



Case Study Evaluation

Arts Hub: Wychavon (Phase 1)

Project: Wychavon Youth Bus

Delivery Partner: Pablo Productions Ltd

Overview

Through a consultation process involving artists and youth workers visiting rural communities in Wychavon, it was determined that there was a need for youth facilities and creative opportunities for young people in rural areas. This project explored ways of developing long term, sustainable projects, whilst ensuring that the young people involved played a central role.

Youth Workers, artists, creative practitioners and health professionals worked together to involve young people in the design and refurbishment of a decommissioned coach. With the support of the community safety partnership the coach was transformed into a youth bus equipped with a range of arts and media equipment.

The youth bus has ICT and creative digital media onboard, recording facilities and a video editing suite, and the exterior can be transformed into a performance venue with detachable staging, lighting and a PA.

The youth bus is based in Droitwich and is regularly used throughout rural communities in Wychavon providing creative arts and multimedia based activities for young people.

Aims

- The project was designed to create a mobile Youth service for rural communities.
- To engage young people to actively participate in the refurbishment of the youth bus.
- To offer arts rich services and creative activities to groups of young people who would have not previously had access to services.
- To encourage young people to engage with ongoing consultation to influence the development of new projects and schemes
- To support young people as they try new arts and creative activities that help them develop confidence and skills.
- To promote the use of the youth bus in other regions around the county.



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Process

The project is centred around the development of the ‘Youth bus’, a former coach which has been converted into a modern mobile youth centre. The bus is now equipped with excellent multimedia facilities, along with stage, light and sound equipment to allow it to be used as an outdoor performance space.

Young people in rural communities around Wychavon played an active role in the refurbishment through a design consultation process with design and technology experts. The bus can now travel around the more rural areas of Wychavon offering services and creative activities to groups of young people that otherwise would not be able to access such services.

Young people in rural communities can continue to be part of the consultation and decision making process that influences the development of new projects and schemes whilst expanding their skill sets.

Phase 1 of the youth bus development involved 6 artists, Extended Services Co-ordinators, Arts Development Officers, Youth Workers and 56 young people participating in a diverse range of workshops from October 2009 to June 2010.



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Impact

The development and success of the youth bus in Phase 1 of the Wychavon project has helped deliver creative services and activities to young people in five rural communities within Wychavon.

Groups of young people in rural communities now regularly participate in arts and creative activities by accessing the youth bus, it is agreed by all stakeholders that these activities would not be available to the young people without this service.

Three youth workers have been trained as commercial vehicle drivers and are now qualified to drive the youth bus ensuring its continued use in the future. The Wychavon community safety partnership are very supportive ongoing arts development in the rural communities around Wychavon and are actively involved in further planning and fund raising to support further activities and opportunities for arts experiences for young people.

The role of the arts and its value upon young people in rural communities has been enriched and the local communities are more aware of the positive benefits of arts experiences for young people.

Success

The youth bus was re-designed and renovated taking into account the ideas generated by the young people through the consultation process. The successful creation of the youth bus means that it can now travel to rural areas on a regular basis, offering a youth club facility to young people, with the long-term aim of creating sustainable youth groups who will be prepared to pay for the facility to continue.

Crucially this development will be driven by the young people taking part on an ongoing basis, using their ideas and skills to take the project forward. The youth bus has been linked to the wider portfolio of services including Extended Services, arts development and services linked to the community safety partnership team in Wychavon. The Youth Bus has now been embedded as part of the region's wider strategic vision for service delivery.

The project can now move onto Phase 2 which will see dance and film-making projects. The film-making workshops will document the dance sessions as part of the project and use their newly acquired skills to create a short dynamic film to showcase the dance project. The young people will also be able to use the experience as a basis for other film projects which will hopefully develop into an established youth group activity which can be held on a weekly basis, and continue to attract new members.

Success

“It’s great to see the youth bus coming down the road, it’s looks brilliant and it’s a great place for us to get together.”

Claire 15, Honeybourne

“We have been able to achieve our aims for Phase 1 and to see the bus out providing exciting services to young people who really need them is very rewarding.”

Dave Hemming

Community Safety Partnership Manager



Challenges

The coach builders and refurbishment professionals needed support and guidance regarding the importance of young people having their ideas taken seriously as they were concerned about the health and safety and the project coming in on budget. By bringing them together with the young people and hearing about their plans and their reasons for their designs first hand, their reservations and concerns were discussed enabling the young people to maintain their influence through the refurbishment process.

Legacy

Wychavon now has a fully equipped Youth Arts Bus servicing the needs of the young people and their local community.



Contact Details

For further information about this project
contact Paul Hawkins, Pablo Productions

01562 638 090

Paul@pabloproductionsltd.com

