



Read Easy

Helping adults learn to read



Our | 2024
Impact | 2025

From our Chair of Trustees

A heartfelt thank you

On behalf of Read Easy UK, I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who has supported us this year; volunteers, donors, employees, trustees, supporters, and especially the adults who have trusted us to help them take the life-changing step of learning to read.

Why our work matters

Across England, 2.4 million adults cannot read or struggle to read, creating barriers to daily life. Read Easy remains the only national organisation offering free, confidential, one to one reading coaching for adults. Thanks to our incredible volunteers, we continue to expand this work and reach more people.

This year, 2,245 volunteers across 80 groups supported 1,844 adults on their reading journey, a 14% rise from last year. Twice a week, Readers meet with their Coaches for short sessions, online or in person, using a phonics-based programme. These sessions build confidence, self-esteem, and enable

adults to discover genuine excitement about the new opportunities that reading brings into their lives.

Our Readers come from all backgrounds. Of those joining us this year, 23% are in work and 29% are seeking work. Improving reading skills not only boosts employment prospects but also brings wide-ranging personal benefits.

Looking ahead

This year, we welcomed new colleagues who bring fresh energy, and we said goodbye to others who have made a lasting contribution. At Board level, 2025 brought change as Paul Mugford stepped down as Chair after many years of dedicated leadership, though he continues as a trustee. I am privileged to step into this role and grateful for the warm welcome from the team and my fellow trustees to such a positive and committed organisation.

Our 2024–2029 strategy sets an ambitious direction, to reach many more adults who need our support. We are strengthening our systems,



Since I've been learning, my vision is broader. I believe in myself. Before, I was so sad about myself because I couldn't do that thing that I've always wanted to do.



At least

2.4m

adults in England alone
cannot read or can only
read a little

expanding online coaching, and improving communications so more people know help is available. With 2026 designated the National Year of Reading, our goal of supporting 3,000 new Readers each year feels more important than ever.

I'm delighted to share Read Easy's 2024-2025 Impact Report, celebrating the achievements of the past year and the difference we are making together.

Thank you for being part of this journey.



Amanda Tincknell
Chair of Trustees, Read Easy UK



Amanda (left) with Read Easy UK CEO Carla Priddon and outgoing Chair Paul Mugford



Who we are

Read Easy helps adults learn to read.

Our vision: Every adult who wants to learn to read, can.

What we do

Read Easy is a growing movement of trained and dedicated volunteers who provide free, personalised, and confidential one-to-one coaching to help adults learn to read.

Our unique approach is delivered through a nationwide network of affiliated Read Easy Groups across England. These Groups are run by volunteers who offer tailored support that transforms the lives of the adults they coach.

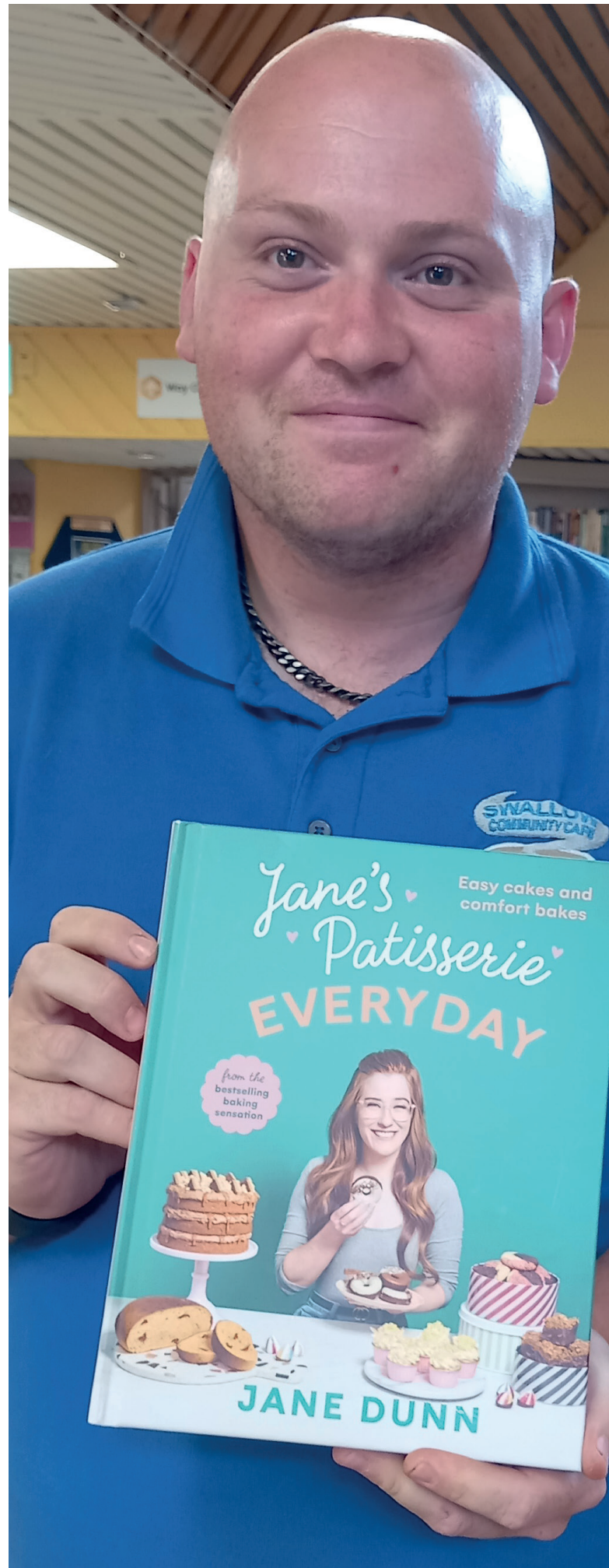
Read Easy UK provides the infrastructure, resources, training, safeguarding, and governance guidance that enable local Groups to operate effectively and offers ongoing guidance and support so volunteers can deliver high-quality, one-to-one reading coaching and learn from each other.

