



Culture and Heritage in Partnership with Personalisation

Project Overview

Chipp Shop is a project that has been undertaken through funding from the social care budgets within Worcestershire County Council to give people in receipt of social care budgets an opportunity to take part in arts activities in Kidderminster. Chipp stands for Culture and Heritage in Partnership with Personalisation and has been running through a mixture of subsidised funding and people's own finances.

The project was undertaken as a way of bringing together mainstream arts activities to people who in effect were known to social care teams, but who had both little cultural provision to do and who were low in confidence and were interested in taking part in arts activities. No numbers were given other than the knowledge that several thousand adults were known to social care teams and that many complained consistently of having nothing to do.

30 people, mainly Learning Disabled take part in a weekly two hour workshop where they take part in drama, music, dance and creative writing. Each session lasts two hours and is led by two artists with support from the arts department at Worcestershire County Council. As yet there has been very little evaluation requested by our social services colleagues. A new Chipp shop has just begun in Evesham.

Project Outcome

The impact has been remarkable with 30 people attending each week and paying £6 a session. Prior to the project beginning we were told that no one would pay for arts as it was always provided for free! Now people tell us that Chipp Shop has changed their life and that they live for their two hour session.

There are currently 39 signed up members of Chipp Shop and each has spoken anecdotally in terms of having their lives improved confidence, creative skills, social skills including developing friendship.

We have an on-going issue as to whether we are running a high quality arts project or a social provision; and at times it's more of a social project.

We are looking at using the recovery star as a way of showing on going development of people. In terms of the future, we are hoping that an arts organisation will take on Chipp shop as a social enterprise, with the county council as a partner.

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