2016-17 Creative Learning Networks

Activities and Reach

In 2016/17 Creative Learning Network activity was funded in 28 of the 32 Local Authorities in Scotland. Through their individual programmes of work, they recorded 23,140 attendances in activities designed to champion creativity and creativity skills across the curriculum.

2016-17 Creative Learning Networks

Activity and Impact – listed by Local Authority

**Aberdeen City**

Creative Learning is progressing consistently with creativity across education in Aberdeen City, building on the partnerships established, regardless of staffing flux. We are seeing key partners being promoted within education; we are making the most of their influence and their understanding of, and advocacy for, creativity.

We maintain strong working partnerships with the Curriculum Team, having for the second year running developed a curriculum plan for Creativity, and for the first time a separate plan for Expressive Arts. These make up the Curriculum handbook, a document that has gone out to Aberdeen schools in order for them to select interventions to meet the needs of their School Quality Improvement Plans (SQIPs)

**Numeracy Highlight**

Through *Creativity, Shape and Measure* all children who took part increased their understanding and application of the identified shape and measure benchmarks in numeracy. All teachers, having taken part in delivering this project, could see further ways they could generate creative approaches to teaching other areas of numeracy. Children who would not normally engage in numeracy were engaged, understanding and applying their learning to new contexts.

**Angus**

We held two engagement events in December 2016, both entitled ‘Let’s Talk Creativity’. Our purpose was to elicit what pupils’ understanding of creativity was and what that should feel like for them as citizens of Angus, as well as instil an understanding that creativity should permeate all aspects of their lives and school experience, not just be about music and the visual arts. Through working with a talented freelance artist we were able to find creative ways to spark ideas and dialogue (e.g. Creative Town activity, fortune tellers, interesting objects) and the result was that we assembled some really rich feedback and a hunger for more creative dialogue and activity.

The Test of Change schools saw huge impact in their school environments, with pupils being able to clearly articulate their understanding of creative skills and the impact these have on their learning and their lives.

**Learner Empowerment Highlight**

One of the most tangible outcomes this year was the identification of a group of pupil ambassadors for creativity for Angus Council. These pupils are now called our ‘Creative Sparks’ (“igniting creativity throughout Angus”) and we have worked extensively with them throughout the past few months to take them through a range of creative activities to explore how creative approaches could benefit them in their future careers and life-long learning (DYW/Employability Skills). The outcome of this was the production of a leaflet which was printed and distributed at our Celebration Event in June 2017. The words are entirely their own.

**Comhairle nan Eilean Siar**

Having received feedback from practitioners across the Western Isles it became evident that confidence in delivering drama, at all levels, was something the teachers aspired to develop. The funding allowed two twilight sessions to take place in both Uist and Lewis and all those who attended (primary & secondary) were given access to a yearlong licence for an online drama course. 18 out of 22 primary schools sent representation and 3 out of our 4 secondary schools attended.

**Dumfries and Galloway**

CLN funding directly supported the creative input towards the Planning For Your Future residential. They worked with the 57 young people taking part in the residential, through creative workshops that gave them an opportunity to explore and ask questions about developing themselves beyond school. The workshops were all led by emerging young local artists and culminated in a musical performance.

Da Vinci Challenge papers have also been written this year with local teaching and central education staff, community and arts partners, and local business.

**East Ayrshire**

This year's two Creative Mind’s Learning Network flagship events featured keynote speakers Graeme Obree (World Hour Cycling Record Holder, Author, Inventor and Maverick Genius) and East Ayrshire's Provost, Jim Todd, and celebrated the diverse value of creative innovation and the crucial role this plays in learning and teaching. One of the most satisfying outcomes of these events was the breadth of community engagement, whereby teachers, artists, pupils, parents, grandparents, employers and elected members could share creative experiences in a relaxed yet illuminating atmosphere.

The CMLN training diary continues to support creativity across learning, building capacity and new ways of learning and teaching with learning providers through high quality partnership projects with artists, business partners and national organisations

Tracking and monitoring mechanisms relating to attainment in literacy, numeracy or health and wellbeing have been developed to evidence impact of creative opportunities based around the training programme.

**Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian**

The CLN featured inspiring input from creative catalysts simultaneously celebrating, developing and sharing effective local practice. We worked with partners and programmed 3 strands of work under the Creative Conversations branding:

Creative Conversations: high level, inspiring and relevant, our Creative catalysts were invited speakers who local practitioners would not normally have access to.

Creative Connections: these follow the same format and branding as Creative Conversations and are held in schools and venues across the region.

Creative Lives: A series of meetings, consultations and events with artists/organisations that work in participatory settings, (schools and communities).

We also delivered a range of CLPL including Developing Creativity Across the Curriculum, Developing Learners’ Creativity Skills, and Leading Creatively.

**East Dunbartonshire**

Creative Catalysts worked with school leaders and teachers in three secondary schools within East Dunbartonshire to explore creative interventions in learning, teaching and curriculum development. We also delivered CPD for Primary practitioners. Building on a creative consultation with teachers in 2016 this CPD block was designed to explore the creative delivery of Maths, Technology and Science lessons. The first session was used to identify topics within the 3 core curriculum subjects as follows: Maths: Place Value; Technology: 3D objects with moving parts; Science: Inheritance, life cycles and the human body.

**Forth Valley (Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannanshire)**

Our Creative Conversations, which are always popular and continue to generate further partnerships across Forth Valley and offer skills development, included Creative Mindfulness with Stan Godek and Design Challenge with the V&A.

**Literacy Highlight**

We were testing a new approach with Hidden Giants which very much focussed on challenging teachers to think differently about their approach and practice to raising attainment in literacy and also more widely across the curriculum. Falkirk High has created an Inspiring Learning Space working with S2 pupils who were in danger of exclusion. The space works with skilled staff from teaching, CLD and Family Support to creatively develop learning which is tailored to pupils needs and support their families. This is a highly engaging programme which aims to decrease exclusions, increase attainment and create bespoke support for pupils and families. Part of this has included creating picture books with boys who have low reading skills, developing a range of literacy skills and well as increasing engagement of learning, self-esteem and aspirations.

**Highland**

**School Improvement Highlight**

We built a community of Creativity Champions who implemented new ideas within their teaching and included creativity and the creativity skills within their 2017/2018 School Improvement Plans for the first time. The project was also successful in getting creativity included within the Local Authorities 3 year Strategic Improvement Plans for 2018 - 2020.

Our twilight sessions engaged with 192 teachers and other school staff and parents, between them representing 37 schools which was an incredible engagement given our initial projections.

**Inverclyde**

**Developing the Young Workforce Highlight**

The theme of Creativity and Employment enabled us to strengthen our partnerships by working with Inverclyde Education Services, Gateway Shared Services, Inverclyde’s Development Trust and Inverclyde’s Developing the Young Workforce.

Together, we have cultivated a significant work experience programme which provides a pathway to creative industries for young people in Inverclyde which we are looking forward to developing further and rolling out again over 2017/18.

**Moray**

Much of the work over the last year has been around “developing the young work force” and developing an agreed Skills Framework to allow better collaboration between partners using a consistent language for all. The framework will ensure that all pupils from 3-18 are developing the identified core 8 skills, of which creativity is one, but one that also cuts across many of the other seven.

**North Ayrshire**

One of our main areas of focus was to widen the scope of our activities across the authority, not only promoting creativity through small grants across the schools, but to clarify for the wider population the links between developing the young workforce and the creativity.

**Working with Employers Highlight**

We also organised an event to highlight to potential employees the benefits of having more creatively minded individuals working for and with them in the workplace.

**Orkney**

We invited author and educator Hywel Roberts to deliver two days of leadership, CPD and work with children. Hywel’s first visit to Orkney was a resounding success – he delivered a ‘leading the learning’ key note and workshop to all of our head teachers, followed by a creative learning twilight session with primary and secondary staff which was attended by almost 60 teachers, probationers and support staff. On day two Hywel worked in the classroom exploring various teaching techniques and providing teachers with an opportunity to reflect and discuss their own practice. The feedback we received from all the sessions was resoundingly positive.

