

Creating Justice evaluation

What impact does the Creating Justice
programme have, and how?

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WHAT WE DID

Evidence review

Reviewed evidence about the use of creative arts in criminal justice settings

Interviews

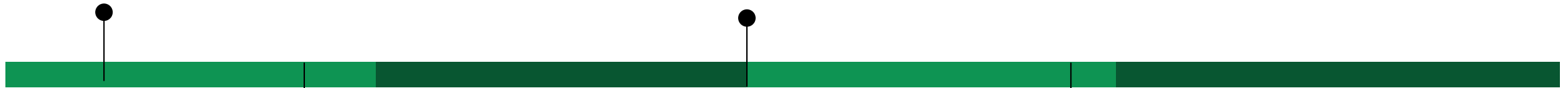
- Interviewed young people involved in the projects
- Interviewed practitioners leading the projects, or supporting young people
- Interviewed training attendees

2019

2020

2021

2022



Theory of Change

Collaboratively working with London Bubble staff and partners to think through the aims of the project and how those are achieved

London Bubble Theatre focus groups

Conducted focus groups with Bubble staff and practitioners to reflect on COVID-19 and on the impact created by the programme

Short term impact

- Resilience
- Confidence
- Communication
- Wellbeing
- Relationships
- Self-awareness and management

Communication

- Feeling enjoyment from being able to articulate themselves
- Appreciating the value of listening to others
- Learning and practising professional communication

"Yeah I definitely started listening more. When I first came I wasn't really... I was a kid that didn't listen, so I kind of like to listen to other people's points now, 'ok cool that's interesting' and I can kind of change my point and adapt it to be better."

Young person - Creative Voices

"They showed me [...] a movie clip. The actor who runs the programme. And, in the little movie clip he was being arrogant, he was speaking like how I'm talking now and like, stuff like that. It's little things, and like it shows a whole lot more when you just move correct."

Young person - Way into Work

Confidence and wellbeing

- Increased confidence to take part in group activities and to speak up
- Acknowledging and praising existing talents - appreciated receiving positive feedback and reactions to their contributions
- A sense of achievement, as well as feeling respected and heard, made young people feel better about themselves
- Praise led to a sense of pride
- An opportunity to relax, laugh and have fun

“People shaking my hand at the end [of the final performance] and saying you done well. That’s why I feel respected... that final session when the audience came, we didn’t know what they were going to think – but after I was like I know I have achieved something now.”

Young person – Creative Voices

“It [London bubble sessions] made me feel respected. It made me want to speak up more. If that makes sense? Because no one was talking over each other. They weren’t talking over each other, they were just listening to each other. So, everyone was listening to everyone’s opinions.”

Young person – Way into Work

“When I come here I have a laugh and I don’t usually have a laugh out there... I still have to carry on with my daily life. It’s just a session like you can refer to. Obviously I’m in a good mood innit but I still have to go back to reality.”

Young person – Creative Voices

Medium to long term impact

- Relationships
- Improved problem solving
- Engagement with new things
- Readiness
- Education and employment
- Self-identity development

Readiness and engagement with new things

- Raising aspirations and understanding of the options available to them
- Thinking actively about the future and hearing ideas from others
- Practical strategies for job interviews
- More prepared to try new things as a result of having a good experience
- Building trust with YOS officers
- Helping to identify interests

"Anything that comes my way I will try it now. Because me yeah, I had doubts when they told me about this group thing – but when I actually went to the group I was like wow - so now I won't doubt things – I will try it because good things can come out of it."

Young person - Creative Voices

"Creative Voices - I sometimes refer to it as an induction programme. I tend to refer my young people to it at the start of their orders. Because once they complete it, it's easier to say 'you've done that group, why not try this group' – because they show they can work in a group and it wasn't that bad and here's the feedback from the facilitators about how well they've done and you see the confidence grow per group."

YOS officer

Self-identity development and improved problem solving

Self-identity

- Recognising their own strengths
- Able to articulate what they had to offer
- Safe space to present other sides of their personality

Improved problem solving

- More confident and equipped to make better decisions
- Increased belief that they could make changes and improve own life
- Able to reflect on past mistakes and consider better ways of responding going forward

"Before I wouldn't be able to point out the little things that makes me, me. But with Way Into Work, I actually sat down for an hour and I realised about a lot of stuff that actually makes me unique. Not a lot of people probably do this and I feel like I must have all of these things, and I can work on this, I'm OK at that."









