

### **Purpose of the Research – The Brief**

The study will form the first stage of an investigation into the potential for including arts provision with the youth justice system and social services in the North East region, targeting young offenders, looked after young people, and other young people at risk of offending.

This Scoping Study focuses on three main groups of young people:

- ❖ Looked after children and young people
- ❖ Young Offenders on an Order or ISSP in the Community
- ❖ Young Offenders in detention

The study seeks to establish:

- ❖ What arts projects for young people in these groups are in progress, have taken place in the last year, or are planned. And which professional artists or arts organisations were/are involved in delivery
- ❖ Where there may be scope for partnership working to develop arts projects, including situations where such work could complement and enhance the following:
  - Preventative and support initiatives in place for young people considered at risk of offending and for looked after children and young people
  - Existing opportunities for education, personal and social development for young offenders in the community
  - Existing opportunities for educational and personal development for young people in detention

The study also looks at issues related to project management and evaluation, with a view to formulating a framework for developing arts projects and determining success.

### **Methodology**

Research was divided into two main sections. Firstly, a review of publications, information and statistics relating to policy, strategies, services, programmes and initiatives relating to statutory authorities, agencies and organisations that provide services for young people in the target groups.

Secondly, consultation was undertaken by telephone interview with representatives of Social Services Looked after Children's Teams, Local Authority Arts Development Teams, local Youth Offending Teams, Connexions, and other organisations in the public and voluntary sectors delivering support services and training to the target groups. An e-mail outlining the study and requesting information about arts activities and projects was circulated via Arts Council England, North East, to networks which included the North East Region Looked after Culture, Arts and Creativity Forum, the Regional Active Partnership Arts in Education Agencies, Creative Partnerships, and the Education Forum.

Two focus groups were convened to discuss issues relating to management and evaluation of arts projects from the point of view of commissioning agents, and delivery agents/artists.

The research was originally designed not to include prevention programmes for young people at risk of offending but it rapidly became clear that many organisations provide support services with arts projects for young offenders working in groups with those considered at risk of offending.