

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	6.
Date:	1st February 2010	Status	Open
Category	Part of the Budget and Policy Framework		
Subject:	Junction Arts Community Arts Programme – 2nd Stage Payment 2009/10		
Report by:	Arts Development Officer		
Other Officers Involved	Head of Leisure		
Director	Director of Neighbourhoods		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor A. M. Syrett, Portfolio Holder for Social Inclusion		

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

REGENERATION – Developing healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities

Contribute to bringing awareness to issues regarding health within the District.

Help develop flourishing rural communities.

Help develop vibrant projects through creative work.

SOCIAL INCLUSION – Promoting fairness, equality and lifelong learning

Ensure quality in the delivery of services.

Promote the development of skill and learning in the community.

ENVIRONMENT – Promoting and enhancing a clean and sustainable environment

Protect, enhance and improve the natural environment in a sustainable way through the development of the arts

Bring awareness to the environment through creativity

CUSTOMER FOCUSED SERVICES

Strengthen community consultation.

Design and deliver services to meet the needs of participants.

Improve quality of services delivered.

TARGETS

The work of Junction Arts directly impacts on the Corporate Plan target relating to increasing the number of annual recorded attendances at participatory arts programmes each year.

VALUE FOR MONEY

The Council's core funding helps to lever nearly £132,018 of additional investment in Community Arts provision.

THE REPORT

The Council has approved annual core funding offered in two stage payments. Fifty percent (50%) of the funding released in April each financial year on receipt of a proper invoice and the balance released in December or upon submission of the Junction Arts Annual Report, subject to a satisfactory activity report being received.

(Minute No. 826/03 refers). The 2nd stage payment is now due for the current financial year and the report from Junction Arts for the period April to December 2009 is attached at Appendix 1, pages 54 to 65.

Currently Junction Arts priority areas are:-

Creative Learning

Celebrations & Festivals

Art & Wellbeing

Arts in the Public Realm

Attendance statistics which show that Junction Arts had audiences of 3,588 during the period April to December and 6,318 participants attending participatory arts activities. The target set for 2009/10 was 25,350. Achieved between April 2009 and December 2009 was 9,906. Junction Arts have indicated that it is likely that the targets set for 2009/10 will not be met and predicted attendances for January to end March 2010 will be approximately 325 which takes their total to around 10,231 against a target of 25,350.

Junction Arts have sent the following statement with regard to circumstances regarding project cancellations and projects where targets have not been met. "The Junction Arts draft programme was originally conceived in January 2009 and draft targets set at that date. The nature of any voluntary sector participatory arts organisation requires our ability to be responsive, proactive and essentially flexible to the needs of communities, partners and funders. In a time of economic change it is doubly difficult for organisations such as Junction Arts and we believe we have risen to the challenges of the times

during the year, by care and attention to research, consultation and careful planning.

The report to date clearly outlines this approach and the reality of the times and context in which we work. The report includes new projects which have been developed and a number of projects which were unable to proceed.

The outline plan for 2010/11 has now been completed for the 3 Year Business Plan and we will monitor this programme as in previous years, with the knowledge that there will be development and change as part of the very nature of our work.”

Projects where targets have not been achieved include:

Junction Arts anticipated audience and participants for the “Sidelinez” project at 2,200. This project is still in the pilot stages and therefore unfortunately has not met its target. Achieved attendance 86.

“Beating it”, an arts project around smoking cessation was cancelled which meant targets of 150 were not met.

“Isolated Communities”, a project focusing on the nature of rural communities and their general health, self esteem, aspiration and ambition was cancelled which meant that a target of 345 was not met.

“Community Arts Leaders”, a programme of work to train community arts leaders to empower local community groups to become self sustaining. Although funding was secured for this project staffing issues meant that this project could not be delivered. It has been currently postponed until staffing issues are resolved (see Junction Arts Programme Report 2009/10).

“Fun in the Woods” a programme of creative learning. Despite extensive community consultation, pilot work, supporting evidence and work with partners Junction Arts were unsuccessful in Neighbourhood Renewal funding bid and the project will not take place this year. Targets for this project were 1,000.

Creative Partnerships, a National partnership scheme with the Government and Arts Council England, has been a strong focus of Junction Arts work in local schools during the last four years. During the summer term Junction Arts completed the remaining contracted Creative Partnerships projects in schools in a range of art forms and artists. Junction Arts has decided not to carry on it’s work with Creative Partnerships (The Mighty Creatives as they are now called) and have changed direction to work on the Creative Curriculum project. Targets set of 4,250 were partially met achieving attendances of 1,153.

‘Putting on The Ritz and Whitwell May Day Celebrations’. This one day Gala event for the community included dance, music, food workshops and attracted both a high level of participation and audience.

Funded by South Normanton Gala Group and Junction Arts Programme support. Target 2,940 achieved 2,708.

“Barlborough and Bolsover Lantern and Light Festivals”, both events funded by Parish/Town Council and Junction Arts Programme Support. Target set 6,500 achieved 3,577.

“Take Me With You”, a Public Art project which has now been submitted to the Arts Council’s Grants for the Arts funding scheme. Result of the bid to the Lottery Grant for the Arts, is anticipated as Spring 2010. Therefore, the original target for this year will not now be met and new targets will be set for 2010 to match the project. Target set 1,500. none achieved.

New projects emerging where targets were not set but have been achieved include:

Creative Consultation Day with Health Service Managers, Health Visitors and School Nurses using creative approaches to elicit staff feedback regarding changes to service. Achieved attendances of 160.

