

nesa

Youth Arts Report April 2004 to March 2005



With thanks to our funders and working partners



**BATH & NORTH
EAST SOMERSET**



Norton Radstock Town Council, Keynsham Town Council and Mencap

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Introduction

nesa Youth Arts Development provides opportunities to develop “**inspiring places to go and creative things to do**” for young people. We enable and facilitate young people to engage with the creative arts where they may not otherwise have the opportunity to do so. We empower young people through ongoing consultation and work with young people to design and deliver projects that they wish to do. Young people then: develop skills, build confidence, raise their self-esteem, gain a sense of community, citizenship, purpose, identity, realise their creative potential and have fun.

The Youth Arts Mission Statement is to:

‘Raise the quality of the lived experience of young people through the design, development and delivery of an extensive creative arts programme’

These aims and objectives are realised and achieved through an arts programme designed specifically to target the different needs and aspirations of young people. Consultation is built in to each project at concept, design, delivery and evaluation stages. Projects are managed to the highest standards of best practice. Rigorous feedback, evaluation and monitoring processes are applied. This information and process is used to inform and develop a programme that young people want to engage with that also fulfils the aims and objectives of **nesa** and its funding partners. The work focuses on and delivers outcomes relating to three main government policies and frameworks. These are ‘Every Child Matters’ children’s bill, ‘Transforming Youth Work’, Tomlinson Report and The new Green Paper ‘Youth Matters’. Delivery of these policy directives through the use of participatory arts, focuses on ‘**places to go and things to do**’ for young people. In partnership with Bath & North East Somerset Council (B&NES) Youth and Community Service and others, **nesa** produces a programme of arts projects specifically conceived, developed, designed and delivered to fulfil the aims and objectives as laid out in these government policy documents. **nesa** is also engaged in a process of consultation that will inform policy development in the future.

nesa Youth Arts Development performs a leading role in the delivery of policy at the cutting edge of participatory arts practice with young people. It covers a wide range of art forms in different circumstances and contexts with a selection of partners. The main partners in youth arts activity are the young people themselves. A working partnership agreement with B&NES Youth & Community Service and a SLA (Service Level Agreement) provides foundation funding for a part-time Youth Arts Development worker. This post is specifically dedicated to the development of arts projects with young people working with the Youth Service, and other partners. Other partners and funding bodies include B&NES Community Safety Partnership, Keynsham Town Council, Norton Radstock Town Council, Mencap, Somer Housing and Quartet (Formerly Greater Bristol Foundation).

In 2004-05, we consolidated and increased our general open access arts programme and began integrating targeted issue based working

nesa Youth Arts Development continues to develop many projects including issue based arts work, integration project working and consultative delivery. There are a number of pilot projects that have proved successful in different areas of B&NES. **nesa** would like to roll out these projects across B&NES in the future. These include Sexual Health, Excluded 14+, Crime Diversion, Drugs, Alcohol and Solvent abuse, Multi Generational and Families, Integration, Identity projects and transformational space projects. Young people are at the centre of the work that **nesa** engages with. Issue based work is now integrated into many of the projects which are delivered through consultation with young people and in partnership with other service providers.

Increasingly **nesa** is building into the youth arts programme connectivity both between projects and geographic locations. For example, a project run in Radstock may be replicated or ‘rolled out’ to Peasdown St John and the project may develop and culminate in a collective event, or, a project specifically targeted at an excluded disabled group of young people may evolve into an integration project into mainstream youth provision. This work adds value to projects in different ways. Process and end products are designed into the project at concept stage so that maximum benefits and outcomes can be achieved. Increasingly projects not only engage with young people’s creativity but also provide a focus for other valuable work to take place.

Another area within which **nesa** delivers is outreach and detached work. This work enables those young people unable to access arts activities due to geographic isolation and a lack of provision in rural areas. The work is delivered in partnership with the detached youth work team, which focuses on mapping (finding out where young people are and what they are doing) and consultative working (finding out their needs, what they want and ways of engaging with them and addressing issues). Areas of greatest need are identified and targeted accordingly with appropriate projects. Outreach work focuses on work out of youth centres that includes street work by youth workers that recruits or connects young people with access to the centres. Arts projects delivered at the centres based on this outreach consultation act as a draw and focus for young people.

The work can have a dramatic and instant effect, however continuity and sustained work is required sometimes over a period of years to build a sustainable foundation to addressing the many issues that we engage with. This report documents the work over the last year and outlines some of the planned work for the future.

Report Summary

This year 60 youth arts project sessions were delivered in 10 different project contexts in four main geographic areas, Keynsham, Chew Valley, Temple Cloud and Radstock. The arts programme had over 750 admissions by young people over the year. The following art forms and disciplines were delivered.

- Visual Arts
- Digital photography and video
- Spatial design
- Dance and Breakdance
- Stone Carving
- Graphic Design

In 2004-05, we consolidated and increased our general open access arts programme and began integrating targeted issues based working. A series of pilot projects were delivered that targeted young people at risk. These included: excluded young people from school, young people's sexual health, drug addiction and substance abuse, crime diversion, young people at risk of offending, disabled young people and integration working. Issues based work is now integrated into many of the projects and are designed, developed and delivered through consultation with young people and in partnership with other service providers.

It has been a challenging year set in a context of change. Decreasing funding opportunities combined with major changes in the youth service in both structure and resource deployment has produced an environment of insecurity with a lack of stability. However **nesa** has made a significant contribution towards raising the quality of experience of young people in the region, with the delivery of high quality, best practice project delivery.

With changes in government policy combined with a new re-focusing of the youth service provision nationally we live in 'interesting times'. The future will provide opportunities to contribute towards the enrichment of young peoples lives, enabling, empowering and supporting the aspirations of young people. **nesa** continues to put 'young people first' at the centre of our work.

The arts provide a unique medium with which young people associate. Their energy, inspiration, drive and enthusiasm combined with **nesa** expertise, experience and commitment will ensure that more valuable projects will be delivered in the coming years. However we will be addressing the issue of empowerment and it is planned that more young people will begin to form small groups that will inform future work. It is hoped that these groups will combine to steer the developmental work that we deliver. In this way young people will be empowered to make more of the decisions that affect their lives and take control of their own experiences and those of their peers. This initiative will be incorporated into the developments of a cohesive youth arts strategy for B&NES that **nesa** has been fundamental in initiating.

The next year will be a year of ongoing cycles of feedback, consultation, delivery, review and progression. **nesa** Youth Arts Development will engage with what appears to be a continuing environment of change. The focus will remain "**inspiring places to go and creative things to do**" with models of best practice in the field.

Specific project delivery 2004-05

Radstock Youth Centre General programme

Specific projects delivered 2004-05

Courtyard transformation project

This Spatial Design project continued the upgrading and transformation of space within the centre and provided a summer focus and project for young people. Young people were consulted on what they would like to do in transforming the old courtyard at the back of the club. This space was regularly used by the young people and had deteriorated to a bad condition. Additional funding was forthcoming from the Youth Centre Budget to enable the purchase of seating chosen by the young people. A concept and designs were developed in consultation with an artist and a group of young people began working on exterior quality boards for installation onto the courtyard wall with the artist. External walls were prepared and maintenance services were brought in to decorate the exterior fabric of the centre.

Each year the centre runs a transformation project that upgrades an area of the club. This performs a number of objectives and tasks. It engages the young people in true ownership of their club and a sense of place and identity. This creates a valuable bond between users of the space and the space itself. Projects ensure maintenance and upgrades of the space. Participants in the project learn new skills, how to work together, to respect the work of others and their surroundings. Art is integrated into lived experience and applied in practical and tangible form.

“The courtyard looks great now”

“We made it look bright and nice”

“It was fun to paint large pictures”

The project provided a valuable summer focus for participants during the summer holidays. Seen here are participants painting the boards for installation on the back wall of the courtyard in the background.



40th Anniversary Radstock Youth Centre

Break-dancing workshops and event

A series of workshops were delivered at the request of young people to learn the art of break-dance. This programme of sessions culminated in a public exhibition and performance of their work during the 40th Anniversary celebrations of Radstock Youth Centre.



Image of young people engaging in the Break-dance sessions

“I learnt new moves and went on to perform at the 40th Anniversary event. Comments included “It was new, fun”, “would like to learn harder moves”, “Good to work towards performance at anniversary bash”, “Whole group worker as a team, some who had never done this before learnt a whole new routine”, “Very enjoyable session”.

The 40th Anniversary brought together members of the community in many different ways. Older youth club members were reunited and they met with the current young members of the club, engaging in a number of activities. A local group of artists, ‘OBA’ arranged a life drawing workshop with many of the young people participating both as models and as artists.

“I have never been a life model or drawn people like a real artist before”

Seen opposite OBA and young people taking part in the life-drawing workshop.





This event enabled young people to showcase their own work and invite members of the public to see the results of last year's transformation project 'Chill out room'. This room was completed in the previous year as part of the ongoing renovation and upgrading of the accommodation at Radstock.

"I would like to now move on and do the boards in the hall"

"That looks so much better, much brighter"

Seen here young people using the new space to work on a project to design a new image for the Youth and Community Service

Radstock Youth Centre Integrated Issues Based Arts Programme

Working in close partnership with Jayne Lewis (Radstock Youth Centre Manager) a programme of integrated issues based projects were designed and delivered at the Centre. This partnership was endorsed and supported by B&NES Youth and Community Service, B&NES Primary Care Trust and Underage Pregnancy Unit, B&NES Community Safety Partnership and Young Offenders Unit, Connexions and Norton Radstock College.

Specific projects delivered 2004-05

14+ Excluded young People

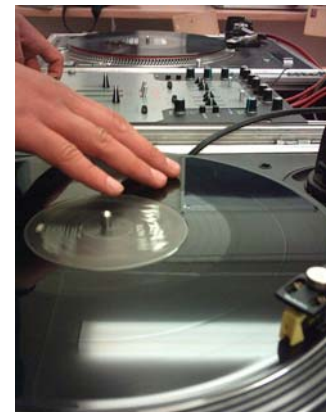
Young people excluded from school 14 years of age and over.

nesa provided expertise in the field of arts project development by contracting experienced artists able to work within this challenging environment. Young people who had been excluded from school and college were enabled to re-engage with informal learning in a programme of different arts activities. **nesa** enabled DJ sessions, Poetry (Rhythmic African Poetry) and Carving workshops that engaged young people in activities that re-build esteem, engender a sense of achievement and build good working relationships with peers, tutors and perceived figures of authority. This programme performs an important role in re-integrating young people into more formal learning situations or career development.

Many of the young people attending the sessions are identified as differently able, dyslexia or having conditions like ADHAD together with other behavioural issues and disrupted family backgrounds.

This project provides a focus for these young people who begin to build up good working relationships and trust with others.

The project was a successful pilot and it will be developed into a full programme in the creation of a working centre supported by B&NES Local Education Authority, B&NES Youth And Community, B&NES Community Safety Partnership and **nesa** .



An image from DJ workshop

Sexual Health 'Lets talk about sex baby'

Working in partnership with Jayne Lewis and the Underage Pregnancy Unit **nesa** developed this project to target young people at risk of health issues, specifically sexual health. The project concept was for young people to develop a sexual health awareness poster that could then be sited with accompanying information to raise awareness of sexual health issues. Artist Helen Moor worked with the young people to talk and express in text and visual form issues connected with sexual health. This project was extensively documented and was instrumental in Radstock Youth Centre achieving 'C' Card status. This enables trained youth workers to issue condoms and provide advisory services to young people at the centre which has gained NHS Clinic status for this work.

The finished posters are on display at the Centre and sited appropriately with other information and signposting to advisory services. It is hoped that this project will be rolled out throughout B&NES in the future.

