**Children’s Literature Festival 2017**

**Background**

2017 will see the 10th Anniversary of the James Reckitt Hull Children’s Book Award (JRHCBA). The 10th Book Award will run between January and June 2017, as it has in previous years with thanks to the funding commitment of the James Reckitt Library Trust and match funding from Hull Culture and Leisure’s Library Service.

As the JRHCBA has proven over the years to be a huge success with children’ teachers, library staff and volunteers, the Library Service aims to celebrate its success by holding a Children’s Literature Festival in June or June 2017.

2017 is also the 10th Anniversary of the Children’s Laureate, a role that is held for two years and which means 2017 will also see the announcement of a new Children’s Laureate.

**Overview of the Children’s Literature Festival**

**Governance**

* Hull Children’s Literature Festival will be managed by Hull Culture and Leisure Library Service.
* A steering group will be established to provide strategic direction and developmental support. This will include representatives from Hull 2017, University of Hull and The Reading Agency.

**Staffing**

* The Library Service will appoint a Children’s Literature Festival Director in Summer 2016 to develop and organise the Festival. Administration will be provided by the Library Service administration team. Interns, apprentices and volunteers will also be employed to work on the Festival.

**Timescale**

* The current planned dates for the Festival are 30 June 2017 to 9 July 2017.
* Events will run each day during the week and over the two weekends to enable both families and schools to participate in the huge range of events that will be on offer.
* The aim is to publish a programme in January 2017.

**Location**

* The plan is for East Park in Hull to be the primary venue and a range of marquees will be used to house many events.

**The Programme**

* The Festival will feature an exciting, inspiring and diverse programme with events held each day.
* The programme will be aimed at children and young people from birth to 18, their families and educationalists.
* Many different artforms will be included e.g. writing, illustration, drama performance, storytelling, music performance and there will be a number of commissions offered.
* Sessions with writers will be a mixture of author readings, interviews with, workshops, etc.
* Opportunities for writer development will be offered along with opportunities of professional development for teachers, librarians and artists.
* There will be a combination of free and paid for events and an allocation of tickets for paid events will be distributed to children from deprived backgrounds.
* The JRHCBA present two awards each year, one for Key Stage 2 and one for Key Stage 3. Each of the ten winners for each Key Stage will be invited to take part in the Festival. In addition some of the past shortlisted authors will also be included and other notable and new writers will be invited to attend.

**Partners (some to be confirmed)**

* Hull Culture and Leisure Parks and Cultural Services
* Hull 2017
* University of Hull
* British Library
* Waterstones
* Publishers
* The Reading Agency
* Book trust
* Secondary Schools
* Primary Schools
* Nurseries and Children’s Centres