

Case study nine: United Kingdom: National Evaluation of Creative Partnerships

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Aims

The main purpose of this project is to conduct a programme-level evaluation of the *Creative Partnerships* initiative during its pilot stage. The evaluation has three main aims:

- To establish how far Creative Partnerships has achieved its goal of securing an increased participation of young people, schools and the wider community in creative and cultural activities.
- To evaluate the impact of the programme on the key participant groups, namely: children and young people; creative professionals and arts, creative and cultural organisations; teachers and schools; parents and governors; community and other partner organisations.
- To analyse the lessons learned from the pilot and to offer practical recommendations for the roll-out of the scheme.

Project outline

Creative Partnerships is a new initiative to establish partnerships between schools and creative and cultural professionals. During the pilot phase, the initiative will be based in

16 areas of England which score high on indices of social and economic deprivation.

Each Partnership will work with about 25 schools.

The evaluation design focuses on the process of the initiative while providing indicators of outcomes. The main approach to measuring outcomes will be to gather the perceptions of all key participant groups. The evaluation will consider the progress of the partnerships in relation to targets set for the initiative.

The national evaluation will use both quantitative and qualitative methods. An electronic database will collect monitoring data from *Creative Directors* in each of the 16 partnership areas. There will be questionnaire surveys of schools, pupils and creative partners. Interviews will be held with key partners in all Partnership areas. Parents' views will be collected through focus group interviews. Case study visits to ten 'innovative' projects will involve two visits from members of the evaluation team. These will entail observation of activities and interviews with pupils, teachers, heads, governors and creative partners. Life history interviews will be conducted with up to 20 pupils and their parents.

Research methods

Questionnaire, interviews and life histories (narrative).

Results

The evaluation team will provide regular progress reports to *ACE* and the *Evaluation Steering Group*. The final report will be submitted to the sponsor in July 2006.

Main Impact

As this research is currently being conducted, it is too early to document impact.

Main Challenges

Not supplied