Young person – Way into Work




"I get in trouble because of the people I hang around with. When people start to mess around I follow them. That's what I follow. But I've realised that now and I've stopped it."

Young person – Creative Voices

"It was the movie that made me think about it. Because like [the film showed] the urge to do things that you don't really need to [...] It's urges that I've had and I've done. But I'm just saying like, I shouldn't of done it. If that makes sense? But it made me feel like there's other ways and solutions to things. There's always a solution."

Young person – Way into Work

 <p>Use of characters, stories and props</p>	 <p>Final product</p>	 <p>Creative methods, interaction and fun</p>	 <p>Group work</p>
 <p>Collaborating with stakeholders and creating 'pathways'</p>	 <p>Near peers</p>	 <p>Flexibility</p>	 <p>Youth led and person centred</p>

 <p>Unshockable/non judgemental</p>	 <p>Pro-social modelling</p>	 <p>Behaviour management</p>
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Characters and creative methods

- Props and developing characters help to engage young people initially – and to make the sessions memorable
- The stories and characters are relatable – and facilitators help to bring them to life
- Whilst relatable, there is still ‘creative distance’ which allows for more open discussions
- Countering negative associations with the Youth Offending Service



“We worked our way up from a shoe to make this story. Then they’d just ask us for stuff to put in. Was the shoe old? Was it new? Did you just buy it from the shop? Questions like that. Then it would just get bigger. Then they’ll ask us, what did Charlie do? The person was called Charlie. What would Charlie do if he was in that situation? Sometimes you can kind of relate.”

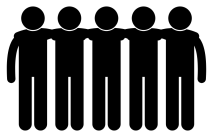
Young person - Creative Voices

“Like obviously if I had to talk about myself I wouldn’t really want to take part innit. But when I know that I’m making up a character, innit and I can put in ideas. If I’m talking about myself yeah, I wouldn’t feel I was comfortable innit. Because why would I tell everyone about myself? Instead of like, just making up a fictional character.”

Young person - Creative Voices

Group work

- Creates a sense of belonging
- Different from other group settings
- Took the pressure of
- Young people start to regulate good group working practices
- Young people enjoyed listening to other opinions and feeling heard and respected by other peers



"It made me feel a part of the group. Like just together, do you know what I mean? I haven't met none of them apart from one and they're just very encouraging and they try to help you. Even if you don't know something. [...] yeah, I felt a part of something. And that we just created something that is something to do with something that is very sensitive at the time."

Young person - Creative Voices

"It was calmer because everyone was putting in - I didn't have to do everything myself. Or even if I wanted to add points - it was not all on me - there were other people working with me and helping me out"

Young person - Creative Voices

Unshockable & non judgmental

- Leaving labels at the door
- Being 'unshockable' so that sensitive topics can be discussed in a safe space
- Achieving this by asking young people to elaborate and examine their own view, or presenting other perspectives in a non-judgmental way



"Like say a teacher at school, they know who I am and what I'm doing innit. They're just biased innit and I'm thinking like, they're just always going to think "Oh, don't really listen to him', But like, they [London Bubble] know about YOT. But they still treat me with respect and like talk to me in a nice way."

Young person - Creative Voices"

Youth-led & person centred

- Young people given the time and space to contribute in their own way
- Facilitators do not force young people to engage and they work hard to find ways to make young people feel comfortable about contributing
- The intention is to let young people know they matter
- Young people choose what stories to tell or what topics to discuss



“I didn't feel pressured or anything...They weren't rushing everyone to reply like. If you took a while to reply they would skip you, they wouldn't like, focus on that one person. When you did talk they would let you take your time. Like if you was stuttering, or you was stuck on something, they would wait 'til when you're ready.”

Young person - Way into Work

“I liked the fact that we got to build our own character... 'cos it's not always based off crime is it, you could build a person and make it something completely different. It doesn't have to do with like knives and gangs, doesn't have to have that category there. If I've been arrested they label it as gang related, but it's not always that case.”

Young person - Creative Voices

How to have even more impact

- Extend the number of sessions that both Creative Voice and Way Into Work run for;
- