



Case Study Evaluation

Arts Hub: Martley and Malvern

Project: Trace and Place Case Study

Delivery Partner: Pablo Productions Ltd

Overview

Trace and Place was an ambitious culture and identity project working with the five schools within the Tenbury Pyramid; Bayton, Lindridge and Tenbury Primary (Worcestershire schools), Burford, (Shropshire) and Tenbury High School.

Over 85 children aged seven to 16 of mixed ability worked together over six months exploring perceptions of local heritage and cultural diversity through drama, dance, music and media.

The project incorporated three themes based on the pupils' sense of belonging to the United Kingdom, the world and a celebration of local cultural heritage. This was especially important because the Extended Services Coordinator who had personal knowledge of the area felt that unless children and young people understood (Traced) their own heritage and cultural diversity, they could not be tolerant of others. It was also important for participants to understand that where they lived was part of a wider world and once this was understood they could (Place) themselves anywhere.

Aims

- To involve young people and other members of the communities around Tenbury Wells in:
Celebration of local cultural heritage
Exploration of local residents' sense of belonging in the UK
Discussion of 'belonging to one world'
- Create opportunities for young people of Tenbury Wells (and surrounding villages) to celebrate the multiculturalism of the UK
- To promote cohesion across the community of Tenbury Wells
- To increase knowledge of, and valuing of the uniqueness of Tenbury Wells, including awareness of local history and culture
- To promote performance, creativity and arts education
- To provide joint activities through which young people from different schools could get to know each other including primary-secondary 'bridging' work to improve the transition to the High School.
- To provide opportunities for young people to contribute to their community and for adult community members to recognise and support them in doing so.
- To increase children's social confidence, creativity, communication skills and literacy
- To increase support, knowledge and enthusiasm for future similar events (embedded sustainability).

Process

The project was split into three specific areas and supported by a separate group of primary aged children from the four schools who became "Young Journalists" and led the promotion of the project:-

Dance:- Nine boys aged eight-11 from three of the primaries signed up to the 10 week after school dance club led by Dance Fest as part of the County 12 moves project. The leaders devised a piece of dance linked to local and wider cultural influences suggested by the boys. There was a cost to each boy but Positive Opportunities Worcestershire funding was used for a looked after child.

Cultural drumming:- £1350 was secured from Positive Activities for Children and Young People Grant for Katenba; Tenbury's Youth Cultural Music Group to lead after school sessions at Tenbury Primary School. Ten Key Stage 2 mixed gender children participated in weekly sessions.



Process Continued

Drama:- 32 children/young people signed up from four primaries and THS[1]. Years six-nine were involved. The children developed the piece of drama based on a sense of belonging, addressing prejudice and potential racial and religious inequality called "Working Together Works". This was linked to PSHE/citizenship curriculum modules. Statistics about the area were incorporated into the drama, which the children read out during each set. This worked well as it highlighted the community issues, and ensured the children began to understand their local area and feel a belonging. Emma Lashford (Drama Specialist) was released from Wolverley CE High School to lead a number of sessions supported by Clare Baylis (Worcester County Council Teacher Advisor for Citizenship).

Media:- 16 children from four primaries were involved. £2500 was secured from WCC Gifted and Talented Teacher Advisor. Pablo Productions was commissioned to support this element of the project also providing significant in kind support.

Each school took an active part in interviewing local people and filming local buildings to build up a DVD documentary of "Fabulous Facts about Tenbury and surrounding area". This was shown at the Community and School performances.

The Media Group also designed the relevant promotional literature that ensured the project had an identity. This was a resounding success and has provided Trace and Place with a brand!



Process Continued

Visual Art:- Due to the small budget for the project, the ESCo was keen to involve additional partners who had similar targets. Teme Valley Children Centre secured Wider Family Learning funds to deliver a short programme targeting the Young Parent group based in Tenbury.

Suggested by the ESCo, the Children Centre commissioned PLANET, two local artists who design art work based on recycled materials to work with the parent group over six weeks. Tenbury's Young Parent Group completed the tapestry depicting their interpretation of Tenbury's Mistletoe Season made from recycled plastic bags. This was displayed in the Regal Cinema foyer during the Mistletoe Festival.

The completed project was showcased at a community performance on 4th December 2010 at the local theatre, followed by a school performance for all children in Key Stage 2 and 3 on 15th December.



Impact

The project has been highlighted as a national case study by the Institute of Community Cohesion and the final evaluation toolkit, including a DVD created by the children, will be promoted to schools across the country to adapt to address local cultural needs.

The Community Performance DVD has been approved for use by the Arts Council at an event to be held in February 2011. The audience will comprise of filmmakers, digital artists and BBC representatives.

The "Fascinating Facts about Tenbury and surrounding area" DVD was promoted during Interfaith week 21st-27th November, which was held at County Hall.

MHDC included Trace and Place as part of the Mistletoe Season publication which was promoted widely as part of Tenbury's Mistletoe festival celebrations.

Success

Young peoples' enthusiasm for active participation and leadership: Other anecdotal evidence shows that the experiences enjoyed by the participants have raised clear enthusiasm to continue the strands of creative work through after-school clubs, including ideas to build the strength of the clubs by actively recruiting new members. High School students have elected to offer to deliver a dance club in two local primary schools following on from the success of this initiative.

The project has clearly raised the profile and popularity of group drumming around the community. A continuation of the peer-led drumming club has been set up in one of the primary schools. One enthusiastic drumming recruit asked for (and got) his own drum as a Christmas present. Fund raising is underway to purchase more drums. The drumming group has been asked to perform at several other community events. New demand for youth drama opportunities has also been recorded as well as renewed enthusiasm to participate in the Olympics related 12 Moves dance project. Over 100 DVDs are being produced to disseminate the work of the media group which celebrated living in the local area.

Challenges

The challenges around keeping several partners in the communication loop and making sure that all key stakeholders were fully informed was time consuming and labour intensive, but in the context of the projects impact, sustainability and legacy was absolutely critical.

Managing a diverse team of highly skilled creative practitioners with very different ideas was challenging at times but ultimately by facilitating their collaborative efforts we were able to see outstanding results.

Legacy

Trace and Place demonstrated the value of collaborative arts centred community work and brought together the whole community to celebrate and share the outstanding achievements of local young people.

Several community partners and stakeholders have expressed an interest in making Trace and Place an annual event. The next legacy is due to the economic challenges and intensive service cuts the legacy and future of arts rich community work in the Tenbury region is currently uncertain.



Contact Details

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