

# **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.

## Copenhagen Youth Project – Music Production

Copenhagen Youth Project had been running a weekly youth club with young people, participating in mixing, lyric writing and MCing. But numbers and popularity grew so quickly, they were unable to accommodate all the young people who turned up and so had to cease providing music as an activity.

The grant from Homes for Islington has provided 3 laptop computers, which have now been set up at the youth club and an appropriate programme of music production, lyric and creative songwriting and mixing has been established with their tutor, Ivan Hussey. The programme provides an accessible music outlet within a safe environment, offering hard-to-reach young people the opportunity to use creativity to help them realise their potential. This project is 100% sustainable.

### Aims of the project

- To offer creative music workshops to young people aged 14 – 18 years, to develop and improve their music skills and knowledge
- To facilitate a process of creative songwriting and performance for the young people, using Reason and Cubase
- To support the young people to organise an event at the end to showcase their work and talent

Total no. of attendees	Age range of participants	Gender breakdown
66	10 - 21	20 female 46 male
Ethnicity		
Any other Asian background		1
African		26
Caribbean		17
Black British		4
White British		6
White Irish		3
White and Black African		1
White and Black Caribbean		5
Any Other Mixed Background		1
None specified		2



Using the music software

The tutor is excellent and has been able to accommodate everyone who wanted to be involved. The young people have learnt Reason and Cubase from scratch and were soon able to make up their own tunes and beats. A number of girls became equally engaged in the project.



Tutor, Ivan, helps some of the young people with the music software

During the course of the programme the young people have learn the following skills:-

Introducing Reason software  
Making computer music  
Rules & Safety  
Using redrum to make beats and Dr Rex to make samples  
Creating tracks and finding sounds with Reason, using effects  
Using the midi keyboard with the software, together with the mixer  
Introduction to Cubase  
Recording in Cubase  
Looking at audio techniques

### **Outcomes of the project**

- The young people have learnt a huge range of new skills in music production and using music software
- The course has increased their confidence and communication skills
- The course has helped their computer skills and their reading and writing skills

The youth club has now secured funding from Youth Music to sustain the project for one night a week at CYP. The long-term aim is to build a community recording studio. In the meantime, the tutors are working with the young people on a music programme for the summer, running performances in clubs and outdoor spaces in the King's Cross area, culminating in a grand performance at the King's Cross Festival in November. They hope to link up with the Sinfonietta – a modern classical orchestra – who will be performing at the same festival.