

## AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

<b>Name of Committee</b>	<b>Adult &amp; Community Services Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Date of Committee</b>	<b>22 November 2005</b>
<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Community Arts Activity 2003-2005</b>
<b>Summary</b>	Provides information (detailed in appendices) for Members to assess progress against objectives made by the Community Arts section.
<b>For further information please contact:</b>	Christopher Jeens Head of Heritage & Cultural Services Tel: 01926 412329 chrisjeens@warwickshire.gov.uk
<b>Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?</b>	No.
<b>Background papers</b>	None

### CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

Other Committees	<input type="checkbox"/> .....
Local Member(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable
Other Elected Members	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Councillor S Tooth, Councillor R Dodd, Councillor Mrs M Haywood – “The intention of the service is impressive and must be of significant value to the recipients. The results have an extended life afterwards.”
Cabinet Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Councillor C Hayfield
Chief Executive	<input type="checkbox"/> .....
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ian Marriott - approved
Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Walsh, Financial Services Manager - approved
Other Chief Officers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marion Davis, Director, Social Care & Health -

approved

- |                          |                          |       |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| District Councils        | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... |
| Health Authority         | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... |
| Police                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... |
| Other Bodies/Individuals | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... |

**FINAL DECISION YES**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

Details to be specified

- |  |                          |       |
|--|--------------------------|-------|
| Further consideration by<br>this Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... |
| To Council                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... |
| To Cabinet                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... |
| To an O & S Committee                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... |
| To an Area Committee                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... |
| Further Consultation                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... |

## **Agenda No**

# **Adult & Community Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 22 November 2005**

## **Community Arts Activity 2003-2005**

### **Report of the Director, Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards**

#### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to assess and make comment on the work undertaken by the County Arts Service in Community Arts/Community Development to date.

Members have previously asked for more detailed reports on Arts activity and in particular how it contributes to local communities.

This report provides Councillors with information to assess the progress against the service delivery plan made by the Community Arts Officer working within the County Arts Service (Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards (LHTS)) since March 2004.

The Community Arts Officer works on both county-wide and district-specific projects, responding to the twin priorities of:

- rural communities
- areas of multi-deprivation.

Principal target groups are: Children and Young People; BME Communities; Older People; People with Disabilities and in the area of Health and Mental Well-being. Partnership working takes place with colleagues within WCC and Districts; with the voluntary and community sectors and with other statutory agencies – in particular the Health sector. The work falls broadly into three categories:

#### **a) WCC Inter-departmental working**

The main partnership arrangement is with Social Services for whom the Community Arts Officer administers the Social Services arts grant. The grant fund is intended to provide opportunities for service-users to enjoy, explore and appreciate a variety of arts-based experiences which have 'demonstrated that art is a powerful tool for supporting people to make choices, assert their rights and become valued members of their community'. Work has been undertaken with a range of groups including: residential and day centres for older people; a tenants association; Youth Offending

Team; Age Concern; Family Support; and with the Council for Voluntary Services. (see Appendix A).

**b) LHTS Cross-departmental working**

With other LHTS sections – including Family Learning Week; National Book Day and the Big Draw. (Appendix B)

**c) Project Work**

With the BME Community in Nuneaton and elsewhere; young people in Piccadilly; young mothers in Leamington Spa; and with Mid-Warwickshire MIND service users in Warwick District and South Warwickshire. (Appendix B)

## **Conclusion**

As well as providing arts and cultural activities in areas with little current provision these projects demonstrate how the arts contribute to a range of corporate objectives beyond provision of arts, recreation and leisure opportunities. The Community Arts Officer's work has contributed to five of the six WCC corporate objectives as well as to numerous measures within Social Services' Mission.

With WCC restructuring heralding increased inter-departmental working and the development of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment regime (with its emergent Performance Indicators for the Arts), the work of the Community Arts Officer is likely to have even greater significance in assisting WCC to meet its corporate objectives.

