

Introduction

Welcome to the eleventh and final issue of Youth Ideas and Action. We hope to whet your appetite with news of interesting work with young people at the moment and positive developments in the youth arena. It has been some time since the last edition of this newsletter so this one is perhaps a bit longer than usual with items covering a longer time-span than usual.

Aiming High for Young People, the government's ten year strategy for positive youth activity and the recently launched Children's Plan: Building Brighter Futures, which strengthens commitments made in *Aiming High*, sets a clear goal that all young people will participate in positive activities and access a broad range of experiences as a means of developing personal and social skills, to promote their well-being and to reduce the behaviour that puts young people at risk.

Central within this entitlement is participation in cultural activity. Indeed *Aiming High* notes that "participating in art, music, drama and dance can build confidence, self-esteem and self-discipline and help develop social and team-working skills."

Libraries are ideally placed to help deliver this agenda and your involvement in QLP-Y will have given you a head start in undertaking this kind of work.

The timely launch of the Children's Plan, coming as it does in the latter months of QLP-Y, along with the revised Hear by Right tools, the definition of what young people have a right to expect at their local library, and the move, by 2009, to Comprehensive Area Assessments, which aims to make it easier for local authorities to deliver on *Strong and Prosperous Communities*, set the scene for library authorities to continue and develop the very positive work undertaken during this project and to mainstream work with young people in the creation of library services targeted at young people, shaped by young people.

Good luck!

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Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 What young people have a right to expect from their library
- 2 New teaching resource for history and citizenship
- 3 Aiming High for Young People
- 3 The last word
- 4 Arts: Our shot at fame
- 5 New resources from the NYA
- 6-8 Love Libraries Award 2007 – winner announced
- 8 Children's Plan launched
- 9 To Change the Dance You Must Change the Music
- 10 Youth services blossom, thanks to QLP-Y
- 11 First winners of Their Past Your Future 2 funding announced
- 11 Children's Visions and Voices: Rights and Realities in South Africa
- 12 Index to previous issues

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What young people have a right to expect from their library

A statement defining what young people should be entitled to from their local library was launched by MLA on 29 January.

The statement, or 'offer', is part of the wider agenda to ensure children and young people, both through schools and other institutions such as libraries, have increasing access to cultural services and learning opportunities.

Launching the offer, MLA Director of Policy Sue Wilkinson said: "This is a short, simple, but very significant statement designed to help all councils ensure that the local library is a free, safe and welcoming space where young people can meet and access relevant and up-to-date books and other information."

Young people should expect from their library:

- Participation in shaping the future of library services
- Volunteering opportunities with younger or older library users
- A place to develop citizenship skills and community engagement
- Free, safe and welcoming spaces in the local community
- Formal and informal learning support for educational attainment
- Inspiring books and reading materials supported by positive activities
- Information on education, training and careers opportunities

Miranda McKearney, Director of the Reading Agency, said: "Libraries are changing fast; becoming the place of choice for more young people. They have a key role to play in helping local authorities achieve their ambitions for and with young people. The new offer articulates the richness of what libraries can do for young people, and the need to involve young people in shaping future services."

The offer has been developed as a result of consultation with young people from across the country about what they want and expect their local library to provide. It follows on from the national libraries change programme Fulfilling their Potential, which has inspired innovative partnership projects with young people, including the HeadSpace Big Lottery project.

Source: www.mla.gov.uk/news/press_releases/Youth_Offer

Britain's Asian Youth Movements and fellow activists: teaching resource

An important new resource for History, Citizenship and English teachers, based on interviews with former members of Britain's Asian Youth Movements and fellow activists, explores how Asian communities across Britain successfully resisted racism and fascism in the 1970s and 1980s.

Source: www.seapn.org.uk/qlp/

Aiming High for Young People

Aiming High for Young People, the government's ten-year youth services strategy launched in July 2007 and aims to transform leisure opportunities, facilities and support services for young people in England. The strategy, which the government has said it will back with £100m of funding, regards youth services as integral to the development of social skills, aspirations and opportunities, particularly for those young people living in our most disadvantaged and disenfranchised communities.

The strategy details the government's plans to: promote the empowerment of young people; improve youth facilities; improve partnership and collaboration among service and across sectors. It sets out aspirations for what services should achieve over the next 10 years and identifies priorities for spending unclaimed assets – funds in dormant bank accounts, which, as proposed in the consultation document, are to be released for investment in services for young people, in addition to supporting financial inclusion and supporting financial capability.

