



## **CREATIVITY, INNOVATION AND CHANGE**

ASPIRE Dundee is innovative, aspirational and bold. At its core, it is a true example of effective partnership working.

ASPIRE Dundee is an arts based intervention working with children and their families in areas of high deprivation with a solid focus of improving outcomes and strengthening relationships across communities. Crucially, ASPIRE Dundee is building a sustainable model of practice aiming towards creating long term transformational change. ASPIRE Dundee is a direct intervention and also a catalyst for bringing together existing resources and services creating a 'smarter spend' approach to targeting areas of most need.

The programme has ambitious aims and already has evidence of key successes from its 18 month lifespan. Key to the strengthening and improving the programme is the value placed upon high quality and robust evaluation and monitoring systems across all of its processes. We understand that better evaluation and evidence based research will help local authorities distinguish between proven, promising and unproven approaches in the future and decide how to make curriculum and planning decisions that raise attainment and achievement for economically disadvantaged groups.

The continuously reflective ethos of ASPIRE Dundee allows all involved to constantly consider different approaches to the design and delivery of services whilst improving access to community assets and resources. In designing the original programme and in its roll out we acknowledge that all schools and communities do not always benefit from a one size fits all, inflexible and prescriptive programme. ASPIRE Dundee is a flexible model, adaptable to local needs and priorities.

ASPIRE Dundee is proud to build on the wealth of arts and cultural excellence within the city of Dundee, a UNESCO City of Design. Working with organisations such as Scottish Dance Theatre, Scottish School of Contemporary Dance, Dundee Rep Creative Learning and the Instrumental Music Service allows us to build on prior knowledge and practice whilst also developing new and exciting approaches to delivering arts based, immersive learning experiences in schools and communities. By using 'design thinking' strategies these new approaches are becoming embedded in the practice of these arts and cultural organisations when working with other schools and communities not directly involved in the ASPIRE Dundee project thus creating a much wider impact and benefit to citizens from the original investment in the programme.

As a model of practice, ASPIRE Dundee has been recognised nationally by many bodies including within the Instrumental Music Teaching review led by David Green and the Scottish Government. To date and at their request, meetings have taken place with other local authorities including City of Edinburgh Council, North Ayrshire Council and Perth and Kinross Council to with a view to rolling out the immersive and intensive model to targeted schools in their areas utilising local skills and capacities.