five continents. Courses gain 99% satisfaction ratings from users. Director, Rachel Van Riel, says “Many library services have approached us to help fill gaps in staff confidence and skills, especially in the promotion of books and reading. Entry courses start at £25 so it’s easy to get a quick impact with both staff and customers.”

MORE INFORMATION

All courses and prices at <https://www.openingthebook.com/>

Contact rachel@openingthebook.com with any queries.

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