

FINDHORN BAY ARTS

In the Mix A Cashback for Communities (C4C) programme

CashBack for Communities is a Scottish Government programme which takes funds recovered from the proceeds of crime and invests them into free activities and programmes for young people (10-24 years) across Scotland. Phase 4 of the Programme will run from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2020 and will support the Scottish Government's aim to tackle inequalities by having a greater focus on young people from areas of deprivation and other disadvantaged young people. The CashBack for Creativity programme is managed by Creative Scotland.

Introduction

Delivered by Findhorn Bay Arts, In the Mix is a bespoke, professionally-led 3 year project of creative activity for Moray's 10 - 25 year olds who are experiencing isolation and/or who are out of work/school, and/or who are at risk of offending, and/or live in rural pockets of deprivation.

Led by professional, qualified creative practitioners, these young people will be supported through a series of workshops, one-to-ones, creative visits and a Creative Holiday Programme.

As a result of engagement, participants will gain invaluable cultural, life and transferable skills; their confidence and communication skills will have significantly increased and their risk of offending will have reduced. This combined will bring them closer to employment and/or training and/or volunteering.

Where appropriate, young people will be supported to achieve recognised accreditation/qualifications, and all will be brought closer to the job market and/or routes to further education.

Project Model

In the Mix offers hard to reach young, often excluded, young people, the opportunity to engage in cultural practice, and to explore & express their needs, lives and attitudes through creative professional-led creative workshops.

Via a structured partnership approach, that sees key youth-focused organisations working alongside the project, we are able to ensure quick and fast engagement with the target group and can evidence demand for the activities and approach offered. It seeks to fill gaps in current provision, and offer opportunities to those that have not been targeted, or have failed to be engaged by the status quo.

We will seek to identify and support the strengthening of existing capacity with the young people who take part, recognising and building on strengths, skills, talents or interests that they may already have or wish to develop.

The project will work with young people to take the first step to overcoming barriers to engagement; it will help them build self-esteem and also help to create the best conditions/environment that will encourage their sense of commitment to continue to take part.

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In the Mix is designed to offer progression of learning through a process that is flexible and responsive to the needs of the young people participating. We recognise that some young people will engage for a short period of time, or a single block, whilst others will be inspired to stay on the programme over a 3 year period.

Regardless, each stage offers opportunities for achievement and progression and which improves their learning, employability and employment and as such anticipate up to 40% go onto positive destinations across the project.

We will work with our partners to link the achievements of the young people participating in this project with the appropriate career support to recognise and celebrate their developments and how this can be part of their positive pathways into further education and employment.

Our ideas and aspirations for this project take inspiration from Time to Shine, Scotland's first youth arts strategy, the Moray Cultural Strategy and are informed by the priorities of the Local Improvement Plan and the Community Planning Partnership, and Celebrate the 2018 Year of Young People.

Creative arts has been identified as a one of the 8 key sectors within the new moray skills framework which is being launched in May. This has been identified using local Labour market economic information.

Our understanding of need of this project has arisen out of detailed discussion with partners and the data coming out of ignite Moray Youth Arts Hub, Moray's Children and Young People service plan (published Feb 2014) and our own experience in delivering and supporting arts activity in Moray.

In line with the Moray Cultural strategy the project connects with Moray creative activity providers and groups, and identifies opportunities to enhance activities for children and young people throughout the region.

All elements of the project contribute to the 6 outcomes of Cashback for Creativity, which are:

- Young people build their capacity and confidence
- Young people develop their physical and personal skills
- Young people's behaviours and aspirations change positively
- Young people's wellbeing improves
- Young people participate in activity which improves their learning, employability and employment options (positive destinations)
- Young people participate in positive activity