

January – March 2005

news



projects 2005

In:volve

The In:volve Programme has entered its final year of ERDF Objective 2 Priority 4 funding and Project Co-ordinators and **tees valley arts** staff have been reviewing progress and planning for a concerted effort to establish the seven key projects as social enterprises. The emphasis will be on promoting sustainability and developing the partnerships that will finance the groups as they develop their social enterprises beyond the end of 2005. Activities will focus on defining and promoting the processes that have been developed, and the benefits that the participants have experienced in their lives through participation. The impact of the In:volve Programme on raising aspirations, achievements, motivation and building confidence, has demonstrated potential to support the Tees Valley Cultural Strategy's stated aim, to lay the foundations for cultural change and the economic renaissance of the Tees Valley.

During 2005, we have established four team meetings for co-ordinators, these will be used to identify links, make connections between groups and share resources. There is potential to extend the opportunity to group participants, and we will be encouraging enterprises to meet up, share experiences and arts activities and tackle joint needs. For instance, Shoot Your Mouth Off needs to recruit and train actors for its forthcoming film, "The Big Event", small world: Big Drums has plans to develop a drama strand and Roaring Mouse already has significant experience in devising and presenting performance pieces. You are Here and 1:3 Sigma are developing performance strands, Phoenix Arts has the skills to develop costume and set designs, and Tees Valley Creatives can handle the marketing, sales and distribution elements of the courses and events.

We'll keep you posted on how the projects develop throughout 2005!



Artists Professional Development

The Creative and Cultural Industries Sector Skills Council is a national initiative that aims to promote choice, relevance, responsiveness and diversity as it addresses the needs of workforce development for the Creative and Cultural Industries. As a campaigning organisation its strength will depend upon its ability to link with other organisations and networks focusing on lifelong learning, on developing training and higher education opportunities and on establishing a knowledge base that informs development. It will also address employers needs and of course those of the developing workforce, reducing skills gaps and shortages and improving business performance. The CCISSC will shortly be establishing three pathfinder pilot regions and investigating the industries' needs, with a particular emphasis on local workforce development, young people and community.

tees valley arts relies considerably on a local workforce of artists. As well as a high standard of excellence in their art form we need artists who have ability and experience in working with people and communities and within the education system. As both an employer and a creative developer we have identified skills gaps and training needs from a variety of perspectives and in order to ensure the quality of our creative programme have established a variety of processes that help us to monitor and develop the skills that we need with the artists that we employ.

■ **tees valley arts** is currently working with, supporting and mentoring a number of Artist/Project Co-ordinators who are leading the development of the In:volve Programme and the Education Programme.

■ The In:volve Programme is working with local community groups to develop the skills needed to manage social enterprises with a creative and cultural focus.

■ Elements of the In:volve Programme include opportunities to mentor and coach students and artists as well as group participants.

■ Artists are encouraged to develop their own ideas in relation to their engaged arts practice.

■ We have been involved in the development of the Artists Training Programme (WAPPA) with Middlesbrough Council at Stockton Riverside College, continue to monitor its progress and contribute to the content of the course. We plan to develop this course as part of a progression of experiences including coaching and mentoring of artists as they learn skills and gain experience. The challenge will be to develop accreditation that will give potential employers of these artists, a clear indication of the level of their skills and abilities.

■ In the summer of 2004, the Gallery TS1 project, a Middlesbrough Council Cultural Services initiative, managed by **tees valley arts**, pioneered an innovative Young Apprenticeship model that is currently being developed in partnership with Middlesbrough Council, Connexions Tees Valley, Stockton Council and the Learning and Skills Council through their E2E programme.

Artists who work in educational and community settings can make significant contributions to personal and community development. Their involvement in projects has helped to raise aspirations, increase motivation, achievement and self confidence and during 2005 **tees valley arts** will work closely with artists and with cultural and creative organisations to develop the creative and facilitative working methods that promote the development of these skills.



1 in 3 Teesonline

1:3 is a project facilitated by **tees valley arts** in co-operation with CIRA, University of Teesside. The idea behind 1:3 is to give young people an opportunity to express themselves and their views about their community in the Tees Valley. The project is called 1:3 because this is the ratio of young people to adults in the Tees Valley area.

Teesonline is a project funded by the European Regional Development Fund that provides support in using Information Communication Technologies for capacity building in the voluntary and community sector of the Tees Valley. Teesonline is co-ordinated by The Community Informatics Research and Applications Unit (CIRA) at the University of Teesside

Film maker Paul McKenna, Digital artist Rachel Clarke, Digital music producer Andy McCall-Smith and artist Kerry Flear have been working with youth groups in the Headland Hartlepool, Eastbourne, Darlington, the Cornerhouse Youth Project in Stockton and South Bank Women's Centre to explore different perspectives of life in the Tees Valley for young people.

The work completed so far on the project can be viewed at www.teesonline.org.uk/one_in_three

The pictures shown were taken to represent the difference between city night light and atmosphere in Darlington and night light in the countryside where the young people like to go on trips and expeditions.



you are here



Poised to roll out the products!

The You Are Here project is now poised and very nearly ready to distribute the YAH CD Rom and the Safe Havens DVD. We are beginning our campaign of promotion, publicity and dissemination.

Since 2000, approximately 5,000 people have come to the Tees Valley region seeking asylum.

Who are they?

Why are they here?

What happens to them?

What do they hope for?

