

SUNDERLAND CULTURAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

OVERVIEW DOCUMENT



WHAT IS THE SUNDERLAND CULTURAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP?

The SCEP is an open and strong partnership network with clear leadership that advocates for the role of arts and culture in young people's lives. It brings together arts and cultural sector organisations, educational institutions, individual artists and educators, academics and researchers and cross sector agencies to further its vision.

VISION

All Children & Young People are supported to engage in arts and cultural activity that has meaning and value in their lives and well-being, now and in the future

CONTEXT

- Key city challenges:
 - Health outcomes for residents in Sunderland, including children and young people, are poor and the wider determinates of health are worse than the national average for the following groups of young people:
 - Children in absolute low-income families (under 16s)
 - Children in relative low-income families
 - Pupil absence (5-15 year olds)
 - First time entrants to the youth justice system (10-17)
 - 16-17 year olds not in education, employment or training
 - Children in care
 - There are significantly more admissions to hospital for mental health conditions than the national average
 - There are high levels of children in need and in care
 - Though the number of children entering the youth justice system is decreasing, there is a high number of repeat offences amongst a small group of children and young people.
 - Children aged 11 are in the top 15 percentile in terms of educational attainment, but children aged 16 are in the lowest 15 percentile.
 - Across all sectors and measurements, inequalities have widened due to the Covid-19 pandemic
 - There are interconnected and interdependent factors of disadvantage for children and young people

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- To create more opportunities for CYP to engage in creative activity through collaborative working that adds value to what currently exists;
 - Outcomes:
 - Raised confidence, self-esteem, resilience and aspirations of CYP;
 - Better health outcomes for CYP;
 - CYP taking greater leadership roles and being involved in decision making;
 - CYP discover their creative potential;
 - Raised awareness of career pathways in the arts;
- To organise and support targeted events to support arts engagement;
 - Outcomes:
 - Widened access to arts activities for our communities;
 - More diverse representation in activity;
 - More family involvement in the arts;
 - Better health outcomes for families.
- To develop a programme of training events to support local artists and teachers to confidently deliver arts activities in schools;
 - Outcomes:
 - Enhanced capacity, greater confidence and skills sharing across professional groups
- To develop a programme of mapping, research and evaluation projects and a communications strategy to further advocate for the arts and a creative curriculum and to address areas where CYP are most in need;
 - Outcomes:
 - Raised awareness of the value of the arts
 - Raised awareness of creative opportunities available for CYP and their families;
- To develop the SCEP itself to address the vision and aims it embraces:
 - Outcomes:
 - Wider partnerships and membership of the SCEP;
 - Relevance of activity to the wider policy context;
 - A funding strategy that supports the vision of the SCEP and enables the above activity and workstreams to be delivered.

WHO IS THE SCEP

- Membership of the SCEP is open to all arts and cultural sector organisations, educational institutions, individual artists, teachers and educators, academics and researchers and cross sector agencies who wish to commit to furthering its vision.
- Active recruitment to challenge perceptions of:
 - Relevance to their interests;
 - Time and capacity – enable people to dip in and dip out, committing to what is relevant to them;
 - Closed membership by invitation only.
- Terms of Reference

STRUCTURE

The Sunderland CEP needs a Steering Group led by a Chair and Vice Chair but it was felt that:

- this must connect to the other Regional and National LCEPs and well as the Bridge Organisation;
- and that it must be supported by working groups and interest groups that would feed in to the Steering Group and ensure that the action plans are implemented. Some of these might be task specific and time limited whilst others such as a Youth Forum and Engagement Group could be more permanent groupings.

The Steering Group would be responsible for the strategic direction of the Sunderland CEP.

The Youth Forum would inform this group and ensure that the voice of Children and Young People was central to decision making whilst the Engagement Group would be made up of individuals ensuring that the freelance workforce upon whom so much engagement work depends are also informing strategy.

Task groups – generally time limited - would be formed according to interests and relevance to support activity in three key work stream areas:

- Research and Evidence
- Activity and Projects
- Communications and Advocacy

