

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Lifelong Learning Cabinet Member and Advisers
2.	Date:	2 nd September, 2008
3.	Title:	The National Year of Reading
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary

The Department for Children, Schools and Families nominated 2008 to be the National Year of Reading (NYR.)

The year itself runs from April – December and is focused on a number of monthly themes, determined at national level by the National Literacy Trust and the Reading Agency. These agencies have been contracted by the Government to oversee the NYR.

The final three monthly themes are:

October: "Word of Mouth" - Storytelling, reading out loud, reading together, reading aloud, live literature.

November: "Screen reads" - Exploring the diversity of reading and writing; scripts, TV and films.

December: "Write the future" - Writing, texting, blogging.

6. Recommendations

That Cabinet Member continues to support the aims of the National Year of Reading (NYR), which have been promoted locally through the library service and in schools.

7. Proposals and Details

The year aims to encourage people to read in businesses, homes, and communities around the country, providing new opportunities to read and helping people to access help and support through schools and libraries.

We have adapted the NYR logo and added the "Get Rotherham Reading" slogan to it. This has been shared with local businesses through the Chamber of Commerce, with the Rotherham Primary Care Trust and with all schools.

Rotherham libraries have based their calendar of events around each of the monthly themes whilst a number of schools have promoted the themes in newsletters to parents.

The Government will adapt the most successful strategies and initiatives as part of the cultural Olympics which will run in tandem with the Olympic Games in London in 2012.

8. Finance

There are no financial implications for RMBC in supporting the NYR nor has any money been earmarked to support activities other than those already organised by the library service.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There are no risks or uncertainties for RMBC in pursuing its support of the NYR.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The major theme supported by the NYR is "to ensure that everyone has access to skills, knowledge and information to enable them to play their part in society."

11. Background Papers and Consultation

There are no background or consultation papers directly relevant to the NYR.

Contact Name:	Simon Pringle -	NYR Co-ordinator
	Telephone:	01709 822576
	E-mail:	simon.pringle@rotherham.gov.uk