

Volunteer Role Description

Shared Reading Advocate

Purpose	To champion and promote <i>Shared Reading</i> groups in the region that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve wellbeing • Build community • Reduce social isolation
Key activities	<i>Shared Reading</i> Advocates are a new volunteer role at The Reader that we believe will underpin the national growth of <i>Shared Reading</i> across the UK. Dedicated helping more people find out about free <i>Shared Reading</i> groups happening in their area and encouraging individuals to attend, activities will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending a local <i>Shared Reading</i> group • Promoting the group that you attend and other <i>Shared Reading</i> groups in your area via word of mouth/distributing printed information within your own personal and professional networks • Representing The Reader at local events and talking to members of the community about the benefits of <i>Shared Reading</i> and groups that they might like to attend • Keeping up to date about group times, venues and general information and passing this on to others
What you will get out of it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An opportunity to become part of the <i>Shared Reading</i> community and to share your love of <i>Shared Reading</i> with others • Gain first-hand experience of working with an award winning nationally recognised social enterprise • Enabling more people to benefit from <i>Shared Reading</i> • Support and information that can enable you to represent and endorse <i>Shared Reading</i> in your local area • Opportunities for you to enrich the lives of other people • Regular and ongoing support from a friendly and supportive team • Develop confidence • Enhance your CV
What we expect from you	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to volunteer under the supervision and support of The Reader/ your <i>Shared Reading</i> Organiser • Reliability and flexibility • Good interpersonal skills • Patience with those who are unable to communicate clearly and/or are less confident • Able to ask for help when needed • Have a warm, calm and friendly manner that reflects The Reader's ethos and values
Commitment	Time commitment per week: approximately 1 hour, although this is flexible. Length of role: minimum three months

Location	
Skills/experiences/personal qualities required	<p>You must be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciate, engage with and enjoy <i>Shared Reading</i> personally • Be with people in an open and human way • Commit to working within the unique ethos and values of The Reader • Be sensitive and patient with people's needs • Work according to all volunteer policies and procedure • Work independently
DBS required?	A DBS is not required for this role.
Application Process	<p>The Reader has a strong track record in delivering high quality services. Making sure that we have the right people in the right roles is an organisational priority and extends to our volunteering community. As part of the recruitment process for this role we'll invite you to a <i>Shared Reading</i> group/information session, to complete an application form and attend a one-to-one meeting. We'll also request references. As we would with any role, paid or unpaid, we will talk to you openly about any reservations we identify that result in our decision not to offer you a role.</p>
Support and Supervision	Key contact identified here: Volunteer Coordinator's name and contact information
Training required	Regular briefing sessions will be provided quarterly. No formal training is required.
Volunteer expenses	Travel expenses will be provided as per volunteer expenses policy.
Further information	For further information, please contact