Delivering this Strategy, and wider reform of services and support for young people, will, Aiming

High claims, depend on the commitment of Local Authorities and the full range of local partners, including the third sector, parents and young people themselves. At national level, implementation of this Strategy will be led by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, which will provide strong and more strategic leadership across Government to improve youth outcomes.

Youth workers, Connexion advisers, education officers and social services are for the first time all gathered together under the umbrella of the Aiming High strategy. To Fiona Blacke, Head of the National Youth Agency, the opportunities are great and must be grabbed with both hands but she warns that the strategy is nothing less than the “last chance saloon” for youth work in the UK.

Source:
www.guardian.co.uk/society/2007/dec/05/guardiansocietysupplement.youngpeople

A copy of Aiming High for Young People can be downloaded at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/2/6/cyp_tenyearstrategy_260707.pdf

The last word

The QLP-Y project formally ended with the final report to the funders, Paul Hamlyn Foundation in December 2007. This was also marked by the publication of the QLP-Y Final Report and the end of the Module “Innovation and Development in Information Services”. The end of the project has also seen the departure of the two QLP-Y staff, Emily Sowter and Michael Goetzinger.

Yet it is not possible to stop the momentum built up over more than two years of “management development in service development”. Some activities will continue until August 2008 in Barnet which completes its QLP project later as it started after the others. Haringey and Portsmouth will continue their QLP-Y initiated activities during 2008.

These activities will be supported by members of the Project Group supported by two new members – Elizabeth Smallwood (the Editor of this publication) and Monica Chatterjee who works two days a week to provide administrative support. Thus while this is the last issue of “Youth Ideas & Action”, other publications will be issued later in the year. This includes various issues of QLP News and the final issue of Youth Policy Review. Long term plans include the production of “QLP Manual” as well as a conference on “Sustainable Innovation in Local Authorities”.

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Arts: Our shot at fame

Andy Hillier reports, on 1.8.07, on a musical theatre project in Peterborough that is giving young people without a performance background the chance to be on the stage.

Fourteen-year-old Justin Butler immediately makes his presence known on stage by springing into a cartwheel and bursting into song. Dressed in a loud 80s shirt and light-blue jeans, he looks every bit the confident stage performer. For Justin, though, this is a unique experience. Being dyslexic, he would usually struggle to read out loud in front of a class of 30 teenagers, yet alone an audience of 800 people. But here on stage at the Cresset Theatre in Peterborough you would never guess that Justin can't read or spell "the big words", as he puts it.

Justin is one of more than 100 young people taking part in Peterborough Young People's Service's Fame the Musical. The show is being run by the youth service's West End in the City scheme, which aims to give people aged 13 to 19 who might not ordinarily get the opportunity to appear on stage the chance to perform alongside their more accomplished peers.

Designed to unite

The show has brought together a range of young people from different local projects, including Interface Youth Theatre, Peterborough Youth Voice and the Positive Activities for Young People Funky Fairies group, as well as young singers from Essex County Council Youth Service.

The production was the brainchild of Caroline Dolby, curriculum specialist youth worker at Peterborough Young People's Service, who noticed a growing interest in musical theatre among young people following the success of TV shows such as *How do you solve a problem like Maria?* A keen musician herself and actively involved in an established youth music project, she believed it was the ideal way of attracting young people who might not ordinarily think about attending a youth project. "There were lots of drama and music projects locally where young people could get involved if they had a particular talent but nothing for those who just wanted the chance to be part of a production," she says.

Ads were placed in youth centres and local newspapers in January and the youth service was overwhelmed by the response. More than 100 young people expressed an interest in getting

involved, either on stage or behind the scenes. Rehearsals for the shows began later that month and continued on a weekly basis until July, with extra sessions run during the school holidays.

Dolby says the show has required a level of commitment beyond what some of the young people have demonstrated before. "Some of the girls who have come to us have behavioural problems and have struggled just to sit in a rehearsal for more than two hours. But they've learned motivational and time-keeping skills and hopefully they will feel it has been useful."

Another aim of the scheme has been to improve the image of young people living in the area. Many residents tend to view young people as yobbish, claims Denham Hughes, senior practitioner at Peterborough Young People's Service, and this perception is often reinforced in the local media. "The young people get a raw deal," he says. "If you believe what you read in the papers, every young person carries a knife."

