

Will You Volunteer to be part of the Management Team for ReadEasy Wisbech?

HEADLINE: Would you like to help adults learn to read in Wisbech?

As the first Read Easy group is about to launch in Wisbech we caught up with Read Easy Pioneer Dave Christian to hear about their plans to launch further adult literacy groups across the region.

“We are looking for support to help us get the ball rolling on a brand new Read Easy group in Wisbech. We know that 43% of adults can’t read or struggle with everyday reading, and we’re passionate about changing that with our proven, confidential programme of free, one-to-one, volunteer-led adult reading coaching. We’re currently looking for local people who could support the development of a new group by volunteering as Management Team members. Becoming a **Management Team Volunteer** for Read Easy is fun and fulfilling but requires commitment and passion. You’ll be given lots of support and full training, meet a diverse range of people, and be part of a genuinely life-changing organisation. From experience, we know that learning to read really does change

lives and being part of that process is special.

“Becoming a Management Team Volunteer is an exciting chance to play a key role in bringing your community together, and to make a difference,” Dave” enthuses. “Whether you’ve got existing skills you’d like to put to good use, or are looking to develop new ones, being on the team can be a great chance to learn something new.

We are looking for a team leader, secretary, treasurer, coordinator support, data protection champion, fundraiser, IT support, literacy specialist, publicity, referrals networker, safeguarding champion, venue organiser and interviewer. Full job descriptions are available.

Read Easy UK currently supports 30 affiliated groups across the country, stretching from Plymouth to Manchester. In the last year, groups have been started in Hackney and Northampton, and further groups will soon be established in Nottingham, south Birmingham, Oldham, and Weston-Super-Mare. We have big plans for the year ahead and hope to be running as many as 40 groups by September 2020, with a focus in the North West and London where there is a strong need for one-to-one adult reading coaching.

“The stark reality is that 2.4m adults in the UK cannot read, while 2.5m struggle to read,” Dave” underlines. “On a practical level, this means that even carrying out everyday tasks can be challenging, if not impossible. Many of our new readers have never been to the doctor as they’re too embarrassed to have to read and fill in forms. Being unable to read and write is associated with higher mortality, depression, isolation and mental health issues. Sadly, statutory provision for the most disadvantaged groups by local authority adult education does not look likely to improve, with funding increasingly cut, and very little opportunity for those at very early levels,” she reveals.

“Even where such classes are available it can be challenging for potential readers to come forward for help in a classroom environment where they are likely to have to fill in forms and



explain their difficulties to staff. We know from experience that people who cannot read are nervous and embarrassed about joining adult learning groups. This is the motivation behind the Read Easy model: to provide accessible, free, and confidential one-to-one reading coaching wherever the need is greatest. And this is why we need your help!

“To be an effective team member, volunteers need to be committed and enjoy using their own initiative. Ideally, they will also be confident, as well as passionate about helping others and bringing their community together.

The impact of learning to read is tangible for both Volunteers and Readers as Dave concludes by explaining. “The phrase we hear from our readers’ time-and-time again is ‘life-changing’. But for our volunteers too the process of helping adults learn to read has a profound effect on their lives. If you’d like to play a key part in helping to transform the lives of adults near you, while developing existing skills and learning new ones in a supportive, fun environment, then why not get in touch?”

To learn more about becoming a Read Easy Management Team volunteer in the Wisbech area, please contact...Dave Christian dchristian@cpltrust.net 07468863108

