

Arts on Estates

**A Pilot project funded by
Homes for Islington**

**In partnership with
Islington Young People's Services
and CEA@Islington**

This pilot project was initiated in October 2006 by a Steering Group from the Islington Young People's Services and CEA@Islington and follows on from a review undertaken by the Children's Services regarding after school provision in the borough of Islington.

The outcome of the consultation was an identified need to broaden activities and provision for children and young people in their locality, and arts activities in particular were identified as a need, to compliment the range of sports and other youth activities on offer.

The project has been set up to offer a range of arts activities to young people aged 10 – 18 on identified estates, as part of a broader strategy to address anti-social behaviour. Funding was secured by Homes for Islington and Islington Young People's Services, CEA@Islington and other voluntary sector providers came together to plan the objectives and priorities:-

Objectives

- To offer a range of visual and performing arts activities to young people from 10 to 18 years
- To target young people who are at risk and/or may not be engaged with structured activities
- To evaluate outcomes and build on successes to enable further developments and progression

The Steering Group prioritised seven estates in Islington in this first phase:

Elthorne	Andover
New River Green	Harvist
Bemerton	Mayville
Girdlestone	

A process of initial consultation took place with young people and youth professionals to consider programme activity so that each estate could identify which arts activity would be best suited for their young people. Project activity took place between January and March 2007.

A Project Coordinator, Sheelah Sloane, was taken on in November 2006 to coordinate the various projects, undertake monitoring visits and write an evaluation report. This role was crucial in the success of the programme, taking into account the short time scale in setting up and delivering the projects. The following written and visual documentation records the success of the seven projects.

Andover Street Dance and African Dance Project

The Andover and Six Acres Youth Club was relocated to new premises in October '06 but its reopening was delayed due to building works. It now operates five evenings a week and also runs a pilot Job Search Club at lunchtime. 163 young people are currently registered as members of the youth club, 50% of whom live within the Six Acres and Andover Estates. Altogether, 31 young people, aged 12 -19 took part in the two dance projects over a period of 10 weeks.

Gender and ethnicity breakdown:

	Male	Female
White		4
Irish		3
African-Caribbean	1	7
African	1	12
Mix Race		3

Aims of the project:

- To promote cultural understanding, by introducing young people to the diversity of cultural and urban style music
- To build self-esteem and confidence by learning choreographic movements and body rhythms to the beating of African drums
- To keep fit and improve strength and energy
- To provide social interaction and an avenue to reduce stress levels, whilst having fun
- To work towards a Talent Showcase at the Community Centre, where the local community can be invited
- To work with local tutors who have an understanding of inner city young people and who are used to working with young people of various standards

The Final Showcase

The African dance section consisted of 8 young girls dressed in beautiful African costume and dancing energetically to the sound of African congas and djembes. The Street Dance section performed the most intricate break-dancing and street dance routines. In spite of being hampered by the sound system failing on one or two occasions, they won first prize in their section. There was also a Gospel Choir, accapella singing, rapping and acting performances, all of which were greeted by huge applause from the audience. During the break, some excellent Afro-Caribbean food was served. The end of the evening was marked by an even larger group of African dancers, who performed majestically to the African drumming beat.



Young people from the street dance section at the final performance

Outcomes of the project:

- The young people learnt to work as a group and have expectations of one another
- They showed commitment and dedication to the project by designing publicity flyers for the final Talent Showcase
- They worked successfully towards the deadline for the final showcase

Feedback from the parents who attended the showcase was very positive and older youths in the audience have been inspired to seek information about working voluntarily with the young people. The Youth Managers are keen that the project is able to continue, in order to improve the quality of life for the young people, thereby making their community a safer place and reducing the juvenile crime rate within the area.

POSTER DESIGNED BY HAYLEY PACKMAN

"Andover raw talent"
PRESENTS

TALENT SHOW AUDITIONS

SINGERS/MCS

COMEDIANS

DANCERS

13TH APRIL AUDITION @ 7PM
20TH APRIL TALENT SHOW @ 7PM

PRIZES! PRIZES! PRIZES!

ANDOVER COMMUNITY CENTRE
54 CORKER WALK ANDOVER ESTATE N7

Contact Cathy on 07977471180

Publicity designed by the young people