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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.
- Group established - January 2007.
- 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!



# 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...**