The need

Employment: being able to read can help Readers access a broader range of jobs and development opportunities which can give Readers and their families greater economic stability.

Social: learning to read gives Readers more opportunities to engage in social activities, overcoming isolation, building relationships and strengthening connections.

Personal: reading makes it possible for Readers to access a wide range of opportunities and support that are increasingly offered online. Readers overcome barriers to participation, build their confidence and improve their sense of wellbeing. This also benefits Readers' families.



Celebrating our Readers' success

Last year we reduced our **Reader** waiting lists. However,

240+

adults are still waiting for our support

With more trained volunteers, we can help more adults learn to read. If you would like to help, please go to www.readeasy.org.uk/volunteer



1,844

Readers coached this year

660

new **Readers** enrolled



408

Hours of live coaching training delivered with a maximum of 18 new Coaches per session

394

Readers graduated or left Read Easy having made significant progress



Changing lives

Struggling with reading can negatively impact self-esteem:

96%

of Readers said they were more confident after learning to read.



Improving social connection: Not being able to read can lead to social isolation and loneliness. It can make it much harder to be part of community organisations and events. After learning to read,

73%

of our Readers said they were more likely to join in with social events and make new friends.

Supporting the next generation:

68%

of Readers who have children or grandchildren were more likely to read stories with them.

Reading with children has a positive impact on relationships and their development.

Creating more opportunities

56%

increase in number of Readers receiving some of the coaching online (186 Readers)

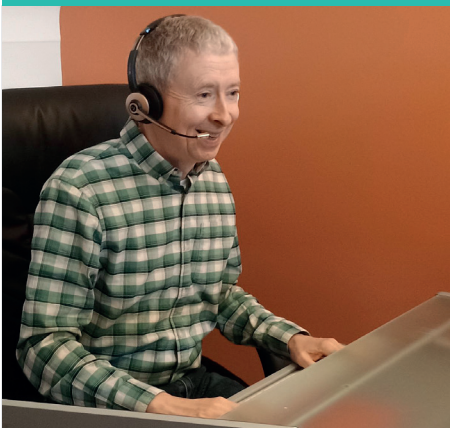
Of these 186 Readers,

65

were coached fully online

15%

increase in number of local Read Easy Groups offering some remote coaching: 46



121 Readers were coached both online and in person:

120%

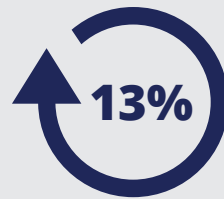
increase on 2023-2024



Our Groups

377,520

Hours gifted to support adults to learn to read



1,390

Reading Coaches

The cost of coaching a **Reader** in 2024-2025:

£136

925

new **Reading Coaches** and local Group team members trained



80

Groups across England



7

Pioneer Groups: these Groups are in the development stage, hoping to offer coaching to **Readers** in their areas soon



2,245

volunteers



Delivering on our Ambition

Last year, we launched a strategic plan to guide our work through to 2027.

Here is a brief update on our progress.



Double the number of Readers coached to 3,000 a year.

