



Invitation to tender

Development of group delivery model for existing 1:1 Dementia Shared Reading programme

Summary

Scottish Book Trust wishes to expand the reach and impact of the Reading is Caring programme. To support this, we are seeking a consultant to design and develop a group-based training model that complements our existing one-to-one approach.

The new training model should explore how participants can learn from and support one another through peer engagement, helping us reach more people while maintaining programme quality and effectiveness. The consultant will help design an approach that is engaging, practical and scalable, enabling the programme to support a greater number of participants.

[Reading is Caring - Dementia Support - Scottish Book Trust - Scottish Book Trust](#)

This project will run from **September 2026 – February 2027**.

The budget available for this evaluation, including VAT and expenses, is no more than £9k. Applicants should provide details of their approach against this budget.

Scottish Book Trust invites tenders for the co-creation of this group-based training model and the deadline for tenders is **9th August, 2026**.

Interested parties can contact readingiscaring@scottishbooktrust.com with any questions about the project or tender process and/or register to receive answers to any questions submitted. All questions and/or registrations should be submitted by 9am on 27th July. Responses to all questions submitted will be circulated to those who register by 5pm on 29th July.

Scottish Book Trust

Scottish Book Trust is a national charity that believes books, reading and writing have the power to change lives.

A love of reading inspires creativity, improves employment opportunities, mental health and wellbeing, and is one of the most effective ways to help break the poverty cycle.



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Reading together and sharing personal stories is a powerful mechanism to connect people, support relationships and provide activities which prioritise authentic, equal participation from each partner.

More information about Scottish Book Trust can be found at the link below, along with a copy of the Annual Review.

<http://scottishbooktrust.com/about/what-we-do>

Context

We launched our Reading is Caring programme in 2019 to develop confidence and provide structure for person-centred shared reading for people living with dementia.

Through rigorous evaluation and co-design with people living with dementia, family care partners and professional care partners, Reading is Caring has been shown to provide meaningful connection during the dementia journey, reduce instances of distress and facilitate engagement with medical and personal care.

Scottish Book Trust wishes to expand the reach and impact of the Reading is Caring programme by developing a scalable group-based training model to complement the existing one-to-one approach. We are seeking a consultant to design a model that enables participants to learn from and support one another through peer engagement.

Project scope

This project will:

- Develop a co-designed training model and resources to apply Reading is Caring in group settings for the benefit of people living with dementia and their carers.
- Utilise the agency and lived experience of people living with dementia to co-design peer-to-peer support as well as carer supported interventions.
- Align with the existing Reading is Caring strategy to provide person-centred, shared reading experiences to mitigate distress, strengthen connection, and maintain cognitive health.
- Engage people living with dementia and their carers, family and professionals, in design workshops.
- Give consideration to iterations that may be beneficial for people during different stages of their dementia journey, responding to their preferences.

By:



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- Providing guidance on safeguarding, contracting and structure in group settings
- Developing, testing and refining the co-designed delivery model
- Creating training materials – eg a toolkit and/or guidance on facilitation of that co-designed group delivery model for Reading is Caring.
- Considering how training materials could be adapted for an online asynchronous course.
- Ensuring that all participant engagement, data collection, storage and transfer activities comply with UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 requirements, with appropriate consent, confidentiality and data security measures in place

Project Outcomes:

The development of a group methodology for Reading is Caring will explicitly assess progress against the outcomes of the project:

- Number of people trained in the delivery of Reading is Caring and number of people living with dementia engaged with Reading is Caring will have increased
- People living with dementia experience better one-to-one relationships with their carers and as result, their feelings of connectedness and personhood are improved
- People living with dementia experience reflections through sharing stories, which helps them to engage in the present in a more meaningful way
- The methodology developed through this project is demonstrated to be effective in a range of settings [residential care, community spaces, libraries etc] for organisations who are interested in providing Reading is Caring groups.
- Carers for people living with dementia are better able to manage their own mental health and wellbeing using reading for pleasure.