**Perth and Kinross**

A key strength of the Creative Learning Network this year was working with the Education and Children’s Services Quality Improvement Team in Perth & Kinross. We were delighted to provide keynote speaker ‘The Real David Cameron’ to one of the Head teacher Development Days, and also gave two CLN presentations at the Depute and Principal Teacher Days.

Another key strength has been for the Highland Perthshire School Cluster (8 primary & 2 secondary schools) to adopt and lead a CLN project with the aim to work collectively as a local management group highlighting and celebrating what it’s like to ‘Live, Work , and Thrive is Highland Perthshire’.

We’ve also delivered a series of successful CLPL sessions, on-going support and signposting for teachers and educators within Perth and Kinross which have offered a wide variety of learning experiences and challenges.

**Renfrewshire**

The network has substantially increased its profile during the 16/17 period, thanks in part to the role it has had in big strategic plans, including City of Culture, the Paisley Museum Re-imagined Project and the School Libraries Attainment Project; all of which have brought increased resources and increased demands on network support staff.

**Scottish Borders**

We carried out two programmes of activity in in 2016-17 - Investigating Creativity through Practitioner Enquiry and Raising Attainment through Creative Partnerships. We also pledged to share the learning from this year’s activities to a wider audience to raise awareness of creativity both within our local authority and nationally.

Raising Attainment Highlight

Investigating Creativity Through Practitioner Enquiry offered the opportunity for 6 teachers to carry out rigorous and in-depth practitioner enquiry in relation to creativity within their school settings. Participants underwent a structured course, attending six sessions throughout the duration of the academic year, supported by the Creative Learning Assistant and an experienced education consultant.

Raising Attainment through Creative Partnerships Projects were delivered in relation to three key areas (STEM, Arts and Literacy) in order to lay the ground work for further raising attainment activities in 2017-18.

**South Ayrshire**

We ran a quarterly Creative Learning Network programme of events and CPD. The 3 strand events were planned to up skill and train staff across the academic, creative and youth work sectors collectively. Training covered areas of both business and creative practice simultaneously in order to attract different areas of the CLN client base and forge greater collaborative practice and partnership working. This mixed profession approach allowed for better networking opportunities cross-sector and awareness of priorities and constrictions faced by different participants thus generating better partnership working awareness.

**South Lanarkshire**

**Improving Teaching and Learning Highlight**

This year we developed a large scale creative learning ‘Schools of the Future ‘conference specifically targeting pupils and teaching staff. The event’s main aim was to challenge the curriculum within individual schools on creative approaches and pupil leadership skills while providing training and support for teaching staff.

With such apparent need, support and thirst for change we decided to open the event up to all 37 primary schools. There was a representation of 4 pupils and 1 staff member per school. The event questioned what our schools currently look like, how we can champion positive change and what roles we can play in rolling this out. Practical activities and supporting information were supplied along with a creative pledge card that schools had to complete before leaving the conference.

As an additional strand to this year’s CLN, we also embarked on the local authority’s first teacher swap. A nursery teacher from a partnership nursery and a primary teacher both worked together to challenge their own teaching styles.

**West Dunbartonshire**

Our funding award has had a huge impact on the creative activities that we have been able to deliver. CLPL is always a challenge as it is very difficult to guarantee attendance form teachers. This has proven successful this year. Our Arts Award and performance strands are new to West Dunbartonshire and have been particularly successful. The community creativity programme is going from strength to strength.

**West Lothian Council**

Working with the Head Teachers and school leaders has been a key strength this year to allow us to have more agency in schools and to reach a higher number of pupils and teachers.

**Learner-Led Teaching Highlight**

West Lothian Council’s Community Arts worked in partnership with Hidden Giants who collaborated with Head teachers and school leaders to take a more strategic approach to the exploration of how creativity can impact on learning and teaching. These discussions led to prototype projects in schools which allowed school leaders to take a creative challenge to their staff.

Teachers were asked not to plan the learning activities on behalf of their pupils, but rather re-position themselves as co-enquirers. Some schools devoted a morning, some a full day and some schools handed over an entire week to pupil-led activity.