

# Developing Partnerships...

## In Support of Young People's Cultural Learning

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Drawing on the key findings and ideas of the report, *Caring for Cultural Freedom: An Ecological Approach to Supporting Cultural Learning*, we have developed the following set of indicative questions for people to ask themselves when seeking to develop partnerships in support of cultural learning for young people. These questions will need to be answered by young people and adults together. As such, the language used to frame each question will need to be tailored accordingly, ensure it speaks to all citizens and stakeholders concerned.

### **CARING FOR CULTURE (*Preliminary set of over-arching reflexive questions*)**

#### **1. Taking responsibility for giving support**

- What do I know, so far, about young people's cultural learning? (*attentiveness*)
- What can I (and will I commit to) do to give support to young people's cultural learning? (*responsibility*)
- What particular skills, experience and resources can I draw on to give support to young people's cultural learning? (*competence*)
- How will I ensure that the voice of young people themselves is always heard and listened to? (*responsiveness*)

### **THE CURRENT SITUATION... AND THE FUTURE (*More detailed questioning*)**

#### **2. The cultural lives of young people in the area:**

- What cultural opportunities do young people in the area currently value?
- Where do young people in the area spend time outside of the school day?
- What cultural opportunities are available within schools?
- To what extent are schools connecting young people to cultural opportunities outside of school?
- How do young people access information about the cultural opportunities available to them?

#### **3. Challenges and opportunities:**

- What particular challenges are young people facing in their lives, at the moment, in this area?

- Where do the opportunities lie? What are the positive possibilities for improving the lives of young people in this area?

#### **4. Spaces of listening:<sup>1</sup>**

- At present, where do young people have the opportunity to have their experiences, views and opinions heard (individually or collectively)?
- How might more opportunities for young people to have their experiences, views and opinions heard (individually or collectively) be enabled?

### **DEVELOPING AN ECOLOGICAL APPROACH**

#### **5. Involving everyone:**

- Who can we also involve in these conversations?
- How can we ensure that young people themselves are involved?
- Which adults – and which organisations – have been and could be invited?

#### **6. Existing networks:**

- Are there relevant networks already active in this area?
- What role could these existing networks play in this partnership in support of young people's cultural learning?
- What role might the local authority play?
- What role might schools play?

#### **7. Creative citizens:<sup>2</sup>**

- Are there examples of creative citizenship already taking place in the area already?
- How might these existing examples of creative citizenship be supported?
- How might more people be supported to be creative citizens?

### **STRATEGIC AIMS & GOVERNANCE**

#### **8. Addressing problems and imagining the future:**

- What specific 'problems' are we looking to solve?<sup>3</sup>
- What particular areas of possibility or potential can be realised here?<sup>4</sup>
- If developing a new partnership in support of cultural learning succeeded, what improvements could this bring, who to, and under what circumstances?
- What would 'success' look like?

#### **9. Leadership and democracy:**

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<sup>1</sup> These are places where young people have the opportunity to speak and to be heard. This can have an important role to play in their cultural learning, and in the co-management of cultural ecosystems.

<sup>2</sup> These are people who support cultural opportunities for themselves and others, often by sharing information and organising activities through informal practices (beyond highly visible organisations), and/or by crossing boundaries between two or more organisations.

<sup>3</sup> For example, are there difficulties in sharing information effectively between organisations of different kinds?

<sup>4</sup> For example, the potential to better share information between organisations of different kinds.

- Who is going to take the lead in organising this partnership?
- How is the leadership going to operate on a democratic basis?
- How will we collectively ensure that a wide diversity of interests and views are involved on an ongoing basis, including, in particular, those of young people?

## **10. Sustainability:**

- How will we ensure that the partnership is sustainable?
- How will we ensure that the ways in which a diversity of interests and views are heard, on an ongoing basis, is sustainable?