Project timeline

The anticipated timeline is as follows:

w/c July 20th	Project tender goes live
28 th July 9am	Submit questions or register interest in the project
29th July 5pm	Questions & Answers circulated
Sunday, 9 th August	Deadline for tenders
w/c 24 th August	Interviews with shortlisted applicants
September 2026	Project commences



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February 2027	Project deadline
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Budget

The budget available for this project, including VAT and expenses, is £9,000. Within this, we anticipate two co-design workshops for people living with dementia and their carers. Separate provision has been made for fees to participants of the co-design workshops.

Co-designed project deliverables

All co-designed project deliverables should be provided using accessible language and formats. It is anticipated that successful completion of the project will provide the following:

- August 26: Detailed plan of approach and budget, addressing any safeguarding and ethical considerations [tender stage]
- September 26: Detailed work plan
- September 26 – February 27: fortnightly check ins and progress update with Scottish Book Trust
- September – November 26: facilitation of co-design workshop
- November 26: Delivery of co-designed draft guidance and resources to train facilitators in group models for Reading is Caring. This includes family and professional care partners, and volunteers and staff at organisations providing social support for people living with dementia and their carers, such as dementia cafés, community groups, libraries etc.
- January 27: Delivery of finalised co-designed guidance and resources to train family and professional care partners in group models for Reading is Caring, incorporating Scottish Book Trust feedback.
- February 27: A report to include: an executive summary, recommendations supported by evidence and appendices containing pertinent data
- February 27: Case studies to be used as practice examples including impact stories for use with partners and on Scottish Book Trust platforms [web, social media, print copy].
- Source data gathered during the evaluation should be transferred to Scottish Book Trust at the end of the project

All materials, resources and outputs developed through this project will become the intellectual property of Scottish Book Trust.



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The successful consultant will have access to existing Reading is Caring training materials, evaluation reports and programme staff to inform the development of the group model.

Assessment criteria

Submissions will be assessed by a panel from Scottish Book Trust. We are looking for a consultant who can demonstrate a strong alignment with our vision and values, and with relevant skills and experience.

Applications will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- **Fit with brief:** Demonstrated understanding of the work, our organisational ethos, and the Reading is Caring programme.
- **Training delivery:** A proven track record in designing and delivering effective training.
- **Methodology and approach:** Experience working with a variety of evaluation methods, with a strong focus on co-production and integration.
- **Audience expertise:** Experience of co-design and engagement with people living with dementia, professional and unpaid carers, older people and/or health and social care audiences
- **Safeguarding and ethics:** Evidence of robust consideration given to ensuring safeguarding and ethics are built into the project, backed by experience implementing these with relevant audiences.
- **Value for money:** Clear justification of the proposed budget relative to the number of hours and/or the overall scale of work.

Submissions

We request that tenders are submitted by email to readingiscaring@scottishbooktrust.com by **5pm on Sunday, 9th August**. Interviews are proposed for **w/c 24th August**.

Tenders should include:

- A description of how the work will be carried out, relative to the timescale
- The applicant's proposed approach, including a detailed breakdown of how the £9k budget will be allocated.
- Details of how the applicant will cover the full scope of this brief
- Details of how the applicant will tackle the challenges of the project
- Details of how the applicant will incorporate safeguarding and ethics best practice into both their work on the project and the final toolkit
- Details of the applicant's skills, knowledge and experience, including relevant references and testimonials from previous clients



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Scottish Book Trust currently have two tenders open for work related to Reading is Caring. If you are interested in undertaking both pieces of work, please note this in your application and reflect this in your suggested timings and budget allocation. We are open to some flexibility on the suggested timescale. We do need separate applications for each piece of work to allow for fair assessment of applications.

Interested parties can contact readingiscaring@scottishbooktrust.com with any questions about the project or tender process and/or register to receive answers to any questions submitted. All questions and/or registrations should be submitted by 9am on 27th July. Responses to all questions submitted will be circulated to those who register by 5pm on 29th July.