

Creative Curriculum Fund 2019

Appendix A - Context



For Scotland's learners, with Scotland's educators



LOTTERY FUNDED

Background

Education Scotland is the national body for supporting quality and improvement in learning and teaching. Its remit includes strategic objectives to build a world-class curriculum for all learners in Scotland, promote high-quality professional learning and leadership amongst education practitioners, and to build the capacity of education providers to improve their performance continuously.

The Creativity Team within Education Scotland has a remit to deliver against **Scotland's Creative Learning Plan** which, together with a strategic partnership agreement with Creative Scotland, involves sharing the vision of a more creative Scotland and developing creative learners, creative teachers and a creative education system.

The **3-18 Curriculum Impact report, Creativity Across Learning**, provides a definition of creativity and identifies four core creativity skills, enabling educators and learners to recognise, articulate and value their creativity skills and offering a means of identifying good practice in all areas where we seek to model and use creativity.

The Creative Change Pilot Project was developed to put this learning into practice in the arena of improvement planning and transformational change, with the aim of embedding innovation, resilience and flexibility in the improvement process. By definition, self-evaluation, the driving force behind continuous improvement, involves looking inwards and it can be difficult to know what questions you are not asking and which alternative perspectives you are not seeing the challenge from. An external catalyst coupled with highly developed curiosity and open-mindedness skills can be tools to unlock hidden potential.

'We wanted to inject some creativity into the system and tackle existing, stubborn challenges in a new way. We're calling this creative change.'

Creativity Team, Education Scotland

In addition, the project team aspired to manage the project management processes in a way that modelled creative change practices and embodied the four creativity skills of curiosity, open-mindedness, imagination and problem solving.

Summary

The Creative Curriculum Project will apply creative thinking to educational challenges in secondary schools across Scotland; challenges that have proven to be resistant to change despite the best efforts of motivated and determined educators.

The project will support educators to match their chosen challenge with creative catalysts – individuals (or organisations) who offer creative approaches to thinking and problem solving. Together the creative catalyst and educators will collaborate, share ideas, explore new possibilities and generate innovative solutions to the challenges they face.

Essentially, participants will be supported in applying the four creativity skills – curiosity, open-mindedness, imagination and problem solving – to their own contexts. They will be encouraged to explore new possibilities and empowered to change their thinking, practice and approach to continuous improvement.

Based on the success and experience of the Creative Change Pilot Project, we expect this approach to deliver a wide range of often unexpected outcomes and impacts. Following the pilot project the educators involved were delighted by the changes made, and the potential they saw to influence the world around them in new ways, and reported real impact.

Having worked with challenges across the sectors in the Creative Change Pilot, the project will focus on curriculum design in secondary schools. The **Creative Curriculum Fund** will seek to tackle challenges relating to learner voice, senior phase, pathways, timetabling, work based learning, school environment, learner/teacher relationships, and inter-disciplinary learning amongst others.

We believe that transformational change may be required to challenge and reimagine each of these elements and ensure that they are fit for purpose in the 21st Century – delivering what Skills Development Scotland call Skills 4.0 -

<https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/skills-planning/skills4-0/>

The project supports a number of Quality Indicators in How Good Is Our School 4 including, although not limited to Q.I. 3.3.

Creative Curriculum Fund

Theory of Change

Creative Catalysts model creative thinking and behaviours



Creativity skills are used to approach an existing challenge



Creative solutions are generated

Increased perspectives, flexibility, adaptability, risk taking and breadth of options



