# Booktrust: Engaging health professionals in bookgifting





Viv Bird Chief Executive, Booktrust

#### **Booktrust's Mission and Vision**

Booktrust is an independent charity dedicated to encouraging people of all ages and cultures to engage with books.

The written word underpins all our activity and enables us to fulfil our vision of inspiring a lifelong love of books for all.







## **Booktrust: Our Aims**

- > To broaden access to books for all children, families and adults – through our programmes, websites and campaigns
- > **To promote confidence** among professionals about how to encourage and support children's creative engagement in reading and writing from an early age
- > To inspire people of all ages to engage with the written word through promoting good writers and illustrators, and through effective national and local partnerships



# A WIDER AUDIENCE for BOOKS and READING



#### **PRIZES AND AWARDS**

Early Years Awards

Blue Peter Book Awards

Roald Dahl Funny Prize

Teenage Prize for Fiction

Orange Prize for Fiction

John Llewellyn Rhys Prize

**BBC National Short Story Award** 

Power of Reading Award



#### **CAMPAIGNS**













NATIONAL BEDTIME WEEK 27 May – 2 June



# **Bookgifting Programmes (Universal)**

# Booktrust has unique expertise in bookgifting in the UK that is widely recognised



#### **BOOKSTART**

3 packs for every child:
7-9 months Bookstart Baby
2 years Bookstart+
3 years Treasure Chest



BOOKED UP

A choice of one book for 11 year olds



BOOKTIME For 4-5 year olds



# **Bookgifting Programmes (Targeted)**

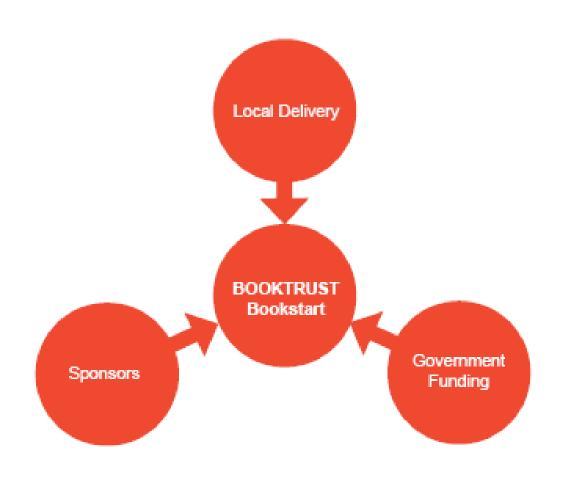


CHILDREN IN HOSPITAL
AND CHILDREN'S
HOSPICES



LETTERBOX CLUB for children in public care aged 7-11 years

# Booktrust bookgifting through public / private partnerships



# **Booktrust ~ Working with Health Sector**



# Regional / Local

> Bookstart Development Managers who support Bookstart coordinators in each local authority

#### **National**

- > Booktrust Development Manager for Health Partnerships
  - Supports local partnerships with health
  - Has a national strategic and advocacy role



# Reach of Bookstart packs in 2009

> Bookstart Baby Pack reaches 94% of estimated child population at 9 months

> Bookstart+ reaches 92% of estimated child population at 2 years

> Treasure Chest reaches 97% of estimated child population at 3 years

Average reach across all three packs: 94%



# **Booktrust Inclusion in Health Documents**



#### What is next...

- > Bookgifting packs are not the end product we need to turn 'parental engagement' into 'parental involvement'
- > We want to support all health professionals in helping mothers, fathers and carers recognise the importance of book sharing, developing a bond with their baby, improving emotional health and wellbeing and developing language, literacy and communication skills
- > We want to promote more widely the work of Booktrust to health professionals to ensure that no child misses out on developing a love of reading
- > We want to develop our work with adults with mental health problems



## **Conclusions**

#### **Through Booktrust bookgifting programmes:**

- > All children and families are introduced to the joys of book sharing and encouraged to join - and regularly visit - their local library
- > Public libraries are vital partners in a cost effective multi-agency public private partnership
- Policymakers in public health recognise the value of Bookstart in promoting family bonding and early communication
- > Bookstart and the other bookgifting programmes help to position public libraries strategically within the local authority, demonstrating libraries' contribution to local priorities around child outcomes

