Bookstart 2016-17 Partnership Agreement

Thank you for accepting the Bookstart 2015-16 Partnership Agreement on behalf of your local authority

Your signatory details are shown below the Partnership Agreement – please print or save this page for your records

Terms and conditions

Booktrust will:

- Develop and produce FREE high-quality universal Bookstart packs for all families with babies 0-12 months (Bookstart Baby) and preschool children (Treasure Pack), including guidance for parents and carers on the benefits of reading books with their children on a daily basis from an early age
- Develop and produce FREE additional universal learning and activity resources to be provided via the Bookstart website
- Develop FREE resources for children with English as a second language with translated guidance for families
- Develop FREE targeted programmes and resources to support children with additional needs and families with social and economic disadvantage:
  - Booktouch for blind or partially sighted children at ages 0-2 and 2-4
  - Bookshine for deaf or hearing impaired children at ages 0-2 and 2-4
  - Bookstart Star for children with disabilities affecting fine motor skills at ages 2-4
  - Bookstart Corner for children aged 12-24 months (via children's centres)
- Deliver the packs FREE of charge to the local authority's storage location (see endnote 1)
- Provide support and resources for strategic and operational partners across the local authority, to ensure that Bookstart is delivered effectively as an authority-wide early years programme which will include:
  - Support and advocacy from the early years programme team and Booktrust Regional Managers
  - An online Bookstart partnership handbook
  - An early years Bookstart handbook
  - A Bookstart handbook for health professionals
- Provide FREE training and advocacy around books, reading for pleasure, authors and best practice via regional meetings for Bookstart stakeholders and online resources for libraries, early years and health partners
- Provide a strategic library offer to increase library membership and increase regular active library use by families with children aged 4 and under
- Work with local authorities to evaluate the impact of Bookstart via national and local data in order to measure the positive outcomes for children, families and the wider community.

The Local Authority commits to:

- Nominate a senior director or strategic manager/managers to accept this partnership agreement and commit to administering Bookstart on behalf of the local authority
- Develop a strategic partnership for the programme including library, health and early years to take responsibility for delivery across all services

- Appoint or retain a dedicated Bookstart partnership coordinator or designate staff time to the programme. Sufficient dedicated hours are needed for coordination, partnership working, monitoring, development and reporting to Booktrust (see endnote 2)
- Ensure that mechanisms are in place for the strategic coordination, local management and onward delivery of resources to families and that performance data is collected and reported annually via an online audit and other evaluations (see endnote 3)
- Ensure that a strategy is developed to gift a pack to every eligible child with an encouraging and effective message to parents and carers which conveys the benefits and pleasure of reading books and sharing stories and rhymes on a daily basis, to include:
  - Bookstart Baby (universal)
  - Bookstart Treasure (universal)
  - Bookstart Corner (targeted)
  - Booktouch (for blind or visually impaired children)
  - Bookshine (for deaf or hearing impaired children)
  - Bookstart Star (for children with disabilities affecting fine motor skills)
  - Resources for EAL children
- Develop a local strategy to engage parents and carers to read books with their children every day. To support them to improve their child's home learning environment including signposting them to local children's centres, libraries and further family learning opportunities
- Communicate the strategies to all local partners ensuring that they fully utilise the programme to deliver against local early years targets and priorities
- Commit to the development of the local programme by keeping up to date with programme developments and disseminating the information to all local partners.

Endnotes

1 Please note that deliveries of Bookstart resources are free of charge to the Local Authority's storage location. Schemes may adjust their stock totals or cancel a delivery up to the set deadline for amendments. If a scheme makes late amendments or refuses a delivery, there will be charges imposed by the logistics company and the local authority will be charged for any associated costs.

2 Bookstart is a public/private partnership which delivers a value of around £23 million per year. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) provides vital funding. In turn, this investment funding is used by Booktrust to generate generous in-kind support from children's publishers. Over three million books are provided per year, at a small nominal cost. The Local Authority contributes to the programme by resourcing the coordination of the local partnerships and the administration, storage and onward delivery of the programme.

3 Data required: Numbers of universal packs gifted, number of National Bookstart Week activities, dual language resources gifted, Booktouch packs gifted – for blind and partially sighted children, Bookshine packs gifted – for deaf children, Bookstart Star packs gifted – for children with disabilities affecting fine motor skills delay; and details of partners involved in the programme.

Partner services involved include: health, libraries, early years, children's centres, Portage, speech and language, sensory impairment teams, literacy advisors, registrars, GRT support.

Accepted by: Ian Bailey, Director of Learning

On behalf of: Leicester

On this date: 18 February 2016