Leading to Improvement

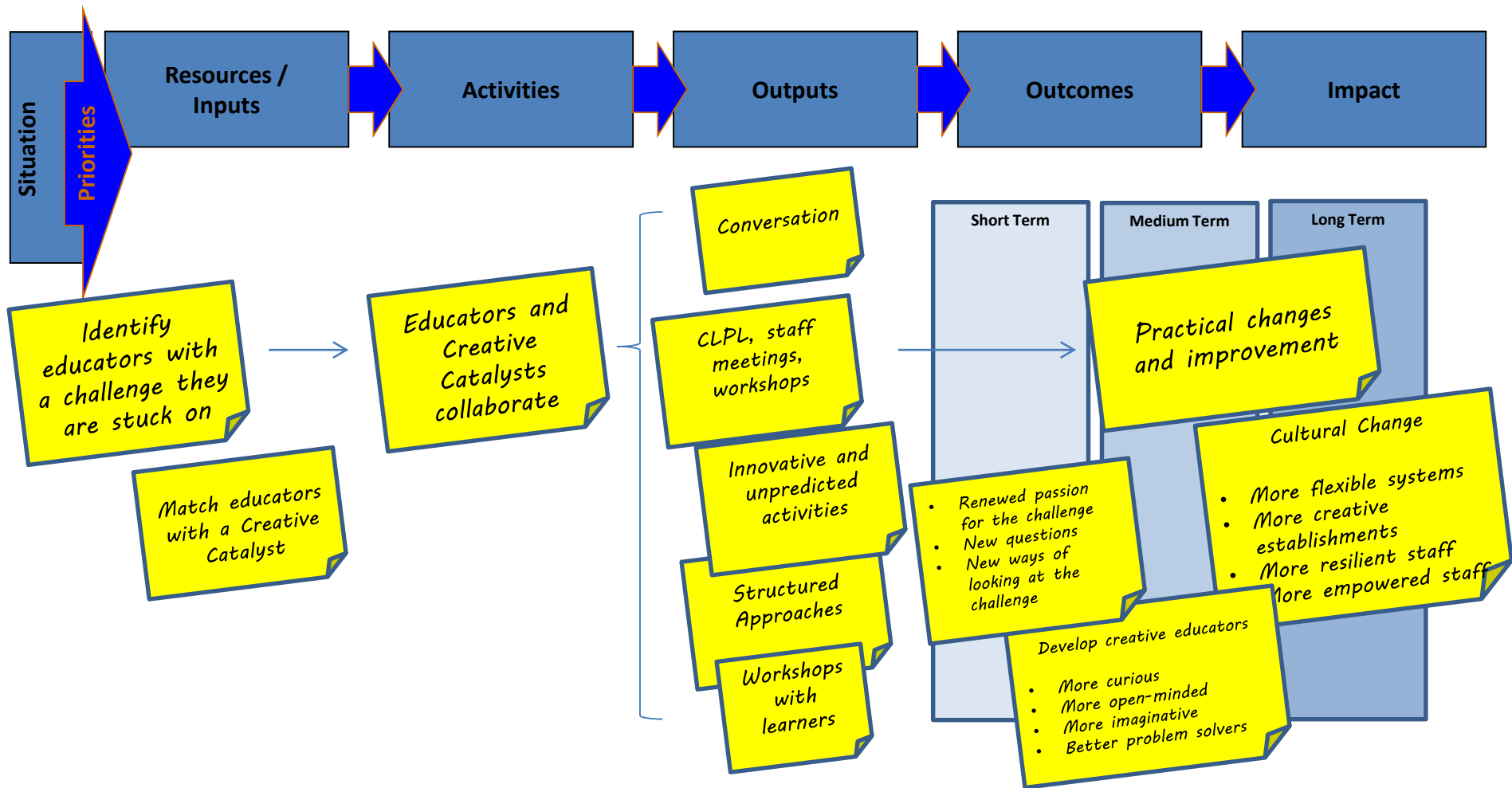


Educators and systems become progressively more creative

Creative change sets precedent, demonstrates permission, inspires further creative thinking and develops skills