Staging a musical that local residents can attend demonstrates that young people are capable of great things and don't want to hang out on street corners causing trouble, believes Hughes.

Playing one of the lead roles in the musical is 13-year-old Kamal Hyman. The star of two previous youth theatre productions, Kamal has enjoyed working alongside young people from a variety of backgrounds. Kamal and his family moved from Hayes in Middlesex just over two years ago and he admits he has found it hard meeting young people with similar interests to himself. Being cast as Tyrone, the talented black street dancer with attitude, has been one of the highlights of his year. "I wasn't sure I'd get the part," he says. "I've acted and done some dancing but I'm not a strong singer." He's had to learn raps and improve his dancing for the role. "It's been tough but fun," admits Hyman. "The workers have been really supportive."

Fourteen-year-old Ben Hachula has also appreciated being part of the project. A young carer whose mother suffers from depression, he has

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Hear By Right, Act By Right and What's Changed – new resources from The NYA

The NYA believes that effective participation of children and young people demands three strands:

- Standards for organisations (Hear by Right),
- Skills for children and young people (Act by Right)
- Evidence of change (What's Changed).

Together these form a powerful triangle of participation to improve services and outcomes for children and young people, helping gain their rights to a good childhood and to fulfil their potential.

In recognition of these three strands the following new Participation resources have been launched:

- The revised Hear by Right book
- The revamped Hear by Right website
- New information on Act by Right
- The new What's Changed publication

More information is available at the Hear by Right website at <http://hbr.nya.org.uk>

Source:

www.nya.org.uk/templates/internal.asp?nodeid=96489

The revised Hear by Right book

This revised 2008 edition has a number of new aspects designed to help to strengthen the integrity of the Hear by Right process and safeguard against tokenism. It includes:

- How any organisation can use Hear by Right to show evidence of an 'adequate' level of participation by children and young people
- How to make sure there is recording of evidence of change in both the organisation and in children and young people's lives
- How all organisations and children and young people can make more practical use of the Hear by Right standards using the additional tools on the new
- CD and even more on the new Hear by Right shared learning website
- How through partnership with Investing in Children partners can gain external validation of evidence from children and young people of their participation leading to dialogue and change.

...Arts: *continued from previous page*

come along for the day to hand out tickets and show people to their seats. "I'm not really one for going on stage but I like helping out behind the scenes," he says. "It's been a fun day."

Dolby says the scheme has exceeded her expectations. Many of the young people have expressed an interest in attending youth service projects over the school holidays and Dolby and her colleagues now intend to begin rehearsals for High School Musical in the autumn. "The young people are really keen to keep involved," says Dolby.

The project has certainly given young people like Justin more confidence. "I'm definitely going to put my name forward for the new production," he says.

Source:

www.ypnmagazine.com/news/index.cfm?fuseaction=full_news& D=15099

Report to Paul Hamlyn Foundation Part 1 (December 2007)

The QLP-Y Final Report (No. 6) Part 1, covering the period May 2007 – October 2007 was submitted to PHF in January 2008. The full Report is available at QLP website: www.seapn.org.uk/qlp/

Final Evaluation Report

Evaluation of Quality Leaders Project (Youth) initiative (2007). Final report. Jane Pitcher and Mary Eastwood-Krah. December 2007. The full report is available at QLP website at:

www.seapn.org.uk/listDocuments.asp?page_id=37

Love Libraries Award 2007 – winner announced

The Love Libraries Award celebrates the fantastic work libraries do to encourage more young people through the doors to discover all the great things libraries have to offer. After a nail-biting public vote, with thousands voting online and via the finalist libraries to pledge support for their favourite project, Love Libraries can reveal the winner of the Love Libraries Award 2007 is...

Get It Loud in Libraries!

The groundbreaking project from Lancaster Library won the award, beating off tough competition from rival finalists Birmingham, Derbyshire, Grangetown and Lambeth library services.

The award, launched in May 2007, attracted nominations from over a third of public library authorities in England. The outstanding quality of entries received demonstrates how libraries are adapting and becoming more responsive to the changing needs of young people and others in the community.

Representatives from each of the five finalist projects attended the awards ceremony held at the British Library in October, where the results of the public vote were announced by Roy Clare CBE, Chief Executive of MLA Partnership. He commended each of the five projects for unlocking the enthusiasm of young people and helping to transform libraries into places where young people of all ages can engage with books and learning in a space serving the community.

