**General information about Read Easy**

**Working through community-based volunteer groups, Read Easy offers a free, friendly, flexible approach to learning to read for any adult who either can’t read at all, or who lacks confidence with reading.**

Its success is founded on a one-to-one approach, using a highly effective, phonics-based reading scheme, supported by other learning activities. It gives people the opportunity to work in private and at their own pace and builds reading skills, confidence and self-esteem.

On completion of the reading scheme, Read Easy offers a second stage of literacy support to help new readers to consolidate their skills further and to give them the confidence to move on to other opportunities.

Read Easy UK is the umbrella organisation and registered charity that enables volunteers to set up Read Easy groups in their own areas.  Read Easy UK is governed by a Board of Trustees and is run from a small head office in north Gloucestershire. Every week, Read Easy UK receives enquiries from adults across the UK, either interested in volunteering or looking for support with reading.

**Why Support Read Easy UK?**

**Read Easy changes lives**

The difference Read Easy makes is genuinely *“life-changing”*; it’s a phrase that our new Readers use over and over again. It helps them with some or all of the following:

* getting jobs or promotion, or attending other training courses
* becoming independent shoppers – of medicines, food and clothing – life’s essentials
* voting in general and local elections for the first time in their lives
* reading books, newspapers and accessing the Internet /social media – completing online forms too.
* campaigning with confidence for change in their local communities
* having the confidence to go to the doctors or opticians for a check up
* increased confidence and self-esteem, and improved mental health
* supporting their children and grandchildren with reading and homework

Learning to read is empowering. Go to our [Testimonials](https://readeasy.org.uk/testimonials/) page to hear our readers’ personal stories.

**Read Easy is cost effective**

Read Easy’s working model is very lean, with all the local organisation and one-to-one reading coaching being done entirely by committed and hard-working volunteers. Read Easy UK’s funds can therefore be focussed to support and train volunteers to set up groups in new places. Funds also provide ongoing support and professional advice – on issues such as adult safeguarding, literacy expertise, data protection, etc.

We calculate that the costs of providing this support can work out at as little as £140 per adult learning to read. By contrast, it can cost the public purse anything up to £64,000 to support someone who can’t read over his or her lifetime (*Long term costs of literacy difficulties,*KPMG, 2009)