

# **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.

## Elthorne Street Dance Project

Based on outreach work and club meetings held with the young people on the estate in September 2006, Street Dance was the activity identified by the young people, which they wanted to engage in.

### Aims of the project:

- To promote to young people aged 10 – 18 interested in Street Dance and not currently engaged at the Community centre and to offer the sessions on an open access policy
- To develop publicity material to attract the young people
- To include young people in the choreography and planning of the sessions
- To promote regular sessions with the aim of having a final showcase at the end of March

Stefania Pavlou, the dance tutor, introduced the young people to a range of dance styles – Street Dance, Hip Hop, Charleston and Samba. During the course of the sessions, the young people visited several professional dance performances, including *Danny Cool* and *Move It* – a dance exhibition, which widened their horizons and gave them inspiration for their final dance pieces, which the young people themselves choreographed.



The final performance



More scenes from the final performance



### Outcomes of the project:

- The project attracted 10 young people, who attended consistently
- Knowledge gained through working together to develop solo and group choreography
- Health and Fitness gained through warm-up and cool-down techniques
- Developing concentration and communication skills
- Professional publicity was produced to attract new users
- The young people put on an excellent final performance at the Community Centre, attracting 50 parents, carers and other young people



The final performance