NOEL HUNTER  
Director, Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards  
Shire Hall  
Warwick

2 November 2005

## Appendix A

### **Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Social Service Arts Grant 2004-2005**

#### **1 Introduction (by Krys Pietrecki WCC Social Service Disabilities North Manager)**

WCC Social Services Department is committed to providing opportunities for service users to enjoy, explore and appreciate a variety of arts-based experiences. The Social Services Arts Grant enables people with different needs and circumstances to engage with 'art' and the 'Arts' in the same way that anyone else does as a means of:

- Self-expression and creativity, where they are able to make genuine choices and decisions that have meaning for them
- Communication other than language
- A medium through which they can learn, including learning about different cultures and traditions
- A defining factor in shaping the environment in which they live or spend time
- A collective and shared experience

The grant has given groups access to a wide range of artists, performers and writers, not normally available within services. These have helped to break down barriers, challenge perceptions and, just as important, enjoy new experiences.

The projects funded by the grant have demonstrated that art is a powerful tool for supporting people to make choices, assert their rights and to become valued members of their community - all of which are key objectives for our services. The enthusiasm of the participants and the positive reactions to the end products emphasise the value of this work.

The Arts Grant has enabled many groups of people to use art in the broadest sense. For them it has opened the door to new experiences.

Whether through drama, visual arts, the written word or any other creative medium, people have been able to find a voice, express opinions, confront fears, explore emotions, develop confidence, build relationships and - not least - have a good time.

For some people the experience has changed their lives, for others art has proved to be a great leveller and a way of making their presence felt. Some projects have targeted hundreds of people, using art to get across an important message. Some have focussed on a small group, giving them the confidence to speak out for the first time. Whatever the scale of the project, the impact has been far-reaching on individuals, organisations and communities.

## 2 Background to the Grant

The Social Services Arts Grant is administered through an agreement with the County Arts Service and managed by the Community Arts Officer. During 2004/5 County Arts distributed a total of £17,178 in grants. Ten projects were awarded funds, enabling over 280 people aged from 7 to 92 years to participate in arts projects. At least one project took place in each of the Districts or Boroughs, three projects had a countywide remit.

This year the funding criteria emphasised that service users should be actively involved in the planning of the project to ensure ownership. Proposals were required to emphasise the process to ensure practical participation, and all projects were encouraged to include an event to celebrate the achievements of all involved. For the first time the fund was directly promoted to the voluntary and community sector: two voluntary sector bids were successful in receiving funds and also two partnership bids (between statutory and voluntary sectors) were funded.

## 3 Projects Funded 2004/5

### North Warwickshire

- 1 ***Home Front Grocery Workshop*** - Bracebridge Residential and Day Centre for Older People, Atherstone and Robin Wade (artist)

The service users worked with ceramicist Robin Wade to design and create a model wartime Grocery Shop, including typical items found in shops during WW2. An event was organised to celebrate the completion of the project, and the work was part of the Home Front Recall celebrations at Bracebridge which included an intergeneration project with local school children, a display of war time memorabilia and an evening of celebrations on May 7th 2005.

### Nuneaton & Bedworth

- 2 ***Positively Different*** - Central Midlands Tenants Association (CMTA), Loud Mouth Theatre and North Warwickshire College:

The CMTA were awarded funds to assist the organisation to raise awareness of potentially discriminatory practices of tenant groups in engaging young people and breaking down stereotypes within their communities. Loud Mouth Theatre Company were engaged to set the scene for the conference and discussion by performing extracts from the company's Stereotype performance workshops. A video diary capturing attendee's perceptions was shot, which will be edited into a training aid for use by other tenants groups.

### Rugby

- 3 ***Miles and Tiles*** - Youth Offending Team, Reintegration Unit, Rugby Art Gallery & Museum, Rugby Age Concern and Lesley Ann French (artist)

The aim was to create an intergenerational arts project. It took place at the Art Gallery with local ceramicist Lesley Ann French, who provided two weekly ceramic

workshops over eight weeks. Initial stimuli for the project came from the Museum's Tripointium Roman collection. Participants learnt ceramic techniques and made tiles for the garden at Age Concern's Claremont Centre in Rugby. The project was completed in December 2004, with work on display at the gallery until March 2005

## **Stratford**

### **4      *Ceramic Workshop* - Long Furlong Residential and Day Centre for Older People, Shipston and Andy Gill (artist)**

The Centre applied for funds to extend the arts and crafts opportunities available to day care service users. Ceramics was chosen as an appropriate medium to ensure that all service users could contribute, particularly those with limited dexterity. Service users engaged in ceramic workshops with local potter Andy Gill creating a range of garden ornamentation and pots. Mr Gill so enjoyed the experience that he has offered to volunteer his services to the Centre in the future.

