

Report

12

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	9 November 2010
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Engaging Children and Young People in Cultural Activities
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ provide an update on the educational benefits for children and young people through their involvement in cultural activities.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the educational benefits for children and young people through their involvement in cultural activities such as, the 'Cultural Identities Programme' be noted.

3. Background

3.1. Scottish Screen and the Scottish Arts Council invited local authorities to participate in the Creative Identities Programme, an 18 month cashback for communities pilot programme of arts and moving image media creation learning activities for young people.

3.2. Combining moving image media and the arts for creative learning, the *Creative Identities* Programme helped:-

- Enable young people to communicate using arts and moving image media
- Generate new partnerships between arts/moving image organisations and organisations dedicated to supporting vulnerable young people
- Promote positive images of young people.
- Empower young people to shape the nature of their activities.
- Support young people to achieve, gain confidence and develop skills
- Promote long term sustainable development of these activities through partnership working, skills development among the organisations involved, and independent evaluation.

4. Creative Identities in South Lanarkshire

4.1. In South Lanarkshire, the project was primarily targeted at a range of looked after young people and young carers aged between 10-19 years old. The Cultural Co-ordinator Team working alongside South Lanarkshire's Young Carers Service and Looked After Services helped to deliver the project effectively.

- 4.2. The project began by asking over 120 looked after young people and young carers across the authority what arts workshops they would be interested in taking part in. Out of 114 questionnaires returned, 90% had stated that they were interested in taking part in the arts and highlighted what activities they would like to take part in.
- 4.3. In response to these results in November 2009 a range of taster sessions were held in their chosen workshops and areas of interest. These included workshops in parkour, running/keep fit, jewellery, street dance, drama, podcasting, circus skills, film making, graffiti, DJ-ing and photography.
- 4.4. Following the taster sessions a group of young people, were brought together to decide on what activities they wanted to include in the creative identities programme. To help them come to their decisions they looked through evaluations from other young people involved in the taster sessions, the tutors they wanted to work with and what they wanted to create and gain from their involvement in the project. From this the young people decided to run 4 groups which would be:
- film making
 - graffiti and photography
 - Hip hop and street dance
 - DJing and song writing.

These workshops ran from November 2009 – August 2010 and young people attended activities over the summer holiday period.

- 4.5. To mark and celebrate the young peoples' achievements, a showcase event was held at Rutherglen Town Hall on Tuesday 31 of August 2010. The event showcased a documentary film, live DJing, singing and a dance performance. There was also a range of visual art work on display including photography and graffiti work. Resources created by the group were a CD, art booklet and DVD including a step to step guide on how young people can be involved in arts projects.
- 4.6. In addition, 2 young people were nominated to attend the Dundee Discovery Film Festival Weekend in October 2010.
- 4.7. Appendix 1 provides further details on the numbers of young people who participated in the programme, the range of activities they were engaged in along with some of the evaluative comments made by young people on the educational benefits accrued through their participation in the Creative Identities Programmes.
- 4.8. It is hoped the impact and benefit of the pilot programme will foster long term sustainable development of these activities by enhancing expertise and networks, thereby increasing capacity to deliver this kind of work in the future. Independent evaluation and review will ensure that the impact of the pilot programme is properly assessed, to enable improvements for the future to be made.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. None

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. Funding for the programme was provided by Creative Identities; West Central Region, Integrated Children's, Regen FX and Education Resources. There is no decision yet on future funding streams.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. There are no direct risks associated with this report.
- 7.2. There are no significant sustainability issues in connection with the recommendation contained within this report.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 8.2. Scottish Screen and the Scottish Arts Council have been engaged in dialogue about funding arrangements for the initial 18 month Cashback for communities pilot programme and continue to be engaged in discussions on future funding streams.
- 8.3. Consultation on feedback from the young people involved in the creative identities programme has been shared with parents/carers at the showcase event on 31 August and with the Children's Commissioners.

Larry Forde
Executive Director (Education Resources)

21 October 2010

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Improvement Themes/Values

- Raise educational attainment for all

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

- Cashback for Communities Creative Identities

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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Overview of Project Activities

After consultation with young people (through questionnaires), tasters sessions were carried out at the end of 2009 in order to establish which arts activities the young people were interested in participating in for the main project for Creative Identities.

After the feedback was received, a steering group of young people came together to help inform how the main project should be organised.

Number of Young People engaged in Projects

Workshop	Places booked
Circus skills (age 12+)	12
DJ (age 10-12)	8
Drama (age 10-12)	5
Urban Arts (age 12+)	19
Photography (age 12+)	17
Film making (age 10-12)	10
Parkour (age 10-12)	3
Circus Skills (age 10-12)	10
Song writing (age 12+)	6
Jewellery (age 12+)	11
Podcasting (age 12+)	7
Hip Hop (age 12+)	12
DJ (age 10-12)	8
Hip Hop (age 10-12)	10

Workshop	Places booked
DJ (age 12+)	12
Drama (age 10-12)	6
Hip Hop (age 12+)	16
DJ (age 12+)	15
Podcasting (age 10-12)	1
Urban arts (age 10-12)	16
Drama (age 12+)	9
Film making (age 12+)	6
Parkour (age 12+)	6
Photography (age 12+)	6
Song Writing (age 10-12)	8
Jewellery (age 10-12)	10
Drama (age 12+)	14

Comments/Feedback from Young People:

"It was the best ever"

"I learned a lot and hope to continue doing drama and photography"

"Amazing, great fun"

"I can't wait to come back"

"I think it was amazing and would love to do it all again"

"The tutors were very good and explained what we were doing well"

"Tutors were very friendly"

"Tutors were excellent! Made it really fun"

"He taught very well and helped you to tell the truth"

"I enjoyed it all"

"I enjoyed film making the most"

"I enjoyed recording and playing guitar the most"

“Trying new techniques”

“The popping and free styling”

“Creating our dance”

“The dance was my favourite because it is something I am passionate about”

Feedback from Rachel Jury, Creative Identities project manager for West Central Region

“Creative Identities in West Central Region greatly appreciate, admire and respect the work undertaken in South Lanarkshire Council for the Creative Identities Programme. The model of the project was exemplary and the engagement with hard to reach young people and commitment from staff was outstanding across the programme. Without the support and continued enthusiasm from the Cultural Co-ordinator Team this work would have been impossible to deliver.”