

CLOA Case Study Activity: the role of Culture and Sport in reducing Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

Purpose of report

For information / noting.

Summary

It has long been recognised that culture and sport have an important role to play in preventing young people becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. In response to this the Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers Association (cCLOA) have produced a new policy document entitled *The role of Culture and Sport in reducing Crime and Anti-social Behaviour*.

The case studies below are extracts from the report and offer a strong evidence base for future investment in preventative measures, demonstrating the cost effectiveness of partnership commissioning.

CLOA would like to invite the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board to join them in communicating across local authorities and relevant government departments the contribution the sector can make to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour and the potential for joint local strategic commissioning activity.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the case studies.

Action

Secretariat / CLOA Advisory Panel as appropriate.

Contact officer: Laura Caton
Position: Senior Adviser
Phone no: 020 7664 3154
E-mail: laura.caton@local.gov.uk

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Creative Learning – Tackling gang culture, The Dukes Theatre, Lancaster

Project overview

- 1 The young people who engaged in this film making and urban music project lived in areas of recognised territorial tension and community segregation in Lancaster. A number of them stated that fear of abuse would make it difficult to work with young people from other areas. The project sought to tackle this by uniting them through their common interest in the universal language of music.
- 2 The sessions began with a showing of *The Woolf Within*, which told the story of a career criminal who discovers empathy and responsibility. This was used to stimulate discussion on themes of action, consequence, forgiveness and regret.
- 3 The young people then created lyrics and produced their own performance over two workshop sessions leading to a music/film night attended by 160 young people from the local area. 27 of the participants went on to work for a further week at the theatre, making a short film and writing lyrics inspired by *The Bomb*, a professional piece for theatre which told the story of the meeting of Patrick Magee and Jo Berry at the Maze Prison.

Outcome

- 4 The project provided disadvantaged young people from across Lancaster, many of whom had poor literacy skills, with an opportunity to engage in creative and participatory activity with qualified and experienced practitioners.
- 5 For many of these young people this was their first experience of creative engagement and it assisted them to express their frustrations and aspirations about the community in which they live.
- 6 Since the project young people from Ryelands and Marsh communities have begun to meet and are writing joint lyrics for further events; a real physical and psychological barrier has been broken down to enable this to happen.
- 7 The local police commended the project for delivering positive activity to a large number of young people; a percentage of whom are recognised as offenders or at risk of becoming offenders.

Arts and Youth Justice - Using creative interventions as part of a court order

The Garage, Norfolk

Project overview

- 8 In partnership with Norfolk Youth Offending Team (YOT) [The Garage](#), a young people's creative training and development centre in Norwich, has a post holder working with young offenders as part of a joint ACE/Youth Justice initiative to demonstrate how the arts and creativity can have a direct and beneficial influence on offending behaviour. The Garage's approach to working with young people at risk enables young offenders to feel they are part of a wider creative arts environment.
- 9 Young people are referred by their YOT caseworker work and work on a one to one basis with the Creative Arts Manager for Youth Justice (CAMYJ). Those referred on to this programme are generally on intensive supervision and surveillance orders (ISSPs) and the agreed programme of activity becomes part of their official Court Order. Attendance is compulsory with all interventions recorded as part of the young person's asset score¹ and given equal weight with other interventions managed directly by the YOT caseworker.

Outcome

- 10 More than 300 young offenders have been involved as participants in The Garage's programme since 2006. Whilst it is difficult to single out the creative arts interventions as the sole influence on a young offender's outcomes, there are strong indications that the post has played a significant part in reducing re-offending both in terms of frequency and severity.
- 11 From analysis of 100 cases subject to creative interventions:
 - 11.1 80% reduced or maintained their asset score
 - 11.2 50% re-offended, but in 70% of these cases the severity of the offences reduced significantly
 - 11.3 To date 37 young people have achieved an Arts Award – 37 at Bronze (Level 1); 5 at Silver (Level 2)
 - 11.4 There have been 195 sessions of creative education, training and participation delivered to young offenders

¹ The risk of offending

Revizit – Reducing burglary rates, Leeds

Project overview

- 12 Revizit is a partnership project that was set up by Positive Futures², the Youth Service, Leeds Federated Housing and West Yorkshire Police to tackle Woodhouse's infamous title of the most burgled area in Europe.
- 13 The Police had a target group who through intelligence were identified as possibly being linked to a number of burglaries and other criminal activity in the area.
- 14 The Revizit project covered a different issue each week giving the agencies the chance to not only build a relationship with the young people, but to give them information to make better choices in their lives. Each informative session was followed with an activity, including DJ workshops, football sessions, boxing and go-karting.

Outcome

- 15 The majority of the sessions were led by a Police Constable; this helped to break down barriers and led to the young people thinking about their general attitude towards the Police. One of the most successful presentations was given by Consequence, an organisation who send ex offenders and gang members to speak to young people about their experiences 'on the street' and in prison as a consequence of the path they choose to take.
- 16 At the end of the programme the young people were signposted into existing activity sessions in the community and PC Chris Marshall, who is the Anti-social Behaviour Officer said 'It's safe to say there has been a reduction in domestic burglaries, a trend which continues to this present time after the Revizit project in Woodhouse'

Diversionary summer activities - Reducing anti-social behaviour Eastleigh Borough Council

Project overview

- 17 Eastleigh Borough Council's summer activity programme was overhauled in 2009 and introduced a long term multi-agency approach to:
 - 17.1 Decrease anti-social behaviour
 - 17.2 Increase grassroots participation

² [Positive Futures](#) is the national youth crime prevention programme. Funded by the Home Office, the programme targets and supports 10-19 year olds to help them avoid becoming drawn into crime, drug and alcohol misuse and move forward with their lives.

17.3 Build stronger communities

- 18 Park Sport targeted locations based on advice from Eastleigh Borough Council's Community Safety Partnership. This has helped to provide diversionary activities from anti-social behaviour and keep Eastleigh Borough's young people active during the summer holidays.
- 19 Park Sport 2011 ran 334 sessions over five full weeks in the school summer holidays. The programme offered 16 different activities, including BMX jams, Friday night football, skateboarding and laser clay at 27 locations.

Outcome

- 20 The programme is breaking down barriers by taking sport to the heart of communities and helping to bring ambition and inspiration to deprived areas. Positive activities on the doorstep of local anti-social behaviour hot spots secured a 29% decrease in anti-social behaviour in 2009.
- 21 Park Sport 2011 achieved:
 - 21.1 11,700 attendances throughout the 5 week programme
 - 21.2 Educational sessions on knife crime, tackling alcohol responsibly, sexual health, antisocial behaviour and the danger of drugs
 - 21.3 Engagement with 15 'charter standard' local clubs with good exit routes
 - 21.4 Building stronger communities and improved social cohesion in Park Sport areas
- 22 The Community Safety Manager at Eastleigh Borough Council said, "Park Sport has continued to assist in diverting the small number of young people who may otherwise have been engaged in anti-social behaviour during the summer holidays towards more positive activity".