Creative Curriculum Fund Logic Model



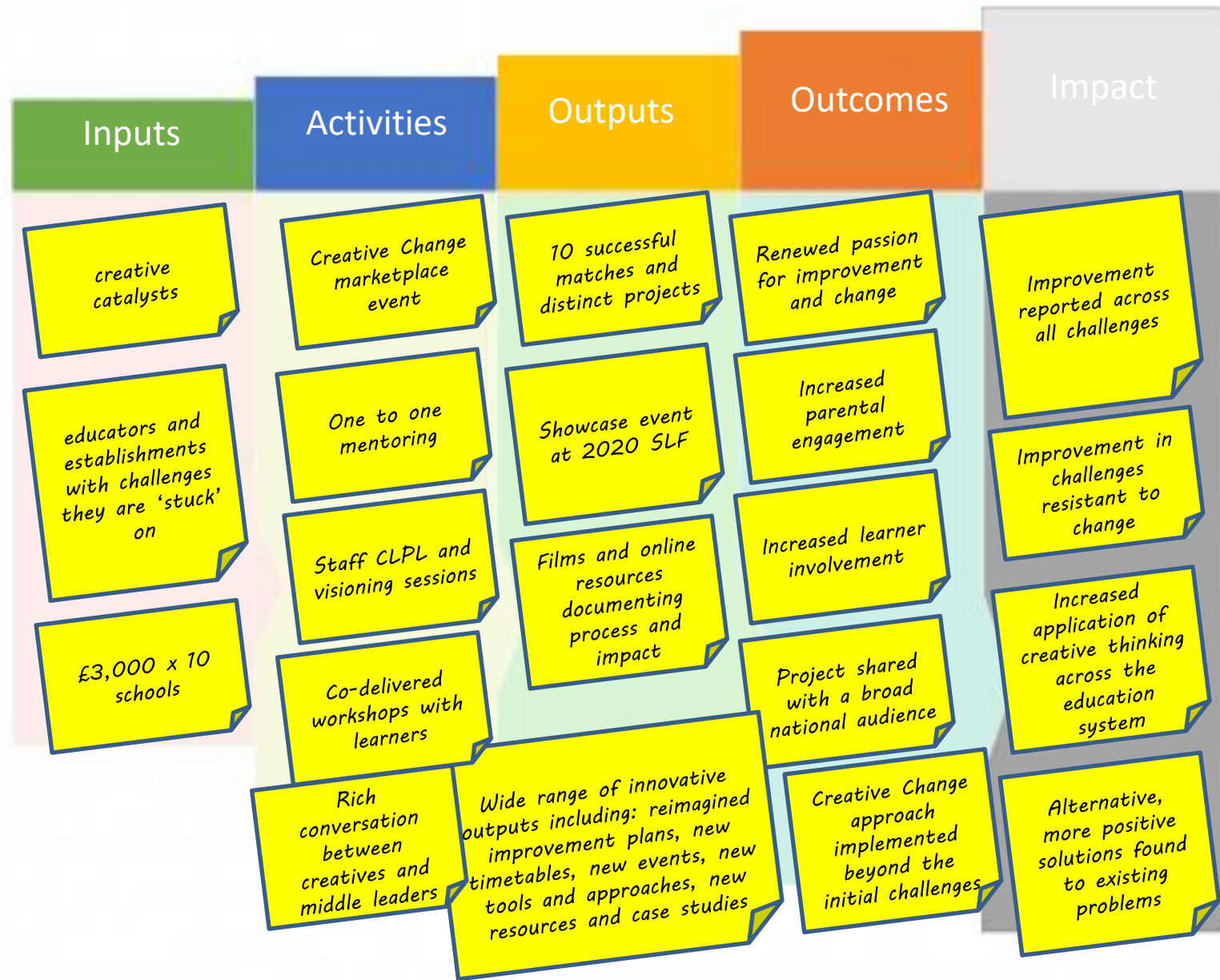
Assumptions

We believe that everyone is creative, and equipped with a suite of creativity skills, but that these skills can be under-utilised and that obstacles exist to hinder their use.

Intended Results

We intend to mentor and model the use of these creativity skills in practical settings across education, and believe that this will empower educators to generate new directions and solutions to persistent problems and challenges

Creative Curriculum Fund - High Level Summary



Useful Links

Creative Change Pilot Project

The pilot project upon which the Creative Curriculum Fund approach is based.

<http://bit.ly/CreativeChangePP>

Creativity Toolbox Films

Short exercises and tools that empower staff at all levels to embed creative thinking in their planning and improvement.

<http://bit.ly/creativitytoolbox>

Creativity Across Learning Animations

Two minute films that explore the relationship between creativity and the National Improvement Framework priorities, gender bias, STEM, employability, teaching and learning.

<http://bit.ly/creativityanimations>

Kaleidoscope

The Creative Learning Plan's digital newsletter.

<http://bit.ly/KaleidoscopeScotland>

Creativity Infographics

Digital infographics that explore creativity across learning and teaching including attainment, employability, Curriculum for Excellence, support and definitions.

<http://bit.ly/creativitybanners>

Scotland's Creative Learning Plan

An ambitious plan to raise the quality and quantity of creative learning opportunities across Scotland, produced through the partnership of 7 national learning bodies and endorsed by Scottish Government.

<http://bit.ly/CLPataglance>

Creativity Across Learning 3-18 Curriculum Impact Report

Education Scotland report containing useful definitions of creativity, creative learning, creative teaching and creativity skills.

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/0to9/genericresource_tcm4814368.asp?strReferringChannel=educationscotland&strReferringPageID=tcm:4-615801-64

Building the capacity of education providers to improve their performance continuously

Strategy document relating to Education Scotland's third strategic objective – creativity and innovation are central to the improvement process.

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/SO3strategyfinal_tcm4-827843.pdf

Creative Scotland

National public body committed to increasing the quantity and quality of opportunity for people of all ages to learn through engagement with the arts, screen and creative industries.

<http://www.creativescotland.com/>

Creativity Portal

The one stop shop for educators, learners and parents on creativity across learning.

<http://creativityportal.org.uk/>