### **5      *Virtual City, Insight 2004* - Stratford Family Support Team Stratford Upon Avon & Studley and Escape Community Arts in Action**

Insight 2004 built upon the pilot summer arts project run by Escape Community Arts in Action in 2003. The Eight Element (young peoples consultation group) guided the development of this year's summer scheme and theme "Virtual City". The project location was extended to include children and young people from Studley as well as Stratford. Escape provided over 80 participants with a variety of arts activities including animation, willow, junk art, creating a magazine and ceramics. The achievements of all the young people was displayed and celebrated at a Masquerade Ball held at Stratford Racecourse.

### **6      *Wall Collage* - Lower Meadow Residential and Day Centre for Older People, Stratford and Laura Bradley (artist)**

The project aimed to produce a semi-permanent piece of artwork based on the memories of residents and day care users. Residents worked with local artist and illustrator Laura Bradley. The work covers the last hundred years and the project also includes trips to museums and access to reminiscence boxes.

## **Warwick**

### **7      *Artsventure 3* - Assertive Outreach and Community Rehabilitation Teams and Sez U Theatre**

This project builds on the experiences of taster visual and performing arts projects undertaken over the last twelve months. Participants worked with Sez U Theatre in workshop settings to create a multi-media piece based on the theme of Journeys.

## **Warwickshire County-Wide**

### **8      *Wacky Forum* – North Warwickshire CVS and Dave McKenna (Dance artist)**

The Wacky Forum is for young people (aged 15-19 years) from each special school in Warwickshire. Forum members wanted to explore the issue of bullying, speaking up for yourself, empowerment and expressing feelings in a constructive manner. Dance and theatre were the final mediums chosen by the young people to explore these issues. Dance artist Dave McKenna from Being Frank Physical Theatre led the young people over two days to explore the issues and find resolutions. Students from North Warwickshire & Hinckley College media course videoed the workshops and diaries and, with Forum members, edited the work creating a 10-minute video. The video will be used as a promotional tool to encourage schools to send representatives and also as a training tool.

### **9      *Positive Images Project* - Warwickshire Children's Fund and Sez U Theatre**

The project aimed to give children and young people a voice, visibility and to celebrate diversity in Warwickshire. Following previous consultation and development work with socially excluded and black minority ethnic young people a resource pack and training programme were devised. This stage of the project required funding to develop a piece of forum theatre and worksheets. The piece has been toured to ten schools and community venues

### **10     *Promotional Banner* - County Arts Service**

In order to raise awareness of the Social Services Arts Grant a high quality, long lasting roller banner was produced, This will be displayed at county and community events to promote the benefits of the arts for service users.

## **4      Priority Groups Served**

Nine of the ten projects were participatory. Five projects were for, or included, children/young people (under 18years) and four projects were specifically for, or included, older people (over 65 years), and one project for people recovering from mental distress. The tenth project was for the production of a pop-up stand to assist in the promotion of the grant.



Priority Group	Project →	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>BME</b>										X	
<b>Children and Young People</b>			X	X		X			X	X	
<b>Older People</b>		X		X	X		X				
<b>People with Disabilities</b>		X			X		X		X		
<b>Health &amp; Mental Well-being</b>								X			
<b>Other</b>			X								X

## Appendix B

### Community Arts Projects

In addition to partnership working with Social Services, the Community Arts Officer also undertakes a programme of community focussed arts activities and development work. Part of this work is undertaken in collaboration with other LHTS services in order to realise the added value to the audience of arts, heritage and library services providing integrated cultural opportunities. The Community Arts Officer also works directly with communities and priority audiences. Other work is undertaken by the County Arts Office working directly with communities and priority audiences. A total of £4,500 was available in the Arts budget 2004/05 for community arts projects. Of this £1,250 was spent on cross-departmental projects and £3,250 on community group projects.

