

V1 Draft Manifesto - Devon Cultural Education Partnership (DCEP)  
19th April 2018

The Common Agenda - National

The Cultural Education Challenge asks art and cultural organisations, educational institutions, and local authorities to come together to drive a joined-up art and cultural offer locally, to share resources and bring about a more coherent and visible delivery of cultural education through Cultural Education Partnerships.

The Cultural Education Challenge is focussed in particular on young people experiencing disadvantage, and on co-production with young people who are increasingly involved in shaping the offer.

DCEP - Our Common Beliefs

- ✚ That experiencing arts and culture in their formative years brings positive, and unique, benefits to young people's lives across their learning, cultural, and personal and social needs
- ✚ That there is a strong and diverse young people's cultural offer in Devon, and a depth of experience, practice, and energy within the local authority, education sector, and the voluntary sector, driving that offer forward

DCEP - Our Common Goals

- ✚ That this cultural offer in Devon is not as consistent as it could be, nor as visible as it could be, nor as accessible as it could be, for all young people in Devon regardless of where they live and the disadvantage that they experience, and the progression routes that fit their needs
- ✚ That we can enhance this offer, and improve access to it, by working together to agree and carry out concerted actions towards our common goals. And that we accept that these common goals will change over time as new people join the initiative bringing new perspectives and new information to the conversation

DCEP - Our Understandings

- That the Cultural Education Challenge is an Arts Council England (ACE) call to action, with the ACE Bridge organisations charged to ensure that 50 Cultural Education Partnerships (CEP) are set up across the country in areas of most need by 2022
- That there is no specific funding from ACE for the development of these local partnerships and their activity

- That through a process of working towards shared goals our DCEP may, at some point in the future, make applications for financial resources to support our activities
- That in the first instance the DCEP does not intend to set up an organisation or a formal structure. But to work through collaborative impact, collective endeavour, and shared responsibility, gathering momentum and collecting 'membership' across those with professional or voluntary roles in cultural education, young people themselves, and the wider community including business and public

### DCEP - What we have done to date (@ April 2018)

- 1) Convened a number (5) of group conversations across the county, through which we have networked, and developed our ideas about need and the opportunities for collaborative action to address this need
- 2) Initiated a number of working parties to take forward particular ideas for action that have arisen in those conversations
- 3) Liaised and engaged with the ACE Bridge organisation, RIO, regarding our process and development
- 4) Documented all conversations and events to date

Our focus has been:

- 1) developing awareness of the Cultural Education Challenge and its aims
- 2) bringing as many voices to the table as we can, in order to identify current needs
- 3) identifying who and where the energy for collaborative action to address those needs is currently held

### DCEP - What we will do next

- 1) Create a place where key documentation about the Devon CEP and how to get involved is available to all
- 2) Convene 3 or more conversations per year, preferably 'piggy backing' on activities and events which demonstrate cultural education partnerships in practice (such as Daisi's Machina Festival, and Beaford's planned Spring 2019 events with Burton Art Gallery)
- 3) Take forward our actions explored to date by the first phase of working parties:  
i.e.
  - i) building and making visible a diverse set of Cultural Champions, to highlight opportunities in Devon, and ways in which individuals and groups can take effective action towards our common goals

- ii) developing a digital portal which will support increased coherence and visibility of, and access to, Devon's cultural education offer
  - iii) developing the concept of 'branding' or 'badging' activities and events which support and further DCEP aims, and building a set of diverse case studies to celebrate, and inform, practice
- 4) In time, and with resource, develop our measures of success (through which we can gauge progress), our data gathering and analysis (looking at what the evidence is telling us about gaps, challenges and opportunities, which will change over time), and developing a DCEP Theory of Change and related action plans
- 5) Continue to promote and build broad and diverse involvement with the DCEP, to include those with professional or voluntary roles in culture, education, and local authority, and young people themselves, but also 'unusual suspects' or 'outliers' who have not necessarily engaged in conversation around Devon's cultural education offer such as: people who have resource or influence; people with lived experience of the challenge the DCEP is trying to address; and others who have the perspective and ability to shift the conversation towards new thinking and ideas
- 6) In due course, consider what needs, if any, there are for the DCEP to adopt a more formal structure. But to always proceed with outcomes for young people as the primary concern and the focus for collective effort, so not be diverted into creating unnecessary structures.