Annual report of the Barking & Dagenham Cultural Education Partnership, including headline report of the annual conference held at Dagenham Park school in June 2015

Annual conference June 11th 2015

Forty delegates attended this year’s conference, including a greater proportion of school leaders, subject leaders in primary and secondary schools and an increased number of school governors.

The conference heard presentations from key regional and national figures including Arts Council England, English Heritage, A New Direction and updates from headteachers in successful pilot schools in Barking & Dagenham.

Presentations included:

- A review by Jane Hargreaves of the year’s activity
- An overview by Laura Gander Howe of the Arts Council commitment to a ‘Cultural Guarantee’ for every child
- A summary and review by A New Direction, of the ways in which AND supports and challenges the London boroughs to achieve good cultural outcomes for young people including a practical overview of ARTSMARK and ARTS AWARDS

Workshop sessions:

In addition to this input, delegates benefitted from workshop sessions which enabled them to hear about and share ideas which will provide practical benefits to young people including:

- How schools can gain funding in the arts and cultural programmes
- Developing the borough’s new INSPIRE festival in its second year
- Improving pathways into the creative industries through partnership working

Summary of feedback from delegates

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Some key themes connect the comments which are useful for the coming year and will shape the way the steering group works, including the activities which are planned for 2015 – 16.

- Delegates welcomed the opportunity to share and discuss the priorities and successes described by headteachers. This will help governors and subject leaders to work in their schools as a team and to decide on what is important for their schools.
- Many delegates were ‘inspired’ by the debates and information
- Delegates found the summary of Artsmark status for schools helpful and Arts Award. Governors will use this to report to their governing bodies and to encourage schools to take up these opportunities
• Delegates found the presentation from Arts Council and Heritage Lottery fund a very useful guide to encourage them to get schools involved in projects and to make early bids for funding.

• A number of delegates found the comprehensive view of entitlement and cultural guarantee very enlightening and encouraging. Governors and schools would like support to work together to take advantage of the ideas set out by Arts Council.

• Delegates were motivated by the INSPIRE festival. The festival took place on the same day as the conference and was a great success. Governors and schools are keen to be involved in subsequent years.

• Delegates who attended the partnership and pathways workshop were very encouraged by the prospect of closer education and arts provider partnerships with Barking & Dagenham College, the Broadway and arts organisations such as Studio 3.

• Overall, delegates are pleased to have a growing network to be involved in.

The above points as well as the more detailed ideas provided in evaluation forms will inform priorities for network meetings and sessions in the coming year. You will find links to the presentations and notes below.

Some key themes emerge for future sessions:

• Ways in which governors can influence cultural education in their school and collaborate to improve provision for young people in the borough

• Artsmark and Arts Award training. Helping governors and leaders to get the best from these schemes in their school

• Participation in the INSPIRE festival

• Securing funding for individual school and collaborative projects

• Maintaining the great work established already by Heritage Schools

• Working with the Broadway and other partners such as Studio 3 Arts, Greenshoes, community music service and Creative Barking & Dagenham to establish pathways into creative industries for young people

• Developing the capacity of successful partnership schools to ‘broker’ activities and collaboration with less experienced partners

• Working with external partners such as Barbican to improve opportunities into the future

One of the groups summarised some important elements of success and identified key problems to overcome:

Factors Leading to Successful Partnerships:

• The work must be relevant to each particular school and community

• Schools, teachers and students need to retain ownership…. Not being ‘done to’

• Activity must be enjoyable with a sense of achievement. Challenge with fun

• Activity must incorporate doing things that can’t be done on your own
- A Clear tangible offer which people understand and will take up
- Access to resources
- A holistic approach. Activity which has impact simultaneously in many areas of learning and school life
- Developing a tradition which people are proud of, excited by and will trust

Factors Leading to Unsuccessful Partnerships:
- Not having enough money. The need to secure resources
- Lack of team building and poor communication
- Time issues. Lack of anticipation and trivial allocation of time
- Poor planning and research

LINKS to all presentations, the current development plan, early years cultural portfolio and further documents of interest are provided through governor services

Summary of activity and priorities 2014 - 15

The 2012 review of cultural education by Darren Henley provided a basis for the long standing support for arts and cultural education in the borough to be developed as a strategic partnership.

The Barking & Dagenham Cultural Education Partnership (CEP) has successfully built on a strong local partnership of schools to build a network and establish key priorities to provide high quality opportunities and outcomes for young people.

A steering group sets direction and includes primary and secondary headteachers, senior Arts Council representation, key local arts organisations and council departments including heritage and libraries.

Three agreed priorities now govern the work to shape the present and growing future partnership:

1. Developing and embedding cultural leadership
2. Accreditation and celebration of cultural achievement including a long term cultural portfolio for all young people
3. Clarifying and strengthening pathways into the cultural and creative sector

These priorities will ensure culture in its widest possible definition is recognised, celebrated and valued both as a local identity and as a source of rewarding employment.
See the development plan in the links above

Achievements, established and emerging opportunities

- All schools and governing bodies have agreed a common statement of cultural entitlement for young people as they progress from early years to the end of secondary education.
- The majority of school governing bodies have appointed a governor to oversee and champion the development of arts and cultural education in their schools. They met recently at the Barbican centre to begin a relationship with the creative learning opportunities available through Barbican and a wider network.
- A newsletter “Culture Matters” provides information and communication through the expanding network.
- A unique cultural portfolio is being trialled in Early Years settings to encourage high quality creative education for the youngest children.
- A strong Community Music Service has extended its work in schools and with external partners such as the Barbican.
- A developing relationship with Barking Broadway, Barking & Dagenham FE College and universities such as the University of the Arts London is now focusing on opportunities in digital media and technical theatre.
- Two schools, one secondary and one primary have established pioneering collaborative learning with the Royal Shakespeare Company.
- The three national partners in CEP: Arts Council, British Film Institute and English Heritage have established programmes with lasting impact:
  - Over 40 schools are ‘Heritage schools’ and have engaged in high quality history and heritage learning programmes using local heritage and history to deepen children’s understanding and enjoyment of history with long term sustainable implications for learning in the schools and communities.
  - British Film institute has based its young film academy for two consecutive years at Sydney Russell school in the borough, establishing a platform for talent in film and the prospect of a career pathway into the future. The school is notable as an Outstanding school in which an ambitious community cinema is now being established.
  - An Arts Council grant has enabled a group of schools to establish a festival as part of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations to showcase and celebrate young talent for the first time in 2015: INSPIRE festival is based at Dagenham Park School on 11th June followed by a trail of exhibitions in key locations designed to showcase young peoples’ achievement and to Inspire the community.
  - All programmes and events are providing the opportunity for schools and other providers to award Arts Award through an expanding network of trained Arts Award advisers and increasing number of Artsmark schools.
  - The acclaimed Community Music Service is enabling many young people to perform live in the 50th anniversary celebrations in summer 2015.
- The CEP is developing closer links with the Arts Council sponsored Creative Barking & Dagenham team to ensure long term, sustainable growth in creative opportunities and the cultural sector in Barking & Dagenham

The INSPIRE festival

The INSPIRE festival enables a group of primary and secondary school to work with artists and teachers to create works of art which showcase and encourage young people’s talent, ambition and creative thinking in ways which nurtures them and inspires the community.

Greenshoes Arts were commissioned to establish the collaborative work and curate the festival. The performances and other art work seen in Dagenham Park is the culmination of work over 2 months. Following the evening show, there will be a ‘trail’ of exhibitions of visual art, poetry, heritage work and photographs in key locations across the borough. Families will be encouraged to visit and enjoy these mini exhibitions over two weeks following the evening show, raising the profile of young creative talent across the borough. It is hoped that the festival can be expanded to become a major annual celebration in the Barking & Dagenham calendar.

Schools involved in 2015: Dagenham Park Church of England School, Eastbury Comprehensive School, Beam Primary School, St Theresa RC Primary School, Northbury Primary School

CEP headline facts May 2015

Heritage schools (3 year programme)

40 schools have been registered or participated in heritage schools activity.

Over 2000 children involved. Impact and reach much wider through incorporation of activities into teaching and curriculum in schools, as well as a large number of families visiting public heritage school events.

Cultural lead governors

30 recorded, with others to confirm in summer term meetings. One annual conference, one learning event and one meeting at the Barbican.

INSPIRE festival

3 lead primary schools, 2 secondary schools and other performers such as songwriters choir involved in performance. Many others involved in exhibitions following performance.

30 teachers are involved in artist workshop and development.

400+ young people involved in programme with 164 in performance

Audience for performance 320

12 artists working in schools over 2 months
Arts Awards

By end of autumn term 2015 @ 400 Discover, Explore and Bronze over 2 yrs inc community music service

Artsmark schools

4 achieved and 14 in process

Music Hub and associated CEP activity

Music activity with Barbican. 90 students have been involved in visits, music workshops and performances, many including Arts Award

@4000 children learning to sing or play an instrument & 28 ensembles per week

British Film Institute Academy

Hosted for 2nd year with 4 local students among the 30 regional participants who collaborated to make films, shown in places including the community cinema at Sydney Russell School