

Question 1: In no more than 500 words please outline key outcomes of your project

The Selby District Children's Reading Festival had two key outcomes. These were the promotion of literacy and books to children and their families who would not otherwise have had access to an event like this, and also the promotion of the town and community cohesion.

All school children in the Southern CEF area were invited to attend the family day of the festival on the Saturday. This is just over 1400 children. In addition each year two child in the Southern CEF area received a token for a free book, which could be redeemed at the event. There were a series of read aloud sessions with authors who covered all primary school age ranges, as well as book signings and other activities. In addition to reading aloud, the authors also answered questions. The children who were unable to attend with their family on the Saturday received their book at school.

The impact of this event on the children and their families is hard to measure quantitatively, but the feedback from parents has been extremely positive and there have been calls for another event next year. The aim of the event was to get the books directly to the children and to give them an opportunity to experience a reading-centred event that they would not otherwise have had. In total over 3500 children attended across the three days of the event. The event reached children both from deprived areas and those that are more affluent, promoting equal opportunities for all. This has had a positive impact on the children

In addition to the families from the Southern CEF area that attended on the Saturday, those from communities in the town and other areas outside the town, as well as further afield attended ensuring that the event brought the whole of Selby District community together furthering community cohesion. The event brought people into the Abbey and the town in general thus having a positive impact on the town on that day in particular.

Question 2: No more than 500 words: Demonstrate how project has met community development plan objectives that were identified in original application for funding

Photos from the day are the most striking demonstration of how the project has met the objectives of providing activities for young people and the community and also promoting the work of the CEF within their specific area of the district.

The event provided over 200 children who live within the Southern CEF area with free books of their own to keep and treasure at home. Each book was signed by the author and they got to meet that author through the read aloud sessions. It was important that the books made it to individual children to maximise the impact and did not just end up in school libraries. The event was an opportunity for all regardless of background. Children's horizons were expanded by meeting the authors and being able to ask them questions. The sessions were fun and engaging

to ensure children saw books as a fun thing to own. The children were also encouraged to visit their local library and it is hoped that the event would promote conversations in the home about books and reading. Whole families were given a positive learning focus through the event.

The family day was well attended throughout and brought in people from both inside and outside the town. It gave those in more rural villages the opportunity to attend an event that would not normally happen in their local area. The event helped to not only promote literacy, but the work of organisations based in the district such as the Selby Soroptimists, and businesses within the area. It presented a positive image of the district to its community and showed that people within the district care about its children and their future.

Question 3: no more the 250 words: Please give any additional benefits or objectives that the project has met that were not anticipated in original application for funding.

With regard to the family day, a major risk to the project was possible poor attendance. Numbers on the day exceeded expectation and the positive benefits of this for all those who attended cannot be underestimated, meaning that many families were reached by this project. Some come from smaller villages and communities who would not otherwise have access to such an event.

Question 4: Any other comments

Comments Feedback :

Tim Jolly – Staynor Hall School

I would just like to say how much the children enjoyed coming along to the Abbey. It was very well organised and they gained a lot from the visit.

Naomi Smales – Selby Community Primary

Staff were so positive about the whole event and thought the organisation was superb. They said how they arrived and went straight to the designated area and their reading event/story took place straight away and the authors were really great and our Y5/6 children were amazed at the editing process that takes place and now feel not so hard done by when we ask them to edit their work - we definitely don't ask for it to take a year!

Burton Salmon Primary School – Adam Blackwood

I know you asked for a few words of reflection on the reading festival and I would say it was a fantastic event, enjoyed by all of our pupils. The pitch of each author was perfect for the age group in question and the opportunity to spend time with such enthusiastic and passionate individuals had a huge impact upon our children. I only hope that it can become an annual event and help to inspire today's young readers to become tomorrow's great authors !

Barlby Bridge Primary School - Wendy Hockley

What a wonderful festival! All of the school were able to attend and experience meeting an author. This really made the children excited about reading and writing! I think that we now have some potential authors!! The event was very well organised and all of the children were talking about it afterwards. Thank you!