#### 1 LHTS Cross-departmental Projects

##### Objectives

- To raise awareness and promote of the campaign day or week being promoted
- To engage local people in arts activities with a professional artist
- To encourage local people to access the library
- To raise awareness of County Arts
- For County Arts to work cross-departmentally within LHTS

The County Arts Service funded the artists and/or arts material cost in each project

##### 1.1 Family Learning Week Event 1 Leamington

###### ***3D Family Portrait***

The event was a collaboration between Libraries, Heritage, Arts and the Curatorial and Exhibitions Officers of the Pump Rooms, Warwick District Council.

A two-day event for family learning week in October 2004. The objective was to encourage family members to work together to create a box of family history including meaning of surnames, family tree, polaroids of family members, pictures and poetry and stories with the assistance of professional dancer, poet, storytellers and musicians.

Day	Number of Participants
1	98
2	115
<b>Total</b>	<b>213</b>

## 1.2 Family Learning Week Event 2 Leamington

### Teddy Bear Groove

The event was run in partnership with WCC Babies Need Books and the Library Service Children's Team's Children's Reading Development Officer. The sessions were for parents/carers and toddlers under 5 years. Four 30minute dance sessions took place (that incorporated a bounce and rhyme), the dance was facilitated by Oliver Scott. Two events took place in Leamington Library and two in Whitnash Library. The sessions explored songs, imagination games, movement and story telling. The workshops were well attended with 86 participated in the 4 sessions.

Sessions	Number of Participants
1	22
2	23
3	21
4	20
Total	86

## 1.3 Family Learning Week Event 3 & National Book Day Start Stratford Library

This project was a collaboration between all the LHTS sections. The event took place at Stratford Library there were a large range of activities including Roman activities, Bounce and Rhythm, the author of the Horrible Histories, face painting and Families Favourite Read. To support family favourite event (a librarian working with families to create write reviews of the books event a professional photograph Tony Bodinnar was brought in to facilitate photographs of families and ensure quality images that could be incorporated into a booklet for distribution in the county.

Sessions	Number of Families Participants
1	14
Total	14

## 1.4 Family Learning Week Event 4 & The Big Draw Bedworth Library

The project aimed to engage local people in the Big Draw Campaign working in partnership with Bedworth Library and artist Julia Priors to run 2 arts workshops for local people. The media chosen was mono printing to enable participants to produce impressive results regardless of their drawing ability. The workshop was open to all ages as it took place during Family Learning Week. Heritage Education provided a handling box of shells and fossils which were used as a source material for the prints. Participants were encouraged to leave work to be displayed at the Library.

Sessions	Number of Families Participants
1	14
2	12
Total	26

## 1.5 Hands and Hearts Bedworth Library

In partnership with the Library and Information service, County Arts ran this project for families during February half term. Hannah Dyer (Visual Artist) ran two textile sessions for families incorporating designing, cutting, sewing and gluing and producing two banners for display in the children's section of the library and a smaller third banner, all of which are on display in the library. Also present on the day was Mrs Sahota, a Mendhi artist, who ran a drop-in workshop.

Sessions	Number of Families Participants
2 textile	28
1 Mendhi	20
Total	48

## 2 Community Group Projects

### Objectives

- Advise & assist arts groups and community groups in the delivery of County Arts Service Plan (Job Responsibilities)
- Initiate and support at least 3 arts projects within a community setting (County Arts Service Plan 2004-05)

### 2.1 Nuneaton Caribbean Friendly Association

This charity was running a summer scheme for young people in August 2004 and were asked by the young people to include street dance activities. Due to the additional cost and the belief that the young people would be interested in this opportunity to develop dance activities on an on going basis, the Community Arts Fund supported access to 5 2hour workshops as taster events during the summer scheme. At the end of workshops the young people performed informally for their families and friends. Attendance feedback was obtained to assess strength of interest in further dance sessions and this will be shared with the Sub-Regional Dance Development Partnership.

### 2.2 Piccadilly Youth Arts Project July 04 - on going

#### Background

The Piccadilly Youth Project was set-up in 2004 by adult volunteers with support from the NW Rural Youth Project. Consultation with the young people had identified their interest in participating in dance, graffiti art and other visual arts.

