







Setting up a Mobile Library for People Who are Homeless During COVID-19

C-19 has resulted in further isolation for people who are facing homelessness. Creative projects are being used to mitigate boredom, loneliness and build well-being. Arts & Homelessness International is sharing some of these¹.

A collaboration has developed between **Cardboard Citizens**, **The Reader** and **St Mungos** in the UK to pilot ways to bring creative activities into hotels housing people who were sleeping rough in London. A simple "mobile library" was set up as an initial step in this work, inspired by the work of the Reader to enable everyone to experience literature, as a tool to survive and live well.

Hotels are being run by City Council and Homelessness services. Staff or volunteers can set up and run a mobile library.

1 FIND PARTNERS

2 FIND BOOKS

Donations from neighbours of staff and volunteers, local libraries, publishers and books shops. Try to find books in different languages if possible. Art materials are also popular²

Books/art materials are taken round each room (e.g. on a trolley) and staff or a volunteer knocks on each door for human contact and a conversation with the resident.³

DISTRIBUTE BOOKS

NEXT CREATIVE STEPS

E.g.s from original project - 1:1 Sharing Reading sessions of poetry over the phone (The Reader); arts packs (Accumulate); a weekly creative challenge (Cardboard Citizens)⁴

Ask the residents what other books or creative activities they are interested in. Make a note of this

4 FIND OTHER INTERESTS

- 1 This process is designed for people who are homeless staying in hotels but it is also being used to reach people on the street and in flats
- ² Contact **COVID19@with-one-voice.com** for other suggestions of where to source books and art materials
- ³ Adhere to protocols around social distancing and use of PPE. Please leave books for 72 hours before distributing and remind residents that books are not to be swapped between residents so as to avoid risk of cross-contamination. It's best to avoid meal times for book distribution.
- There are several projects in the arts and homelessness sector which could be useful and provide valuable longer-term access to creativity WOV is also creating an on-line database of projects around the world that have started during C-19 https://arthomelessint.ushahidi.io/views/map