Supported 1,844 Readers in 2024-2025, a 14% increase from last year and a 44% increase on 2022-2023.



Help each of our local Groups to coach 25-35+ Readers annually.

17 Groups are now coaching more than 30 Readers. 8 Groups are coaching 25 or more Readers. A further 16 Groups are coaching more than 20 Readers.



Further involve Readers in the improvement of our service.

Facilitated three Reader Panel events to allow Readers to share their stories and give us insight into what we can do to develop and improve our work.



Develop a quality assurance framework that will help groups to provide consistently excellent service.

Draft framework completed with plans to pilot it in 2026.



Develop our online coaching for Readers who cannot access services locally.

In 2024-2025, 186 Readers received some of their coaching online. This is an increase of 56% from last year. Of these 186 Readers, 65 received all their coaching online and 121 Readers were supported through a combination of online and in-person coaching. This represents a 120% increase from 2023-2024.



Improve the efficiency of our systems and processes.

We have identified areas for improvement and will be working on key initiatives in the coming year.



Strengthening our financial sustainability by diversifying income and carefully managing our expenditure.

Strong financial performance in a challenging year, delivering a higher surplus than forecast and building healthier reserves and planning future operational investments. Appointed a new Head of Trusts and Philanthropy.





Strengthening our gathering of data and other evidence, to better understand and demonstrate the impact of our work, both nationally and locally.

There has been a significant increase in the quantity and quality of our data on the impact of our coaching for our Readers.



Develop a clear communications plan to remove stigma and advertise our services.

Initial work on a communications plan completed with a volunteer provided by Cranfield Trust, recruited a Communications Trustee and advertised for a part-time Communications Lead to take this work forward.



Prepare to work with more organisations and amplify our advocacy.

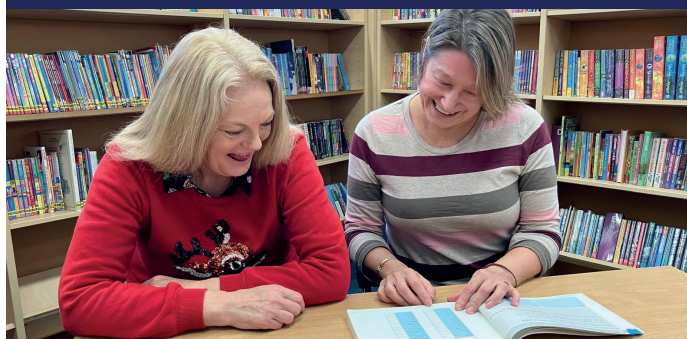
We have further developed our relationships with national literacy organisations.



Our Readers in their own words

“

I can see a little bit of sunshine there, **it's not all gloomy**, because I can see words now. It's like all the words want to dance with me. I'm so excited.



“

You know that game at the funfair, tug of war? That's what life was always like for me. A struggle. If anyone asked me to read or write, or fill a form in, **I used to break out in a sweat and couldn't think properly**. I was heartbroken and sometimes just used to cry. In front of people, I just couldn't help it. That feeling of fear, it was just terrible.



“

Just now, I saw this word on the telly and I think it said inheritance. I saw it and thought I can see the different parts of that, so I paused it and wrote it down. I read all the parts and then said I'm sure that says inheritance, and I was right! **My Coach is going to be so proud of me when I tell her.**



“

When I first started, and you said I could do it, I wasn't sure because, you know, people have said that to me before. I don't doubt it now. I honestly think it's going to work this time. **I can do it and I'm so happy.**

“

I feel so happy because I've got a pencil and I can write things down. I'm like a little kid. **It's making me so happy. I want to write a letter to everyone.**



“

When I'm on the bus, I can read the school plaques and the street signs. I look at things differently and notice words everywhere.



“

I feel like **I'm growing wings** since I started my lessons.

Where we provide coaching

Central

- 1 Birmingham Central
- 2 Birmingham North, Tamworth & Lichfield
- 3 Birmingham South East & Solihull
- 4 Birmingham South West
- 5 Cambridge
- 6 Chilterns
- 7 Corby & Kettering
- 8 Derby & District
- 9 Dudley & District
- 10 Fenland
- 11 Harlow & Chelmsford
- 12 Leicester & District
- 13 Mid Warwickshire
- 14 Milton Keynes
- 15 Norfolk
- 16 North Staffordshire
- 17 North Warwickshire & Coventry
- 18 Northampton
- 19 Nottingham
- 20 Oxford
- 21 Peterborough
- 22 Shropshire Hills
- 23 South Worcestershire
- 24 Stevenage & North Herts
- 25 Telford & Shropshire East
- 26 Wellingborough
- 27 Wolverhampton
- 28 Wyre Forest & Bridgnorth
- 29 Suffolk