Lancaster Library was presented with a trophy and £2,000 towards the project. The Love Libraries Award is testament to how far the service has come and how libraries are evolving.

Details of the finalist projects are as follows:

Get it Loud in Libraries at Lancaster Library

Transforming the library into an evening rock venue with PA system, sound engineer and stage, staff are creating a safe and intimate venue for young people to chill with friends. The gigs are bringing in diverse crowds, introducing people to all the great things the library has to offer, and sending them away with smiles on their faces.

"The essence of Get It Loud in Libraries is simply to give young people, especially teenagers who love music, a fabulous time in a library and put them in the right frame of mind to use libraries again whether it's for novels, music, internet, quiet time, whatever. To pitch great bands into the unique traditional library setting and allow all ages to come and enjoy the music is, for me, the best use of space in

an after hours setting. Get It Loud in Libraries offers modern, up to the minute excitement on teenager's terms in a safe, feel good environment."

Stewart Parsons, Music Librarian

"A massive thank you for the gig – one of my favourite bands right on my doorstep – unbelievable. I even came into the library the next day to check out the novels for some holiday reading – the power of song or what!"

Young library user

"Thanks for the gig. It was early enough for my young son to attend, and he was so enthralled he is now begging me to buy him a guitar so he can take up music. Thanks for the opportunity again."

Parent

Urban Art at Birmingham Central Library

Birmingham Library staff hold regular creative workshops in the library for a group of young homeless people from St Basils Charity and Housing Association. With the support of a local artist, the group have used their artistic talents to transform two grey concrete walls at the rear of the library into a welcoming graffiti display to attract more young people inside.

The group were inspired by library services – books and story characters, magazines, membership cards and computers with free internet access to produce a vibrant display of urban art, which can be enjoyed by all who walk past.

"The Urban Art project is a wonderful project to work on. The young people from St Basil's are really enthused, engaging in the resources on offer to design

and paint graffiti art work promoting the service. We continue to work with the group and are planning to redevelop an unused area near to the library. They have shown commitment and determination and are really pleased about being nominated for this award. It is a real pleasure working with them."

Phil Burns, Youth Development Officer, Birmingham Central Library

"I'm really pleased. It's the best project I've ever really done to be honest. Every single person that came to do this project was really good and I'm really like chuffed with it – so I'm really proud."

Urban Art project member

"Hopefully through what we've put on the walls, eventually people will come into the library and find out what the library's got to offer."

Urban Art project member

Book Pushers in Derbyshire Libraries

Derbyshire Libraries Book Pushers are a group of teenage reading advocates who give regular presentations to young people in schools and libraries to spread their love of reading. Recruited and developed by library staff, the Book Pushers influence the selection of library books as well as producing creative displays of their recommended reads in the library.

The Book Pushers also deliver training for library staff to help improve services for young people and encourage more people in the local area to discover the many things libraries have to offer today.

"Book Pushers has been the most rewarding project I have ever been involved in. Their passion for reading, and delight in talking about it, has energised so many people and changed attitudes to young people and libraries. I'm thrilled for them that the project has been recognised by the Love Libraries Award."

Will Newman, Reader/Audience Development Officer, Cultural and Community Services, Derbyshire

"There are lots of great things that come with working for the Book Pusher project. You get to meet new people, see new places and have your voice heard. Being a Book Pusher has helped me to develop many skills that may help in future life such as confidence, team working and presentation skills. The project has helped me to try new things and helped me to enjoy the pleasures of reading and talking about books to others who may not have previously considered them a worthwhile hobby."

Derbyshire Libraries Book Pusher, Age 15

Youth Forum in Grangetown Library

Grangetown Library hold a monthly Youth Forum where young people can have their say about what's hot and what's not in their local community and get actively involved in making it a safer place to live.

For budding designers the library hosts a weekly Fashion-Able group where members are learning all about fashion, how to run a business, and designing and making their own clothes.

Members of the Youth Forum have formed a gardeners group, and designed a new outdoor garden and play area with plants, flowers, decorative fencing, an allotment and seating to make the library a more enjoyable place to spend time.

"The Youth Forum continually attracts over 20 members to meetings, made up of various local groups from disadvantaged backgrounds. The dedication of the library staff has helped young people in the local community to engage, shape and ultimately have a major impact on a host of Borough wide services and plans designed for young people. They have developed confidence and stretched themselves way beyond their comfort zone. This has been achieved as a result of Grangetown Library having a vision that is now having an impact for young people in Redcar and Cleveland and beyond."

