

Grant funding for alternatives to Mobile Library Service

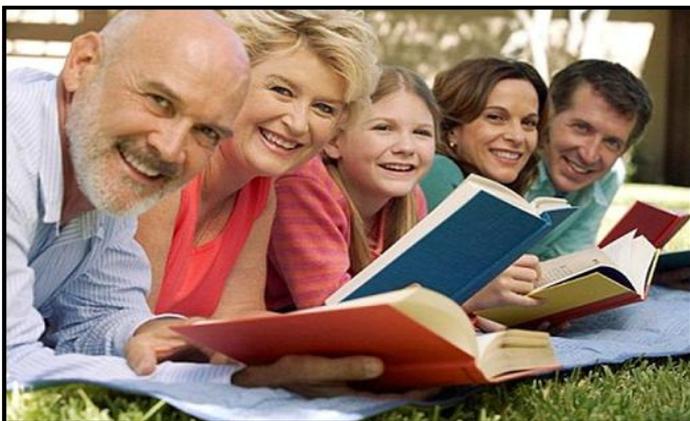
To support local communities in Somerset where the Mobile Library Service is being withdrawn, Somerset County Council is providing £15,000 of one-off grant funding to enable Parish Councils, Community organisations and local groups to provide access to reading resources. This funding aims to provide a further alternative way people can access Library services in addition to:

- **Community Transport/SLINKY services** – to enable people to get to their local Library. More information is available from www.movingsomersetforward.co.uk
- **The Good Neighbour Scheme** – helping people borrow books on behalf of someone else by offering free requests and no overdue charges
- **The Home Library Service** – available to individuals who are housebound or who live in long term care
- **E-books and online resources** – available to access and download from the Libraries West web site at www.librarieswest.org.uk

Through the grants scheme we can provide one-off grants of up to £500. Applying for this funding is simple - just complete the attached application form telling us about your proposal. Suggestions of the types of things you might want to consider are:

- A 'pop up Library' where local people put together a collection of books for exchange within the local community. Funding could enable you to allocate space in a village hall or community centre, provide publicity, purchase books or buy shelving
- Provide funding to enable people to travel together, through car share or community transport, to visit their local Library
- Supporting volunteers who can collect/return books from the local Library and offer a Library facility through a 'community café', Active Living group, Village Hall/Community Centre, book club or reading group

If you need advice or support please contact the Library Service Development Team on 07919 540300. The closing date for applications is the 29th of May 2015 and grants will be awarded in June 2015. We look forward to receiving your ideas.



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