

## The National Year of Reading 2008-2009

1. The second NYR is launched by the National Literacy Trust in January 2008 with the overarching challenge of 'putting in place the building blocks for medium term systemic change in the nation's reading and literacy culture....' NIACE is a partner in the NYR, helping to write the successful bid to manage the Year, and sitting on the Steering Group; Jenny Cobley is our link person.
2. There are 5 key themes: *Impact* – changing attitudes to reading; *celebration* – maximising opportunities to show how enjoyable reading is; *diversity* – both of the reader and of the reading experience, to include for example, blogging and texting; *participation* – a major factor will be the handing over of control to communities, schools, libraries and families; *legacy* – 'developing the catalyst for a new vision of reading for the future'.
3. There will be nine themes for the months April to December –  
April – 'Read all about it' – newspapers, online news etc  
May – 'Mind and Body' – celebrate the links between health and reading  
June – 'Reading escapes' – holiday reading  
July – 'Rhythm and Rhyme' – celebrating poetry and lyrics  
August – 'Read the game' – using sport to promote reading  
September – 'You are what you read' – exploring cultural, personal and local identities.  
October – 'Word of mouth' – storytelling and Reading out loud  
November – 'Screen reads'  
December – 'Write the future' – technology and all forms of reading
4. A major factor in the management of the Year is the role of local authority co-ordinators, who will be responsible for stimulating activity in the key organisations, communities and individuals. There will be a big role for libraries, the media, family learning providers, storytellers and authors, as well as schools. However the role of post-16 providers, of young people and adults, and of the voluntary and community sector is seriously underplayed in both the bid and the plans that we have seen so far. The NYR edition of Read On, (the National Literacy Trust's magazine), which was published last week, focuses almost solely on children and families, schools, early years settings and libraries, with Vital Link the only adult feature.
5. I would like to propose that we support the Year in a range of ways, while also reminding everyone that a National Year of Reading is just that – it's a year of encouraging reading for all.
6. Here are some suggestions for discussion about ways in which we could take things forward:
  - Considering our role as an employer in supporting the Year.
  - Using NYR activities to promote NIACE activity and get messages across.

- Using NIACE activity to actively promote and show our support for the NYR.
- Supporting adult providers and partner organisations in promoting and using the Year of Reading.
- Working with the National Literacy Trust to get the adult agenda more widely recognised in the planning, activity and promotional aspects.

7. Some ideas to start off the discussion:

NIACE as an organisation supporting the NYR –

- Do we have a Book Group?
- Do we have a second hand books library?
- Could we, for one month, begin each meeting with someone talking about something they have read?
- Have poems on the walls of the toilets/lifts /kitchens.

Using NYR activities to promote NIACE activity and get messages across

- The monthly themes may lend themselves to certain areas eg May's theme is 'Mind and Body' – could that fit with the health work? 'Rhythm and Rhyme' could link with Family learning/literacy, language and numeracy activity.
- There will be a lot of high profile events, speakers etc – chance for us to piggy back, and remind the world that reading doesn't stop at 16.

Using NIACE activity to actively promote and show our support for the NYR

- The most obvious area of work in family literacy, language and numeracy/literacy, language and numeracy, where the range of activity could help to promote the Year.
- How does QR fit in? 'Use QR as a platform – a guide to the engagement of emerging readers'
- ALW? – 'special award?'
- YALP/Young people?
- literacy, language and numeracy
- But surely we could encourage each area to find a way to support the Year? What could financial learning do? What could the ICT team do?
- Paul thinks an AL edition solely on NYR is too difficult but thinks a supplement in the April edition would be a very good idea.

Supporting adult providers and partner organisations in promoting and using the Year of Reading.

- Currently the only major adult player in the NYR is Vital Link, which is a small grant aided organisation supporting reading for pleasure for adults for adults who are improving their literacy skills. We could add greatly to this area of work – could we develop a toolkit for adult providers? A Fast facts series? Develop a story telling programme for adult teachers?
- 'Toolkit to engage providers around QR/NYR'

Working with the National Literacy Trust to get the adult agenda more widely recognised in the planning, activity and promotional aspects.

These are the signatories to the bid - **Booktrust, the Campaign for Learning, the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education, ContinYou, NIACE, Volunteer Reading Help and the National Youth Agency, with the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and Arts Council England.**

- How can we ensure that adult learners are given as high a profile as possible? For example The Trust says there are very few photos around of adults reading for pleasure. Most of the articles about adults reading for pleasure seem to be about adults reading to children.
- I have already set up a meeting with Jonathan Douglas, Director of the NLT, to discuss the role NIACE might play.
- I think we need to concentrate not only on adults reading for pleasure (very important) but on what that does – brings people into other learning, encourages critical thinking, enables people to feel part of a community, gives insights to other ways of life, gives confidence, links to the social exclusion/cohesion/parenting agendas etc etc.

CT 6.11.07