Through the **You Are Here** project, funded primarily by the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Trust Fund, with support from European Regional Development Funding and Redcar and Cleveland Council, **tees valley arts** has put together the **You Are Here CD Rom** and the **Safe Havens DVD**.

The **You Are Here CD Rom** is aimed at young people and adults. It showcases individual stories, poetry, music and artwork all created by and with refugees and people seeking asylum here on Teesside. It can be used in PSHE and citizenship lessons as a means of exploring this contentious subject, and as a starting point for creatively exploring relevant issues.

The **Safe Havens DVD** is a 12 minute film made with a class of Year 5 pupils at Cromwell Road Primary School, South Bank. It includes class poetry, the school samba band on the soundtrack, a short animation, and footage of local football hero, Joseph-Desire Job. The film carries an endorsement by John McCarthy, former Beirut hostage. It explores how it might feel to have to leave your country and start a new life elsewhere, from the point of view of 9 year olds.

Both these products offer insights into a difficult and conflicted area, in a creative, positive, entertaining and accessible way. They can be used in all sorts of settings, not just schools and colleges, to promote understanding of the asylum situation, at a personal and local level.

Besides arranging meetings with teachers, education advisers and other likely suspects, we are arranging an evening of celebration for the project. Along with Café International, we are putting on an evening of diverse music and performance, including a Chinese opera singer and a reggae band which includes an original member of the legendary Wailers, plus much more. This is planned to be on March 21st at the Dorman Club in Middlesbrough. More details nearer the time.

Rowena Sommerville

Education through the Arts in Science & Industry (EASI) Programme - Special schools

tees valley arts and the Teesside Chemical Initiative (TCI) Science Education Unit work in partnership to create the EASI Programme. EASI focuses and expands upon cross-curricular development; aimed specifically at non arts subjects being taught in a creative and imaginative way through a particular art form.

EASI has placed artists in three special schools for one term to involve, interest and engage pupils in science activities and to extend teacher's teaching and learning strategies. The artists will work alongside the teachers to teach science issues creatively, to raise pupils' awareness and to make science more relevant for them.

Priory Woods Special School has chosen the Human Skeleton - movement and structure, as the curriculum subject to be explored with a sculptor, Frazer Johnston and dramatist, Ruth Hindmarsh, from Busy Ape Arts over ten weekly sessions. A digital artist, Chris O'Neill and selected pupils have documented the project, providing a personal view of the projects journey. The project culminated in an outstanding performance. This work is now being expanded to the schools award winning website and will provide an interactive, accessible tool for delivering the curriculum. This aims to enable a broader range of children to actively and positively engage with the subject and develop their learning of that subject.

Feedback from both the school staff and pupils, and from the artists demonstrates that the project was successful and rewarding for all involved. The work produced in the school (the artists develop teaching aids with the pupils and teachers) has and will continue to be disseminated through the regional and national school network.



Waveband

Waveband is a 1 year project that will result in the production of a symphonic composition: inspired and arranged by a composer and created by young people under the guidance of professional musicians.

The result will be a Theme and Variations where an epic and memorable theme is treated and dealt with by the experts in urban sounds and popular culture - the young people themselves. They could choose to rock the theme, funk it, dub it or strip it down to a bare, minimal skeleton and reconstruct it in imaginative ways that you didn't know were possible. This is the *ultimate* in unpredictable, creative collaboration.

The overall theme of the 'piece' is 'River'. Each school will be given a theme which they will go on to explore and adapt according to their own musical and artistic interpretation. This interpretation will also depend on the musical ability displayed in the group - which again is diverse.

The end piece will be performed - part live and part recorded and accompanied by a stunning film and animation piece created by Marcus Diamond of Neasden Control Centre.

The project is now up and running! Three secondary schools across the Tees Valley are hosting sessions by the project musicians and will be welcoming the composer, Anthony McNally and a visual artist as the year progresses.

Mike McGrother

A Private View

Each newsletter, we invite someone from the Tees Valley to give us their take on working in the local arts scene. This month: fundraising by Clive Rawson.

Fundraising - one of the dark arts?

Would you jump into bed with someone you hardly knew? Maybe, but most of us want to get to know a potential partner before taking the plunge. Finding the right funding partner is just as crucial.

Fundraising is often seen as one of the dark - if not, dirty - arts of the not-for-profit sector. Most of us would prefer someone else to do it and leave us to our day jobs. Who cares where the money is from as long they leave us alone? But, let's continue the analogy... whilst we might get away with a couple of one-night stands, our little black book of funding partners could soon run dry as we get known as the partner who never calls back!

Whether you view money as the root of all evil or the stuff what greases the wheels, we all want our organisations to thrive and continue providing quality services. Funding is our fuel, so unless you pay attention to finding a partner with whom you want to achieve greatness *and* build funding into planning your future.

And who are these people we need to persuade? In all likelihood they are just like you or me: charged with delivering a set of objectives, meeting deadlines and wondering what to cook for dinner. When I crossed the divide to work for a grant-giving trust, my views didn't change - although the view from the other side was different.

So, the next time you're faced with a blank application form, a telephone pitch or preparing a presentation, you might try to *humanise* your answers. After all, even administrators are people, too.

Clive Rawson can be contacted at **Training & Development Services** on 07816 757858.



tees valley arts is a development agency promoting creativity in lifelong learning. We operate throughout the Tees Valley working with educational and cultural organisations, local authorities, voluntary and community groups. Our creative programme works with people, communities, schools and organisations to devise programmes that use arts activities to raise aspirations, achievements, motivation and self-esteem.

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