

EXTENDED SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 7

Wednesday 16th June 2010

Sally Staples, Head of Unit, Arts Development Unit, Kent County Council

Additional Information – initiatives in which the Arts Development Unit is involved

Find Your Talent

Partners with CFE and Creative Foundation (Folkestone) in delivery Find Your Talent programme – one of ten national pilots tasked with delivering five hours of cultural engagement entitlement to young people in Shepway. This programme is led nationally by Creativity, Culture and Education.

Future Creative

Kent Arts Development Unit funds Future Creative, a Kent-based organisation which grew out of Creative Partnerships. Creative Partnerships was originally an Arts Council led initiative to deliver creative education in schools using creative practitioners - not just artists but other professionals who use creativity in their work such as landscape designers and scientists.

People United

Kent Arts Development Unit funds People United – a Canterbury based organisation which works nationally delivering projects using the arts to promote kindness and cooperation in schools. This work is supported by academic research to robustly test effectiveness of approaches. People United are currently working on a town-wide project in Herne Bay.

Kent Youth Theatre Festival and Network

Kent Arts Development Unit leads on the Kent Youth Theatre Festival – this includes a year round programme of networking events for youth theatres, the development of a young people's management team and the delivery of the festival which includes working with a youth theatre director and in 2010 a two day residential festival which we are delivering in partnership with Valley Park School in Maidstone. The network also offers opportunities for young people to work on initiatives outside of the county and links into the work of the National Association of Youth Theatres. Youth theatres participating include both school based companies and companies run in other community settings.

The John Downton Awards

Kent Arts Development Unit runs an annual competitive exhibition of the best of young people's visual art work in the county. The call for submissions is made through schools. In 2009 we introduced digital submissions – ie we asked pupils to submit work in the same way that professional artists submit to galleries – producing digital photographs of their work. In 2010 we are looking for suitable space to allow us to introduce a three dimensional category to the competition. Winners receive prize money which can be used to further their education, a place in the exhibition

(traditionally held in Sessions Gallery) and some work is either purchased or borrowed for further exhibitions.

Supporting and developing artists/arts organisations

Kent Arts Development Unit manages the Kent Arts Investment Fund – this supports the development of artists and arts organisations and provides project funding. This is essential in ensuring that there is a suitable workforce available to deliver creative opportunities in schools.