



KINGS SQUARE LIBRARY

What did you do?

Kings Square Library is a book-lending library for people from the Orthodox Jewish community. Our library began as a bookclub. Most of the children do not have TV, internet access at home or computer games due to cultural restrictions. As COVID-19 restrictions eased and we were allowed to leave our homes again, we trialed changing the book club into a lending library, due to feedback from people in the community especially children, disabled people, people who are unwell or who were self-isolating that they were extremely bored and would really appreciate access to suitable forms of entertainment.

The library has been successful beyond our expectations. There is no other library servicing our community offering culturally appropriate library services after school hours, and ever since we launched we have been inundated with requests to join the library. We now have over 260 member families, many of which include 6-10 children. This means we need to regularly top up the books we have available, to ensure we have access to a wide range that suits the tastes and interests of people in the community and that we don't have to turn anyone away because all the books are out on loan. With this grant we were able to purchase 50 new books for our library.

Funding received

WELLBEING
FUND
GRANT OF
£1,000

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What difference did it make?

Jewish books are more expensive and we have them bound to extend their life. This grant allowed us to purchase new books to diversify the offer available at the library and to increase our sustainability. It also encouraged the community to come together to discuss the books, helping them connect with other people and form new friendships after COVID-19. The literacy skills of children improved as a result of reading regularly in the library and at home, which also improved their confidence and self-esteem as they felt good about the fact their reading skills were improving.

New books also helped attract new volunteers to the library, who carry out important tasks including book binding, administration, and supporting children and adults borrowing books. As well as supporting people to engage with reading, this had knock on effects on their mental wellbeing and employability.



“We benefit so much from the library because my children love reading. They learn a lot of interesting things from books. It also allows them access to so many more books. It keeps them busy in their spare time. Thank you so much.”

Frankel Family