Ian Williams – Area Youth Worker, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

"I come to the Grangetown Library on a daily basis. Me and my friend come to play on the computers, read books, help out and do homework. I am involved in the gardening project group where you learn all about gardening. In the garden we have done ourselves we have put bark down, planted flowers and grown some vegetables in our greenhouse. We also put tubs of flowers at the front of library to make it look a better place and to encourage more people to

...continues on page 8

Love Libraries Award 2007 continued

visit the library. The thing I like most about the library is that the staff are friendly and very sociable."

Youth Forum Member, Age 13

"At the Youth Forum a group of youths get together once a month to discuss what issues there are in Redcar and Cleveland, and how we can tackle them. We have come up with 9 top issues, and when the top issue is solved, or can't be progressed, the second biggest issue will then be worked on."

Youth Forum Member, Age 16

Variety Shows in Lambeth Libraries

Lambeth Libraries are entertaining young people with evening variety shows that showcase the local talents of singers, dancers, poets,

performers and musicians in a safe environment. The shows are introducing young people from diverse backgrounds to all the great things libraries offer in an exciting and enjoyable way.

Lambeth Libraries are also hosting youth debates giving young people an opportunity to voice their opinions on issues close to their hearts, such as the influence of Rap music on youth culture.

"Young people have varying needs for library use which includes a place to study with appropriate resources, a safe place to be in, as well as a community place to enjoy an evening of entertainment."

Sandra Davidson, Senior Children and Young People's Services Librarian, London Borough of Lambeth

"Lambeth Libraries organise loads of interesting events for young people. Earlier this year I attended a debate about being Black and British. It was very interesting and encouraged me to learn more about my background. I also attended a variety show in Brixton Library, it was fantastic to see so many young people there rather than being on the streets. I enjoyed all the acts and they all inspired me and I am now taking dance classes because of the standard I saw at the show. I hope to attend a lot more events in libraries. I would like to thank Lambeth Libraries for their contribution to my life 's choices and changes'."
Young library user

Source:
www.lovelibraries.co.uk/lovelibrariesaward/index.php

Children's Plan pledges £160m for youth facilities for 2008-10

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Ed Balls, launched the "Children's Plan: Building Brighter Futures" on 11 December 2007. The plan sets out the government's agenda for children, young people and families, based on putting their needs at the centre of integrated services

Key areas

The plan identifies three areas where it wants to strengthen the commitments made in Aiming High for Young People: a ten-year strategy for positive activities

- Setting a clear goal that all young people will participate in positive activities and access a broad range of experiences;

- Making further investment to improve places to go in every community;
- Exploring ways of improving further information about things to do and places to go

Specific measures within the plan include:

- An additional £160m over two years to improve the quality and range of youth facilities, shaped by young people.
- Developing an "entitlement" for all young people to participate in positive activities with cultural activity as a central focus

Source:

www.nya.org.uk/Templates/Internal.asp?NodeID=96359

To Change the Dance You Must Change the Music

This article, by Ailish Byrne and Jim Hunt, describes communication for social change (CFSC) in youth programmes in Ethiopia. These youth dialogue programmes provide young people with forums to discuss HIV/AIDS and encourage them to take an active role in preventing the spread of the virus. The article also explains why participatory monitoring and evaluation of such programmes is essential. Since the 1980s, Ethiopians – and other people around the world – have witnessed vast amounts of message-driven, top-down HIV/AIDS communication, i.e. providing information, with minimal or no impact on HIV incidence rates, particularly amongst the youth. According to the article, this has led to a scenario of ad-hoc programming with major gaps, eg a neglect of girls, in which young people have had no voice or stake.

The Youth Empowerment Through Dialogue Programme, led by United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Ethiopia's HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office (HAPCO), advocates a shift from messages to catalysing and positively changing values, traditions, culture and practice through communication for social change. The programme promotes "Community Conversations" which aim to include more voices and generate as much community dialogue, youth decision-making and tangible action as possible. The programme also seeks to extend the reach of community voices through the mass media and support community action with appropriate information, service delivery and policy.

