



Read, Write, Count Home Kit project Evaluation brief

Summary

Scottish Book Trust invites tenders for an evaluation of the Read, Write, Count Home Kit project.

The evaluation will gather information about how the resources provided were used by participants and the impact of the project across the contexts in which it was delivered; it will be used to inform future programme development.

The final report will be required in January 2019.

The budget available for this evaluation, including VAT and any expenses, is no more than £24,000.

The deadline for tenders is **12pm on 15 October 2018**.

Evaluation aims and questions

The aim of this evaluation is to assess to what extent the Home Kit project met its intended outcomes (detailed below) and feed into a decision as to whether the project should run again in the future (whether in the same or a different form).

The primary audience for this evaluation will be Scottish Book Trust, Scottish Government and Education Scotland. The secondary audience will include local authorities, schools and public libraries.

The questions the evaluation should answer are:

- Did the Home Kit project meet its designated outcomes (detailed below)?
- Do participants feel the project worked in their contexts?
- Is there alternative provision that participants feel would better meet the designated outcomes in their context?
- Did the project provide value for money?



Context and background

Research tells us that parental engagement in children's learning is one of the best ways to improve educational outcomes for all children. Read, Write, Count aims to give parents and carers of P1–3 children the confidence to get involved by supporting them to include easy and fun reading, writing and counting activities in their everyday lives, and providing resources to support learning at home. The campaign is delivered by Scottish Government, Education Scotland and Scottish Book Trust. Further information can be found at <http://scottishbooktrust.com/learning/read-write-count> and <http://www.readwritecount.scot>.

In 2017, Scottish Book Trust ran a Read, Write, Count pilot project to support pupils in P4–7 in areas of deprivation. This took the form of 'Home Kits', class libraries of books, numeracy and writing resources and activities for schools to lend to families for them to use together at home. Details of the contents of each Home Kit are included as appendix 1. 98 schools selected by Directors of Educations received a Home Kit for each of their P4–7 classes. Public libraries local to each of the 98 schools were also offered Kits and one Kit was also provided to the family/community learning team in each local authority to enable them to work effectively with schools and libraries on the project. Each local authority was also offered Career-Long Professional Development (CLPL) opportunities to support the project.

Intended outcomes of the Home Kit project were:

- The Home Kit project supports schools' parental engagement, literacy and numeracy strategies for P4–7 pupils.
- The Home Kit project supports schools to engage more parents of P4–7 pupils, more often.
- The Home Kit project gives parents of P4–7 pupils the confidence to get involved with their children's learning.
- The Home Kit project supports attainment of P4–7 pupils in relation to literacy and numeracy as well as the wider curriculum.
- The Home Kit project supports closing the attainment gap for P4–7 pupils.
- The Home Kit project supports partnership working between schools, public libraries and local authorities.

While the evaluation should assess progress against these intended outcomes, it should also be designed in such a way as to capture unintended outcomes. It should also gather evidence which can be used to inform decisions on the future of the project.

Below are some suggestions for indicators that might be measured or studied to help to identify impact in relation to the above outcomes. It is not mandatory that these indicators be used, and the list is not exhaustive – Scottish Book Trust welcomes advice from expert consultants on the most appropriate indicators for this evaluation.

- Alignment, in practice, with other policies (national and local) to address literacy, attainment and closing the gap.
- Schools, parents and/or pupils report using the Home Kits.
- Schools, parents and/or pupils report building wider projects around the Home Kits.
- Schools, parents and/or pupils' perceptions of the quality and accessibility of items included in Home Kits.
- Schools, parents and/or pupils' perceptions of the quality and accessibility of activity ideas included in Home Kits.
- Number of times Home Kit items were borrowed by pupils to take home.
- Number of times schools used Home Kits to engage parents.
- Pupil and parent attitudes to reading, writing and numeracy.
- Parents' confidence levels around involvement in their children's learning.
- Take up of CLPL offer.
- Perceived effect of CLPL amongst those taking it up.
- Any correlations between those taking up CLPL offer and overall impact of project.
- Schools, libraries and/or local authorities report working in partnership on Home Kit projects.
- Contribution to children's attainment in relation to Curriculum for Excellence benchmarks.
- Contribution to strategies to close the attainment gap (particularly in Attainment Challenge schools).

The work

Scottish Book Trust wishes to engage an individual or organisation to undertake this evaluation. The work will involve:

- Providing expert advice to refine the specific brief for the evaluation (including scope and methodology).
- Liaising with key stakeholders to secure their support and involvement, including the schools and libraries that received Home Kits, local authorities, and Scottish Government.
- Carrying out fieldwork to gather impact evidence.
- Analysing the evidence gathered to make an assessment of impact.
- From that analysis, drawing conclusions in response to the evaluation questions detailed above.
- Creating case studies to showcase examples of best practice or high impact found in the course of the fieldwork.
- Delivering findings, case studies and conclusions as a formal written report, and in more accessible and sharable format(s), such as video, infographics etc.