Storyboard

This project introduced digital video and photography as a vehicle for the exploration and identification of issues of identity and young people's perspectives on life in Radstock. Young people were given the opportunity to work with a visual artist to create a storyboard for a short documentary story. This work although using fiction as a starting point related young people's real issues and lives directly to fictional characters and fictional events based on actual experiences. In this way Youth workers working in support of the artist could pick up on important information and engage young people in the discussion of issues as they arose.

Young people were enabled and facilitated to use video equipment and express their desires and aspirations concerning life in Radstock. This gave young people a voice in a creative way, to express their frustrations at the lack of local provision for young people and how they perceived the lived experience in Radstock was for young people.

Keynsham Timeout Youth Centre Programme

Time Out: General Arts Programme and Disability Integration Working

Funding from Keynsham District Council enabled a working partnership with Ali Steeds of Mencap, Mark Willcox of Timeout (BANES Youth and Community) and **nesa** to deliver a programme of arts projects hosted by Timeout Youth Centre. One project targeted young people with disabilities, one project targeted integration and one general mainstream project, were all conceived, designed and delivered this year. Work with Mencap and Timeout Youth Centre in Keynsham informed the focus of work with disabled young people, providing specialist workshop activities and integration working with mainstream youth provision.

"I loved working with the artist it made me feel confident"

Specific projects delivered 2004-05

Mencap Members Christmas Greetings Cards

nesa worked in partnership with Ali Steeds and Keynsham Mencap to deliver this project. The project was targeted at young members of Mencap with a range of disabilities and conditions. The project was delivered as a series of craft workshops and participants were engaged through a process of making and doing. Young Members of Mencap worked with artist Phillipa Forsey to produce paintings on silk that could then be photographed and used as images for Christmas Greetings Cards. It is hoped that the Keynsham Town Council will adopt one or even a selection of the images below for Christmas Cards 2005.

The project was very well attended and the participants loved working with Phillipa. The project was hosted by Timeout Youth Centre and young members of Mencap were able to orientate and familiarise themselves with the environment and socialise during the sessions. A great deal of fun and joy was evident throughout this project programme.

Some of the finished images are shown below.



Timeout and Mencap members integration

This project engaged young people in a MC and DJ Rap series of workshops leading towards the creation of a CD of their work.

The project enabled the integration of Mencap members into mainstream youth evenings. Young people from Mencap worked with members of Timeout and 'Episodes' to produce CD of RAP Music. This project broke down some of the perceptions and barriers faced by young people with different learning needs and enabled social inclusion and understanding to develop. The project was very well received. This is a model project showing process and product together with outcomes and results.



Image Time-Out All Stars CD

Timeout and Outreach Drum And Base Workshop and event

nesa supported this multi-faceted project conceived by Mark Willcox and the young people of Timeout. The concept was to run a number of Drum and Bass and Break Dancing sessions that would culminate in a major event. The workshops ran over a number of weeks and engaged many young people in the different elements. The event enabled outreach and was able to engage many young people including young people from the surrounding geographic area. This project was ideal for outreach contact and developing a wider participatory group.

Detached and Outreach Programme

Specific projects delivered 2004-05

Temple Cloud and Camerton Stone Carving

A series of Stone Carving workshops were delivered at Temple Cloud and Camerton Village Halls. There is no dedicated youth provision in Temple Cloud or Camerton and a deprived youth population has "no where to go and nothing to do". These sessions provided a valuable focus for youth workers to be able to engage with the young people and provide valuable legitimate activity for young people to do.

Bishop Sutton Stone Carving

Bishop Sutton Youth Club runs on only one day of each week. It is held in a community hall that is shared with other community groups. The multi-user group model does not work easily with ongoing friction and issues. The Stone Carving project engaged young people in the process of making and produced a sculptural plaque for the community. The theme and title of this work was the 'Lady of The Lake' a reference to Chew Valley lake nearby and the fact that this series of workshops had the highest proportion of young women involved.