According to the article, when young people have the opportunity to discuss HIV/AIDS, they consider issues within their own socio-cultural contexts, identify and prioritise their problems, define their capacity and strengths, and mobilise resources for collective gain. Through these community discussions, there is an attempt at a comprehensive effort to bring CFSC to a national scale, and to monitor and evaluate it in a way that is consistent with a participatory approach. The programme works mainly through youth clubs. In Ethiopia, youth clubs are widely established as social and educational institutions. These clubs are increasingly finding ways to enter the public

dialogue regarding the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS.

With a variety of partner organisations and the media, hundreds of clubs are now engaged in a nationwide effort to change the norms governing HIV/AIDS behaviour. As one of the adult partners put it: "To change the dance, you must change the music." Young voices are being heard and are active in setting the agenda relating to individual, media and governmental decisions about HIV/AIDS.

UNICEF-trained facilitators work in five regions, focusing on HIV/AIDS within a broader life-context that includes issues of poverty, jobs (or lack thereof), street children, and gender discrimination. Fundamental human rights principles of self-determination, participation and inclusion underlie the initiative. The work encompasses diverse partnerships at strategic levels, including with youth associations, government, the media, NGOs and schools.

Key achievements include more than 400 dialogue sites in five regions, involving more than 20,000 young people engaged in bi-weekly dialogue at youth clubs. Young people are the main facilitators and initiators of these dialogues, which are giving youth clubs greater purpose and support. The outcomes of dialogue increasingly feed into popular newsletters and radio dramas, many produced by young people.

Source:

www.comminit.com/africa/socialchange/schange2006/socialchange-33.html

The full article can be read online at:

www.communicationforsocialchange.org/mazi-articles.php?id=287

Youth services blossom thanks to QLP-Y

The evaluation of an innovative youth project throws a bright spotlight on future challenges and the lessons go well beyond the focus on youth, claims CILIP's *Library and Information Update*. Update reports that the Quality Leaders Project – Youth (QLP-Y) aims at management development through service development. One or two Quality Leaders (QLs) were appointed in each of the four participating authorities – Barnet, Haringey, Lincolnshire and Portsmouth. The evaluation finds that the skills of the Quality Leaders did develop in areas such as project management, advocacy and

huge numbers. Others saw numbers that looked relatively small but were, in fact, highly significant, given the kind of young people who came.

The project became an effective advocate, proving libraries' worth to their local councils, and the point of youth work to libraries. As one QL notes: "It has given a certain amount of credibility to any youth work that we do." Another found QLP-Y a springboard into the intricacies of general partnership building: "We have made a lot of partners as a result of QLP-Y, people we weren't working with before, that we will seek to work with on a

However, despite the clear success of the project, resistance to change is still an issue and some authorities clearly still have a long way to go in embedding change. A central project group member stressed: "I think we have underestimated the amount of resistance and forces of conservatism which go against these sort of innovative projects, and the amount of effort and time and resources it takes to actually overcome them." However, some partnerships, notably in Lincolnshire with youth and other services, flourished and are well embedded.

"QLP-Y... does present a very powerful model of how community engagement can be employed and how it can be rolled out with a community, in this case youth."

communication to name but three.

However the real achievement was in the area of service development. One QL said: "We've set up a model that's very much about delivering services to young people, engaging them in libraries, and less focused on CPD for youth workers and librarians."

Many lessons were learned. The four authorities involved had different levels of youth involvement and ran very different activities. Some drew

part-time or occasional basis in future." One mentor (senior person within the local authority who supports the Quality Leader) said: "There's definitely a link with the national [Framework for the Future] agenda." Another said: "QLP-Y has been a very useful pilot for the broader considerations of community engagement. It does present a very powerful model of how community engagement can be employed and how it can be rolled out with a community, in this case youth."

But it is vital, as one QL notes, to keep up the good work and take it beyond the project stage: "The people above us will have to decide what priority they are going to put on youth work, because if they are serious about it they are going to have to put the money there. It is also about making sure that all library staff are listening to young people."

Source:

Library and Information Update: March 2008 vol 7 (3) pp.16-17

First winners of **Their Past Your Future 2** funding announced

Learning from conflict is at the heart of the 28 projects receiving funding in the first year of Their Past Your Future 2. The projects aim to promote a better understanding of the impact of wars and struggles by bringing the past to life – enabling young people to learn from those in their community with first-hand experience.

Among those successful in this round of grants are an oral history archive project that will work with schools and members of the local Indian, Bangladeshi and Pakistani communities to look at experiences of Partition and the effect on the lives and experiences of local people. Other projects are enabling young people to work with local residents who experienced World War II, talking about the effect that war had on them and how current disputes affect communities.

