

**TextNow.** is an exciting and innovative programme to encourage enjoyment of reading amongst 14-19 year olds who appear to be struggling with their reading.

Young people who don't enjoy reading don't read. This results in poor literacy skills and impacts on the ability of young people to engage with education and all areas of the curriculum. It also means that they miss out on the opportunity to 'lose themselves in a book' and explore other people's lives and different worlds.

During 2008, Text Now has been piloted with over 400 young people in Wales and England, across a range of settings, including FE colleges, schools and youth offending services.

The evaluation of Text Now, conducted by Greg Brooks of Sheffield University, found that average reading ages of young people who participated in Text Now improved by 18 months in just 12 weeks. There was also evidence that young people's confidence and enjoyment of reading also improved.

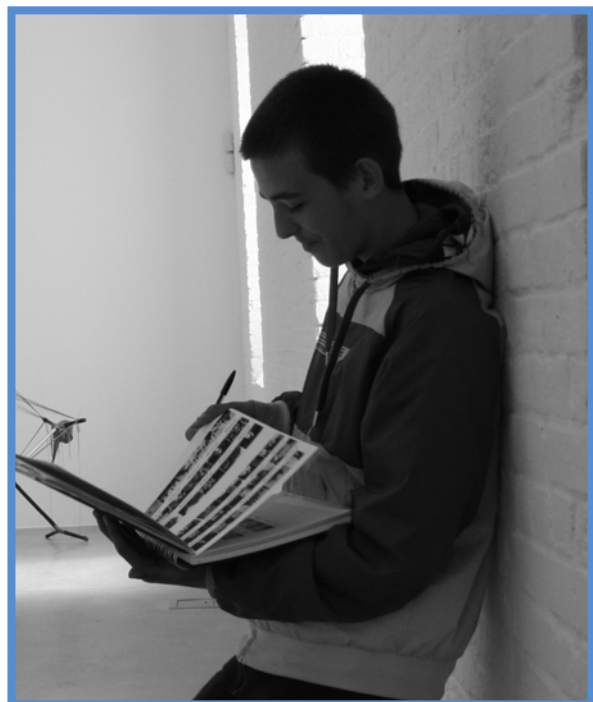
### **The Text Now model**

The Text Now model uses volunteer coaches to deliver one to one reading support through daily 20 minute reading sessions each weekday for 12 weeks. Volunteer coaches are supported by on line training, a small initial library, diary materials for coaches and young people and an incentives scheme.

The organisations which participated in the pilot of Text Now varied in type and size. The Text Now model has been demonstrated to be appropriate for a range of organisations working with young people who may struggle with reading and be disengaged from education.

We will provide:

- A proven programme model
- On line training for coordinators and coaches
- A small library of books
- Support from the Text Now programme management team
- Diary materials
- Funding for incentives



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## Organisations need to:

- Recruit volunteer coaches – sufficient to work on a one to one basis with each young person for 20 minutes a day for five days a week for 12 weeks
- Appoint a site coordinator to liaise with the Text Now programme management team
- Provide monitoring information, including reading assessments of young people before and after participation in the programme, to enable Text Now to constantly evaluate the programme
- Adhere to the operational specification for Text Now

*To be honest, I was kind of gutted that it was ending, because I was thoroughly enjoying it and all that.*

*I hated reading out to the class, but now I always put my hand up and say, oh can I read?...We used to read out plays and I wouldn't put myself up for the big roles, but now I've been in all the school productions. ..I'm proud that I managed to do it.*

*I've started to read football books, magazines, newspapers and some little books. I'm working my way up to Harry Potter*

Quotes from young people who took part in Text Now in 2008

**If you would like more information about Text Now or are interested in taking part in Text Now during 2009-2010, please contact us.**

**Ring us on the phone number below or email your contact details and a brief description of the young people who will use Text Now to the following email address:**

**jane.dixon@unitas.uk.net**

**or**

**phone 07795 310 740**