North

- 30 Bolton & District
- 31 East Lancashire
- 32 Gateshead & South Tyneside
- 33 Hull & District
- 34 Kirklees & Calderdale
- 35 Leeds
- 36 Manchester Central & Salford
- 37 Manchester South & West
- 38 Merseyside
- 39 Morecombe Bay
- 40 Newcastle & North Tyneside
- 41 Preston
- 42 Sheffield
- 43 Stockport
- 44 Wakefield
- 45 Wigan Borough
- 46 Northumberland

South West

- 47 Basingstoke
- 48 Bath
- 49 Blackmore Vale North
- 50 Bridport
- 51 Bristol
- 52 Cheltenham & Gloucester
- 53 Cornwall
- 54 North and West Wiltshire
- 55 North Somerset
- 56 North, East & West Devon
- 57 Plymouth
- 58 Poole & Bournemouth
- 59 Somerset
- 60 South & East Wiltshire
- 61 South Dorset
- 62 Torbay & South Devon
- 63 Winchester

South East

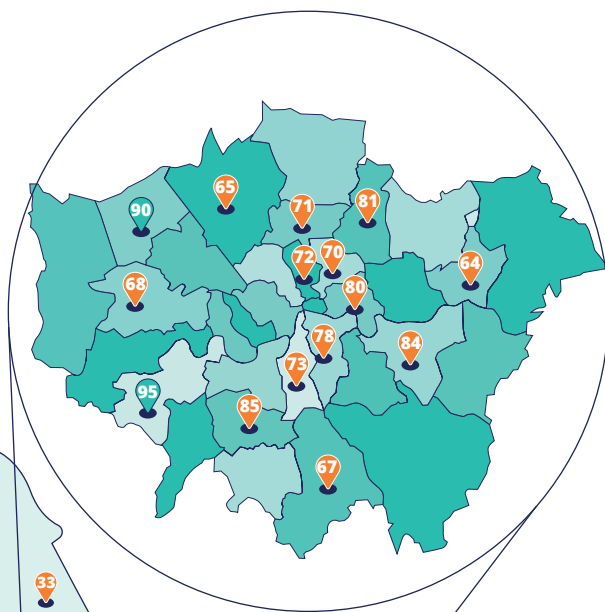
- 64 Barking & Dagenham
- 65 Barnet
- 66 Chichester & Arun
- 67 Croydon
- 68 Ealing
- 69 East Sussex
- 70 Hackney
- 71 Haringey
- 72 Islington
- 73 Lambeth
- 74 Medway
- 75 Portsmouth
- 76 Reading & East Berkshire
- 77 Southampton & Isle of Wight
- 78 Southwark
- 79 Swindon & West Berkshire
- 80 Tower Hamlets
- 81 Waltham Forest
- 82 West Surrey & Northeast Hampshire
- 83 Central Sussex
- 84 Greenwich & Bexley
- 85 Merton & Kingston
- 86 Central West London

Future Pioneers

- 87 Bedfordshire
- 88 Cheshire
- 89 County Durham
- 90 Harrow & Hillingdon
- 91 Herefordshire
- 92 Manchester North and East
- 93 North & North East Lincs
- 94 North Yorkshire
- 95 Richmond & Wandsworth

Denotes a Pioneer Group: these Groups are in development. We hope they will begin coaching Readers soon.

If you live in one of our Pioneer or Future Pioneer areas and would like to help to build a Read Easy Group, please visit www.readeasy.org.uk/volunteer. We would love you to join us.



Get involved

We want to make sure every adult who wants to read, can.

Read Easy's success this year is only possible because more than 2,000 people volunteer their time and energy to run local Groups and coach Readers.

If you would like to join us, please visit www.readeasy.org.uk/volunteer.

Support us

To donate to our work, please visit www.readeasy.org.uk/donate. Even a small contribution will make a huge difference to our work.

Follow us



Facebook

Read Easy UK



Instagram

@readeasyuk



YouTube

@readeasy5163



LinkedIn



Email

info@readeasy.org.uk



Know someone who wants to learn to read? Visit www.readeasy.org.uk to connect to your closest Read Easy Group or call us on 01388 435021.



Learning to read changes lives.

It would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers, our generous supporters and our collaborative partners.

Thank you.

readeasy.org.uk

© Read Easy UK. Registered Charity: 1151288