#### Piccadilly Youth Arts Project

The project engaged young people in visual and performing arts taster workshops which included young people working with a street dancer, graffiti artist and a visual artist. Three days of taster sessions took place during February half term. The young

people choose to attend as many days as they wished to develop basic skills in each of the areas. The days were videoed as part of the North Warwickshire Rural Youth Project Annual Review. Aims were: To engage young people in North Warwickshire living in isolated rural communities in arts activities; To extend the young people's personal, social and educational develop (art skills, communication, team working and confidence); To positively promote young peoples' achievements; and To identify the young peoples interest in a longer term involvement in arts activities.

The Project was well-attended by 22 different young people. Work produced included 4 graffiti murals and a banner of how the young people would like to see Piccadilly in the future. These were well received by the Community Centre management group and were displayed in the centre.

Evaluations were undertaken at each session. The young people felt they had learnt a lot of new dance skills and were interested in further pursuing all three activities but particularly dance. The youth work volunteers who were supported by the NW Rural Youth Worker and County Arts Officer (CAO) grew enormously in confidence and leadership skills. The CAO met with them to evaluate their experience and to help them to plan, prepare and manage the summer half term activities, which included Mask Making Workshops and a trip to Compton Verney.

## **2.3 Warford Lodge Taster Arts Project Feb/Mar 2005**

### **Background**

Warford Lodge is run by Christian Alliance and is a residential home for young mothers in Leamington. The Lodge houses 4 young mothers and their children. Project workers approached the County Arts Office as the residence expressed an interest in engaging in arts activities.

### **Warford Lodge Taster Arts Project**

County Arts worked in partnership with Compton Verney's Education Outreach Officer to deliver this project. Local textile artist Anne-Marie Cadman ran 2 half day textile workshops for young parents. The project also offered a free visit to Compton Verney. The artist assisted the parents in the development of a textile panel using a range of mediums including textile materials, personal objects/keepsakes, photographs, children's toys (3D objects and documents digitally photographed). There was also an opportunity to create laminated textile work that can be developed into a mobile or window panel. The aims were: To engage local young parents in arts activities with a professional artist; To work in partnership and promote the activities of Christian Alliance, County Arts, and Compton Verney; and To extend the young people's personal, social and educational develop (art skills, communication, team working and confidence).

## **2.4 Positive Images Project April/May 2005**

see Project 3.9 in Appendix A

## **2.5 Creative Writing and Mental Health Project Oct04/May 05**

### **Background**

Mid Warwickshire Mind is based in Old Town in Leamington Spa, and primarily serves the area of Warwick District. Over 50 people a week access the varied services provided by Mid-Warwickshire Mind.

The South Warwickshire User Forum (SWUF) is a mental health service-user's forum, and exists to promote and support the empowerment of users and ex-users of the mental health services, and to promote and support their involvement in the planning, provision and monitoring of services provided for them.

### **Creative Writing and Mental Health Project**

Mid-Warwickshire Mind in partnership with the South Warwickshire User Forum ran a poetry competition on the theme of 'Journeys', open to anyone to enter but aimed particularly at mental health service users (most of the publicity was through mental health-related organisations). Mind requested assistance in organising an event in the new year to which all entrants would be invited and all entries displayed (subject to permission from authors), and prizes awarded. One of the judges for the competition was the new Poet Laureate of Warwick District.

Mid-Warwickshire Mind also organised and funded a taster workshop on creative writing as part of the launch of the poetry competition, which was very well attended. All attendees expressed a desire for the workshop to continue. Mind have been invited to apply for a small grant to run follow up creative writing workshops and gain some participant evaluation to identify future developments.

Project aims were to: Encourage service users to take up or resume poetry and creative writing activities, as a tool to assist with personal, social, creative and educational development; Foster an ongoing interest in the arts; Extend and/or challenge participants' expectations and experience of the arts; Increase awareness of the services provided for the mentally distressed through both Mid-Warwickshire Mind and SWUF; Implement and if necessary improve existing best practice for such projects; Raise awareness of the arts and positive mental health.