

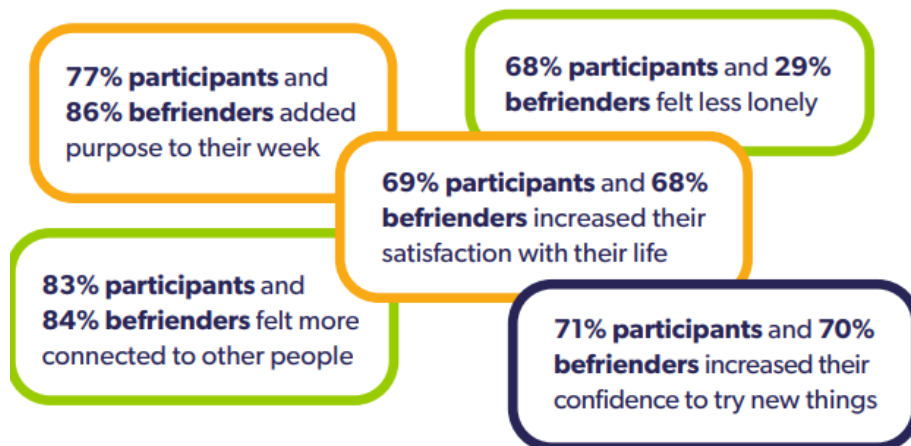
Reading Friends impact and offer

This document details the difference [Reading Friends](#) has made and what the Reading Friends offer provides for the £300+VAT contribution cost. The [Commissioning Case for Support](#) can help raise support and funding for local project costs as it aligns the benefits with Commissioners' priorities.

Impact

Reading Friends connects people through reading and continues to have a strong impact, making a difference to people's lives and communities. Our 2023 [evaluation](#) shows the programme:

- Improves people's wellbeing, by providing purpose, increasing life satisfaction, reducing loneliness and increasing confidence.
- Enables access to social support, creating meaningful connections through conversations that use reading as a hook for further discussion.
- Connects people with their community, offering further opportunities to engage with free public services and the resources they offer, including the library and other community organisations, harnessing the sustainability of Reading Friends.
- Engages more people in reading, by providing a variety of activities through which to spark intrigue and delivered in ways that enable access and further opportunity.



Offer

Reading Friends demonstrates the impact of public libraries as part of the [Universal Health Offer](#). The Reading Friends offer includes:

- **Training videos** for Coordinators and Reading Befrienders (staff/volunteers).
- A project toolkit: step-by-step **starter guide** developed from learnings and good practice.
- Access to a ready-made, co-produced **downloadable resource bank**.
- Template **session ideas** and support resources which can be adapted locally.
- **Commissioning information** and a case for support to gain support and funding.
- Impact and reach **data collection tools**, with endorsed and bespoke measures.
- **Evaluation summaries** for each library authority, showcasing local data.
- Local evaluations contribute to a **national dataset** and evidence framework.
- Regular **Skills Share sessions** to meet others to share best practice and learning.
- **Ongoing advice** and support wherever needed.
- Support with **local communications**, case studies and promotion.
- Membership of the UK-wide **Reading Friends community**.
- **National promotion** of the programme and libraries with government and partners.
- Use of the Reading Friends **branding**, promotional materials and name.
- Reading Agency **publisher campaign** opportunities.