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Title: Reading groups: establishing partnerships as part of a community outreach strategy at the University of Northampton

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Reading Groups

Establishing partnerships as part of a community outreach strategy at The University of Northampton

Jenny Townend & Fiona MacLellan
Once upon a time…

• Summer 2006: A plan is formed.

• Purpose: Widening Participation Agenda.

• Getting started: Community Volunteers and funding.

• How a group works.
YWCA Project

- National charity supporting young women facing poverty, discrimination and abuse.
- Approximately 25 different attendees.
- Participants said: “My reading material is more varied now; I never used to read fiction. It’s broadened my horizons.”
CAN Project

• Charity offering support and services for people with issues relating to drugs, alcohol and homelessness.

• Group established - January 2009.

• Approximately 8 different attendees.

• Participants said: “The sessions take place in a very friendly, informal, non-competitive environment....They have encouraged me to read more and to consider other types of literature and I enjoy them enormously.”
Staff Project

• Created for University staff.

• Group established - September 2009.

• Approximately 15 different attendees.

• Participants said: “A great way of getting to know people beyond immediate work colleagues.”
Not the end...

- Online discussion: roll out.
- Measure of success: awards and nominations.
- Outcomes and effects.
- The future.
Over to you!

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Questions?

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Gimme 5!

Think about activities/initiatives your institution could engage in, in order to work more closely with your local community...