

Choices aims to provide young people involved with the youth justice system in the Newcastle and North Tyneside areas with an opportunity to:

- Raise their self-esteem and encourage personal and social development;
- Develop new skills and interests and experience new activities;
- Experience new life choices and help them realise their aspirations;
- Share new achievements with others;
- Explore a range of opportunities to become involved in education, training or leisure projects, based on their individual interests and aspirations;
- Raise their awareness of positive cycles of behaviour.

Choices also seeks to challenge negative attitudes towards young offenders and to present these young people in a positive light.

Since 2003 the group have worked with creative writers, actors, filmmakers, musicians, circus artists, an animator and dancers and particular achievements include graffiti boards commissioned by Nexus and displayed at Chillingham Road Metro station, film screenings at the Co-operative Young Filmmakers Festival, a Royal Society Television Award for Best Film for a Target Audience and a Koestler Merit Award for arts by young offenders.

Key impacts

- Reducing re-offending
- Providing constructive activities
- Skills development, including negotiating & team working
- Raising ambitions and aspirations and broadening horizons
- Developing social skills, including:
 - Self esteem & confidence
 - Sharing opinions & listening to others
 - Appropriate behaviour



Graffiti Board by the Choices Group

Key facts

Target group:	Young people (10 to 18 years old) in the youth justice system
Commissioner:	North of Tyne ISSP (Intensive Supervision & Surveillance Programme) & Newcastle Youth Offending Team
Timescale:	2003 to present
Total budget p.a.:	£45,000
Activity:	2 sessions per week, 40 weeks per year

Typical annual budget

	£
Income:	
Public sector	20,000
Charitable trusts	10,000
Arts Council N.E.	<u>15,000</u>
	45,000
Expenditure:	
Artist fees	22,000
Materials	8,000
Evaluation	1,500
Management fees	<u>13,500</u>
	45,000

"Many have not had opportunity in their lives to do this kind of work, to have fun with it ... it would be easy to underestimate how amazing it is that they complete the session, it really says something about what we have here."

Julie Wigham, North of Tyne ISSP

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PIONEERING COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH THE ARTS