Scottish Book Trust will make all gathered data available to the consultant (as far as is possible within data protection guidelines) and support the consultant to contact stakeholders.

Challenges

- Scottish Book Trust understands that data regarding some of the above outcomes may be difficult to gather and/or assess, and welcomes tenders that suggest creative or innovative ways that progress against these outcomes might be robustly assessed.
- There is a wide range of work taking place in Scottish schools to support family engagement and close the attainment gap. Scottish Book Trust asks that applicants include details in their tender as to how they would approach evaluating the impact of the Home Kit project, given this landscape.
- Each local authority has unique strategies and processes. The Home Kit project was delivered across all 32 local authorities and impact will likely have varied across contexts. Scottish Book Trust would like to know if and how the project might have been best designed / delivered to allow for the necessary flexibility required to ensure impact across these different contexts.

Consultant skills and knowledge

Scottish Book Trust wishes to engage a consultant with significant knowledge and experience of:

- The Scottish education sector, including relevant policies and practice.
- Carrying out work with schools, teachers, local authorities and children.
- Carrying out programme evaluations for the public and voluntary sectors.
- Assessing the contribution of a programme to outcomes in an environment where a variety of activities may be having an impact on that outcome.

It is essential that all staff carrying out fieldwork have knowledge and experience of working with schools, teachers, children and local authorities, and hold valid Basic Disclosure Certificates.



Timeline

Submission of bids	15 October 2018
Interviews with applicants	w/c 22 October 2018
Selection of consultant	29 October 2018
Inception meeting with Scottish Book Trust	w/c 29 October
Fieldwork	November – December 2018
Interim report	December 2018
Final report	January 2019

Budget

The budget available for this evaluation, including VAT and any expenses, is no more than £24,000.

Submissions

Tenders should be submitted by email to katherine.wilkinson@scottishbooktrust.com by **12pm on 15 October 2018**.

Prior to submission, interested parties can contact [Katherine Wilkinson](#) at Scottish Book Trust with any questions about the project, evaluation or tender process.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to a face-to-face meeting at the Scottish Book Trust office in central Edinburgh during the week commencing 22 October 2018.

Tenders should include:

- The applicant's proposed focus and approach.
- An indication of the extent to which the applicant's proposal can cover the evaluation aims and questions.
- Details of how the applicant will ensure sufficient high-quality evidence is collected to support robust conclusions.
- Details of how the applicant will tackle the challenges of the evaluation.
- Details of the applicant's skills, knowledge and experience, including relevant references and testimonials from previous clients.
- A description of how the work will be carried out within the timescale.
- A budget breakdown.



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 children escape the poverty cycle.

More information about Scottish Book Trust can be found [here](#), along with a copy of the Annual Review.

Appendix 1 Contents of each Home Kit

- 110 litre plastic storage box with clip-locking lid and wheels
- 30 x plastic wallets
- Laminated cards for each item, with ideas and instructions for games and activities at a range of levels
- 7 x sets of storytelling dice (3 dice in each pack)
- 7 x digital pedometers with instructions
- 7 x 500ml measuring jugs
- 7 x digital cooking scales with LCD display screen
- 7 x sets of playing cards
- 7 x sets of multisided dice (6 dice in a pack: 2 x 6 sided, 2 x 10 sided, 2 x 12 sided, with each size dice in a different colour)
- 4 x sets of Tropical Triumph / dominoes game
- The following books:
 - *Horrible Science: Really Rotten Experiments* by Nick Arnold and Tony De Saulles
 - *Rosie Revere Project Book* by Andrea Beatty
 - *The Arrival* by Sean Tan
 - *Nadiya Bake Me a Story* by Nadiya Hussain
 - *I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai
 - *I'm a Python Programmer* by Mac Wainewright
 - *Weird World of Wonders: World War 2* by Tony Robinson
 - *Spirit of the Jungle* by Bear Grylls
 - *Brilliant Poems for Children* by Paul Cookson
 - *Flying Fergus* by Chris Hoy
 - *Black Dog* by Levi Pinfold
 - *Just the Right Size* by Nicola Davies
 - *Journey* by Aaron Becker
 - *Peg+Cat: The Race Car Problem* by Jennifer Oxley and Peter Aronsson
 - *The Tracy Beaker Trilogy* by Jacqueline Wilson
 - *How to Draw the World of Jacqueline Wilson* by Nick Sharratt
 - *Danger is Everywhere: A Handbook for Avoiding Danger* by David O'Doherty and Chris Judge
 - *Mad Iris and the Bad School Report* by Jeremy Strong
 - *Stars Shall Be Bright* by Catherine Macphail
 - *Baby Aliens Got My Teacher* by Pamela Butchart
 - *Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam: The Spooky School* by Tracey Corderoy and Steven Lenton
 - *Mr Mingin* by David Walliams [*Mr Stink* in Scots]