

RIVERBANK READING PROJECT

A proposal to measure reading outcomes in community libraries

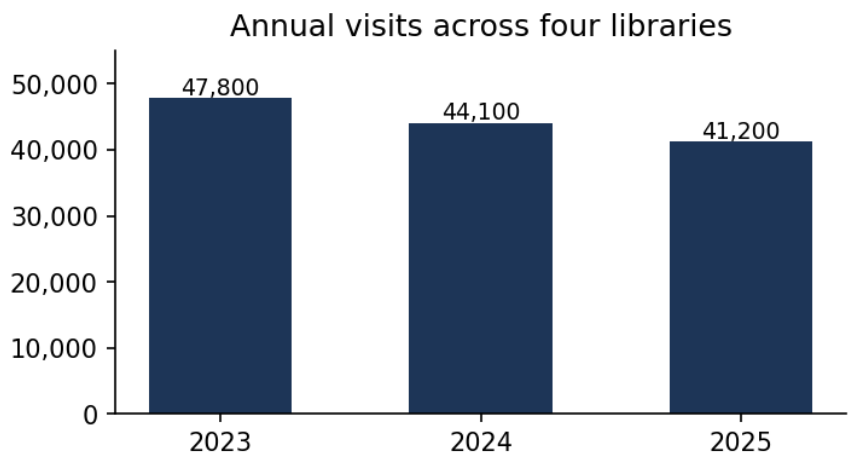
Prepared by the Riverbank Trust · March 2026

Summary

The Riverbank Trust proposes a twelve-month study of reading outcomes across the four community libraries it supports. The study would measure whether extended opening hours change how often families borrow books, and whether borrowing frequency relates to reading confidence in children aged six to eleven.

Background

The four libraries served 41,200 visits in 2025, down from 47,800 in 2023. Opening hours were reduced in both years. No measurement was taken at the time, so the Trust cannot say whether the fall in visits followed the reduced hours or preceded them.

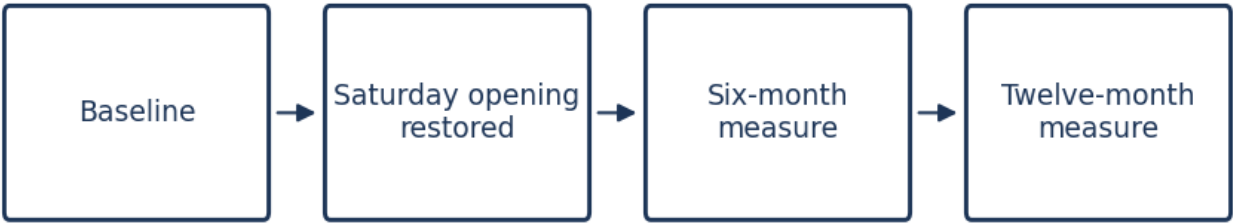


What the study would establish

Whether restoring Saturday opening changes visit numbers, borrowing rates and reading confidence, measured before the change, at six months and at twelve months.

Method

Each library would record visits and loans as it does now. Reading confidence would be measured twice a year using a short questionnaire completed by a parent or guardian, with no child named and no record kept of individual responses.



Phases and cost

Phase	Months	Activity	Cost
Baseline	1-2	Record visits, first survey	£4,200
Implementation	3	Restore Saturday opening	£11,800
Mid-point	8	Second survey, interim report	£3,600
Final	12	Third survey, full report	£6,400

Total requested: £26,000 over twelve months.

Governance

The Trust's board would review the interim report at month eight and may end the study if visit numbers fall further.

