The Cultural Education Challenge &

Local Cultural Education Partnerships

Frequently asked Questions

What is the Cultural Education Challenge?

The Cultural Education Challenge is a call to arms led by Arts Council England and supported by the Department for Education. It asks all those who support children and young people, in particular the Education sector and the Cultural Sector to work collaboratively to address the issue of how to ensure no child misses out on the opportunity to create, compose and perform, visit, experience and participate. This may be through arts based subjects, it may be about using cultural opportunities to unlock other areas of the curriculum, it may be about out of hours provision.

What is a Local Cultural Education Partnership (LCEP)?

Local Cultural Education Partnerships are an idea launched nationally by Arts Council England in October 2015. The vision is to establish a cross sector partnership that works together to join-up and improve cultural education for children and young people in their local area.

Arts Council England see LCEPs as having great potential to make the biggest difference to meeting the Cultural Education Challenge. An LCEP will create a local plan for meeting the Cultural Education Challenge in their town or city. LCEPs are already established in Liverpool and Blackpool and three national pilots took place throughout 2013-15. See the link below for more information about what national pilots and some local NW pilots looked like.

<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/cyp/resources/>

Where will the partnerships be set up?

A local cultural education partnership can be set up anywhere. Arts Council England has identified some ‘focus areas’ in the North West and Curious Minds have been asked to support these areas in the next 2-3 years. Whilst we will focus our efforts here, we welcome discussion about any area of the North West.

Focus areas for development in the coming two years include:

Manchester, St Helens, Cheshire West and Cheshire, Pennine Lancashire, Preston, West Cumbria, Bolton, Rochdale, Tameside, Knowsley, Wigan, Sefton, Oldham, and Salford

Who might be in the partnership and how might they be structured?

Facilitated by a lead agency, the partnership should be locally relevant, with a high level of support from senior leaders in the locality. Engagement with senior representatives of the Local Authority will be sought and representatives from all appropriate stakeholders such as:

Cultural organisations, Private companies, Social enterprises, Local charities and trusts

Youth organisations, Social Enterprise Partnerships, Further Education, Schools, Music Education Hubs, Higher Education, Health organisations, or Early Years settings

The structure of each LCEP will differ according to local factors. Some may wish to begin with a small high-level steering group and then open out to include more delivery partners once established, others may be able to include all partners from the outset. The national pilot partnerships gave us three differing examples and you can read about them here:

<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/media/uploads/pdf/Cultural_Education_Partnerships_Pilot_Study_FINAL.pdf>

A crucial element however is that early conversations include those from both culture and education. They will have the ability to influence and make decisions that will affect all children and young people in the locality. The partnership group will be responsible for strategy and will work to engage local and regional delivery organisations and individuals, for example, using Arts Award and Artsmark to drive wider access.

What will Curious Minds role be?

Curious Minds will broker and convene the LCEP in the first phases, supporting the development of their planning in particular. Whilst we will hope to retain a strategic overview of partnerships in our role as Bridge, ultimately we will step back from delivery, unless the partnership identifies an additional, bespoke role.

What is the process and timescales?

An LCEP is likely to take anything from 6 months to 1 year to set up, It’s plans can span 2 -10 years.

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| Phase 1 Scoping  | Curious Minds is keen for local partners to take the lead as early as possible. The scoping phase provides an opportunity to gather existing data and listen to local contacts (as identified above) about who could form this partnership and what priorities they share for children and young people in their area. Curious Minds have been asked by Arts Council to initiate this process. We can provide useful data and have a number of helpful facilitation processes and resource we can offer. |
| Phase 2 Recommendations  | Following the scoping stage we would like to receive a 2-4 page recommendation for the LCEP area. This should include:* Identification of the appropriate lead organisation (the lead organisation should not be delivery focused, concentrating on strategy)
* Detail any existing local infrastructure for consulting and involving children and young people in decision making.
* Local need and priorities for children, families and schools – including key contacts for strategic interventions such as Troubled Families, School Improvement, Public Health, Youth Services and the Local Enterprise Partnership.
* What’s the state of play for cultural education? Building on and enhancing the information available in the Local Cultural Education Profile to suggest a set of KPIs against which the success of the partnership could be measured.
* Initial ambitions for the partnership.
* What would improve cultural education in the area? How might an enhanced cultural education offer support local priorities for children and young people?
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| Phase 3 Creating the plan |
| Phase 4 Implementing the plan |

How were the focus areas identified?

Arts Council England identified these areas based on perceived need or opportunity. For more details please contact the Arts Council directly.

Is there money available to LCEPs?

LCEPs will not automatically receive funding. Arts Council have not delegated funds specifically designed to support this work.

Curious Minds will work with the LCEPs to direct Bridge resources to support the setup of the LCEPs and may be able to support certain elements of their strategy. We expect partnerships will become a conduit for funding in the long-term.

What’s the benefit to my organisation?

Ultimately the benefit should be for Children and Young people. However, we do understand that organisations may wish to explore the benefits of working in this way for themselves. Some suggestions include

* An LCEP provides a more strategic, joined up approach which will enable you to contribute to local priorities and help strategic commissioners see your wider value
* It could create a cultural offer more closely aligned with the needs of multiple sectors – e.g. schools, youth, health, thus increasing the likelihood of their engagement with your organisation
* The LCEP should increase or highlight the value placed on local cultural assets
* The LCEP should lead to local influencers and decision makers talking about arts, culture and young people, raising the profile and encouraging buy-in
* There should be less duplication and more momentum

What’s happening in my area and how can I get involved?

If you are a Senior leader from within Education or Culture and wish to discuss your involvement in the strategic partnership group, please contact your area lead at Curious Minds

Greater Manchester : caz.brader@curiousminds.org.uk

Lancashire : derri.burdon@curiousmidns.org.uk

Merseyside : kelly.allen@curiousminds.org.uk

Cheshire : jude.bird@curiousminds.org.uk

Cumbria sarah.bailey@curiousminds.org.uk

If you are a delivery organisation (a school, youth centre, or cultural organisation) you can express interest and tell us your views via our online ‘Have your say’ form. We will ensure those views are considered as part of the scoping phase and are represented on the group.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LCEPconsultation>

Arts organisations, NPOs, Museums, Libraries can also begin to prepare their individual ‘cultural education’ offer. For example:

* You can begin to look at how your own school or organisation supports the cultural education challenge already.
* You can consider taking up the delivery of arts award or of becoming or supporting Artsmark schools
* You can talk to your local schools or cultural organisations about how you might meet the challenge together.

What has happened to date?

Curious Minds will post quarterly updates on the progress made in each area on our website, starting April 2016. You may wish to get in touch with your named contact locally to let them know you wish to join the conversation or to share your ideas