“Travellers Project”. Meetings were progressed with the DCC Travellers Co-ordinator to extend the previous work. Due to complications within the site this project was postponed. Achieved attendances of 19.

“Dads and Kids Make it”. Through partnership with Sure Start Junction Arts have developed project workshops for Fathers and Children. Achieved attendance of 143.

“Stratum”. Junction Arts was invited to bring a creative element to the launch of the new building at Creswell Crag. A photographic commission produced limited edition gifts for guests and a public exhibition in the centre. Attendance 231.

Projects which exceeded their targets include:

“How do you Look”. Two projects have been undertaken, in Heritage and Tibshelf secondary schools. Young People have been engaged in creative workshops focussing on body image and self esteem with artist Jan Flamank. Target set 45 achieved attendances of 155

Creative Curriculum Roadshows. Successful roadshows have been undertaken in number of schools leading to longer term projects and residencies within Junction Arts now. Target set 1,400 achieved 1,661.

The Council’s core funding helps to lever £132,018 of additional investment in Community Arts provision. This figure does not include the considerable amount of volunteer time that Junction Arts, as a charity, utilises throughout the year.

Junction Arts proposed plan for 2010/11 is attached at Appendix 2, pages 66 to 72, for your information.

Councillor Ann Syrett is the Council's representative on Junction Arts Board of Management.

ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

The target set for 2009/10 was 25,350. Achieved between April 2009 and end December 2009 was 9,906. Junction Arts have indicated that it is likely that the targets set for 2009/10 will not be met and have predicted attendances for January 2010 to end March 2010 will be approximately 325 which takes their total to 10,231 against a target of 25,350.

Grants to Voluntary Organisations have recently been reviewed as part of a discretionary service review. Junction Arts have a Service Level Agreement which states that funding will be given at the existing level of £19,800 until 31st March 2011. No further commitment has been given beyond this point.

The Council's funding is offered in two stage payments. Fifty percent (50%) of the funding will be released in April each financial year on receipt of a proper invoice and the balance released in December or upon receipt of and subject to a satisfactory activity report being received. It is for Members to decide whether or not Junction Arts has performed satisfactorily for the 2nd stage payment to be released.

A revised Service Level Agreement was written for Junction Arts for the financial year 2009/10 outlining in specific detail all the requirements for information reporting for the annual report and the report deadline. Despite emails, phone calls and reminders the information for the annual report arrived in-incorrectly formatted as in previous years. The information sent was targets achieved to date and proposed programme plan for 2010/11. Despite many reminders and emails the information was not forthcoming. Final information for the report was not received until 5th January 2010. The Service Level Agreement states that all information is to be provided in October of the financial year therein.

Following a meeting with Junction Arts in December 2009 to ascertain the information required for the Annual Report the Arts Development Officer enquired regarding a major area of work undertaken by Junction Arts in relation to work it undertakes with Creative Partnerships (now re-named The Mighty Creatives). It appears that Junction Arts has ceased all its contracts with The Mighty Creatives which was a major stream of work within the 2009/10 programme plan with targets set of 4250. Having only achieved 1153 of this target Junction Arts ceased all work with Mighty Creatives without any discussions with Bolsover District Council. Similarly, work undertaken under a project called "Take Me With You", a Public Art project with targets of 1500. This project slipped in its development and none of the targets were achieved. As major areas of work within the annual programme plan, it was felt that Bolsover District Council should have been approached and such schemes discussed.

When the “2009/10 programme plan to date” was sent by Junction Arts, targets had been changed from those set by Bolsover District Council in conjunction with Junction Arts. Despite our considerable efforts to engage with them - without any discussion with Bolsover District Council, Junction Arts independently changed the targets substantially to more manageable figures for them to achieve.

Junction Arts have experienced a large turnover of staff over the past twelve months, reducing their capacity and also their ability to maintain strong communications with Bolsover District Council.

Assessing the affect of arts work and provision has always been difficult. We never know how many people have been affected and it is difficult to measure the quality of the experience.

For the £19,800 that Bolsover invests towards arts provision totalling £132,018 Members might consider that sufficient value has been achieved to satisfy our investment which is a small proportion of the total invested in arts provision within Bolsover District.

IMPLICATONS

Financial: Core funding of £19,800 has been allocated to Junction Arts as part of the 2008/09 budget. There are no additional financial implications. £9,900 has been paid early in the financial year 2008/09 as per the Service Level Agreement. The balance of £9,900 is scheduled for payment subject to Members of Executive determining whether or not the report received by Junction Arts is satisfactory.

Legal: The grant is subject to Junction Arts complying with the conditions outlined in the Council’s Service Level Agreement.

Human Resources: The Arts Development Officer attends Junction Arts Board Meetings in a non voting capacity and has ongoing regular contact with Junction Arts staff.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1. Members to decide whether or not Junction Arts has performed satisfactorily to release the 2nd payment for 2009/10 totalling £9,900 to Junction Arts,**
- 2. That Members consider approval of the proposed annual plan & core funding for 2010/11.**

REASON FOR DECISION

To release the 2nd stage payment to Junction Arts.

ATTACHMENTS: **Y**
FILE REFERENCE: Junction Arts File (11.1.1)
Junction Arts Recorded Attendance Statistics
April to December 2009
SOURCE DOCUMENT: Junction Arts Programme Report
April to December 2009
Junction Arts Profit and Loss Account for year to
date 2008/09