Future Programme 2005-06 Summary

Consultation with young people will remain an important driving motivation in our work. The coming year will see the expansion of partnership working based on this year's programme. Combined with new enterprising initiatives with the public and private sector, developments of an accredited programme and the youth work curriculum 2005-06 will be an exciting and challenging year. Youth arts will continue to use the creative process of art to engage with young people and tackle the issues that affect their daily lives, to consult and work with them, to provide "**Inspiring places to go and creative things to do**". We will continue to work with artists who are specialists in the delivery of youth arts projects to maintain our high quality of delivery in this important field of participatory arts.

Issues based work will continue to be specifically targeted to benefit young people. Projects will be conceived, designed and developed to tackle the issues that are important to young people and support the youth work curriculum. Areas of work that will be covered include: Health and Well-being, Safety, Community involvement, Enterprise, Informal and Formal Education. The groups will include 14+ Excluded young people from school, Sexual Health, Disabled Young People, Young People at Risk of Offending, Substance and Alcohol abuse, Mental Health and Excluded groups due to poverty or rural isolation.

- Radstock Youth Centre will remain a central hub for the development of issues based project development and the general Youth Arts Programme. Funding for this year has been secured together with additional funding for Midsomer Norton and work with Laterz Youth Centre.
- There will be a new 14+ Excluded young people from school unit set up and **nesa** will be partners in this development, with the provision of targeted arts projects.
- The next year's programme for Keynsham Timeout is in development and it is hoped that the Policy and Resources Committee of Keynsham Town Council will continue to support this valuable contribution to and from the young people of Keynsham and surrounding area. It is planned that Keynsham Town Council will create a dedicated yearly budget for the development of youth arts in Keynsham in the future.
- Work at Peasdown St John has been added to the future programming of outreach and detached projects. With funding secured from 'Quartet' it is planned that a Lead Artist will head up a series of arts projects to be delivered in partnership with the B&NES Youth And Community detached mobile unit initiative in the coming year.
- A new partnership with Somer Housing is being developed to deliver projects with a community housing and localised community building focus. This will integrate and add value to work in the youth centres that relate directly to residents of isolated communities. It will also bring a new element of multi-generational working possibilities and opportunities.

Work on a strategic youth arts development initiative will inform the future delivery of Youth Arts across B&NES in the coming year. The structural changes within B&NES Youth and Community Service and changes to youth work delivery combined with the development of local children's trusts, and a re-focusing on work with young people, the coming year provides challenging and inspirational opportunities. It is hoped that a new three-year service level agreement with B&NES Youth and Community will form a stable platform from which to build a sustainable youth arts programme across the B&NES region. This will provide continuity and stability in the short-term from which to develop a longer-term plan.

Statistics

End of Year 2004-05

| Project | No of Young People | No of Sessions | Admissions |
|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------|
| Courtyard project | 9 | 4 | 28 |
| Break dancing | 15 | 10 | 150 |
| Story Board | 12 | 6 | 60 |
| Lets talk about sex baby | 8 | 7 | 56 |
| Mencap | 20 | 4 | 80 |
| Integration CD | 30 | 7 | 155 |
| Christmas Cards | 8 | 2 | 8 |
| 14+ Excluded | 10 | 6 | 60 |
| Just Art | 4 | 8 | 18 |
| Outreach Detached | 14 | 5 | 70 |
| Total | 130 | 59 | 745 |

Projected Statistics for 2005-06

| Venue/Project | Audience Figures | No of young people | No of Sessions | Admissions |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------|
| Timeout Keynsham | | | | |
| Photography | 100 | 10 | 8 | 80 |
| Drum & Base | 200 | 10 | 8 | 80 |
| Integration 2 | | 12 | 10 | 120 |
| Outreach Detached | 50 | 70 | 10 | 700 |
| Radstock | 100 | 40 | 8 | 320 |
| Midsomer Norton | | 10 | 8 | 80 |
| Peasdown | | 10 | 8 | 80 |
| Tynning | | 10 | 8 | 80 |
| S. Bath | | 10 | 8 | 80 |
| Additional Dev Work | 50 | 20 | 8 | 160 |
| Total | 500 | 202 | 84 | 1780 |