



The Reading Advice Network was established as an independent charity in February 2016 following a two-year project funded by the Big Lottery and the Cabinet Office. It exists to:

- Improve the quality of information and advice that is available to people in Reading
- Be a focal point for information and advice services in Reading

We do this primarily by:

- Setting a Quality Standard for our member organizations and supporting them to achieve this Standard
- Providing services which enable RAN members to discuss key issues and support each other - particularly regular Advice Forums and a CEOs' Group
- Publicizing RAN and its members' services through booklets for Councillors and gps
- Securing collective benefits for our members, such as access to Reading Borough Council's Employee Assistance Programme.
- Acting as the collective voice of RAN members to help shape service provision

We currently have 23 organizations:

- ABC to read
- Acre
- Age UK Berkshire
- Age UK Reading
- Angels Outreach
- Autism Berkshire
- Berkshire Vision
- BWA (Berkshire Women's Aid)
- Citizens Advice Reading
- CommuniCare
- Dingley's Promise
- Graft (Thames Valley)
- Launchpad
- No 5
- PACT (Parents and Children Together)
- Parenting Special Children
- Reading Mencap
- Refugee Support Group
- Reading Students Union Advice Service
- RVA (Reading Voluntary Action)
- Reading Welfare Rights

- The Mustard Tree
- YMCA Reading

To become a member an organization must:

- Provide information or advice to people in Reading
- Make a commitment to achieve our Quality Standard within the first year of membership
- Make a similar commitment to completing, within the first year of membership, the 'First Steps' towards achieving RVA's 'Safe and Sound' Governance Standard
- Pay an annual membership fee - currently £30

Our Quality Standard requires our member organizations to:

- Be strongly customer-focused
- Ensure service delivery is properly supervised
- Train their staff and volunteers and support them to develop
- Record and check enquiries and cases
- Use good procedures when giving advice and doing casework

More detailed information is available from our website - [readingadvicenetwork.org.uk](http://readingadvicenetwork.org.uk)

**Reading Advice Network**  
**March 2026**