Eve Pattinson, Their Past Your Future Project Manager at MLA, said: "All of the proposals submitted for this first year of funding have been of extremely high quality and it has been hard to decide where the funding should be allocated. All of the successful projects highlighted just how much could be done through partnership working in local communities. Many of the successful projects won't just benefit those directly involved but will create learning resources, exhibitions or drama productions that extend their reach."

Their Past Your Future 2 is the second phase of this Big Lottery Fund project that is managed and delivered by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Partnership. Over the next three years £1.5 million will be made available to museums, libraries and archives who want to work in one of two areas of focus: children and young people and inter-generational learning.

More information is available on the MLA website.

The next round of grant funding will open in mid-February 2008. Museums, libraries and archives who are interested in applying should contact their MLA regional agency to find out more.

Source:

www.mla.gov.uk/programmes/their_past_your_future

Children's Visions and Voices: Rights and Realities in South Africa

This project presents photography by children in South Africa representing situations where their rights are threatened or violated. The Children's Rights Centre's documentary researcher, Alex Fattal, asked children to document their lives through photography, and used the pictures as the basis for oral histories. The material was synthesised in an exhibition titled "Children's Visions and Voices: Rights and Realities in South Africa" that has travelled throughout South Africa.

The aim is to create awareness about child rights violations in South Africa by exhibiting the work of the participants, and allowing the intimate nature of the photographs to inspire activism, debate and a greater understanding of children's rights.

Main Communication Strategies

The project seeks to communicate the lived realities of a wide range of South African children by providing them the opportunity to document their daily lives. The project has been carried out in close partnership with community organisations, which helped to supervise and support the children's efforts. All participants and their caregivers consented to the activities involved in the project, and remain anonymous in the exhibition.

The organisers maintain that the "public eye" renders this project an advocacy campaign for children's rights. The idea that children have identified violating circumstances, documented them, discussed them with their peers, and understand the dangers that they involve emphasises the usefulness of this communication strategy. Granting children the opportunity to participate in advocating for their rights empowers them to take part creatively in their own and their community's development.

While the children were improving their social and artistic skills, the project co-ordinators were also interested in how effective the children's photographs would be in communicating the significance of children's rights. "The goal of this strategy is to provoke viewers to pay attention to situations that violate child rights." This communication strategy attempts to convey the children's visions for an improved, child-friendly society that recognises their rights as children.

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Index to previous issues

We thought that it may be useful to include in this, the final Youth Ideas and Action, an index of particularly relevant articles/inclusions from previous issues, as well as this one. Some of the articles may not be immediately obvious as of use to work with young people in libraries. However, all the articles listed contain information which is likely to be of interest to those working with young people in a library environment, either because the article focuses on youth work in libraries, because it provides information on tools for working with

young people or because it provides a model (other than QLP-Y!) for what can be achieved when the contribution that young people can make to developing and improving a service offer is taken seriously. All articles list the source from which it was taken, in case you wish to obtain further information.

Previous issues of Youth Ideas and Action are available at the QLP website:

www.seapn.org.uk/qlp/

Index to previous issues	Issue No.	Page
Aiming High for Young People	11	3
Asylum myths and asylum reality	3	4
Asylum seekers' skills, empowerment and training	3	4
Blackburn's integrated children's centre	9	7
Children's Plan launched	11	10
DASS submission to London Assembly investigation on activities and places to go for young people	5	5
Developing communities containing dispersed refugee people	3	9
Every child matters outcomes framework	5	14
"Filling the youth shaped hole"	10	8
Government changes	10	10
Innovative and creative projects (brief details, with links, to projects around the country)	10	3
Information, Society and Justice	10	8
Libraries can develop creative reading	5	13
"Libraries, young people and QLP-Y"	4	8
Moss Side Powerhouse Library	9	7
New resources from NYA	11	4
On a high note: songs for and by young people	9	8
Public libraries: promoting young people's active involvement	10	14
QLP-Y approach	1	5
QLP-Y implementation stage takes off	6	1
To change the dance, you must change the music	11	8
What young people have a right to expect from their library	11	2
Young people: ten year strategy	10	12
Young people and the media: the facts	2	6
Young Turks and Kurds: a set of "invisible" disadvantaged groups	3	8
Youth services blossom thanks to QLP-Y	11	9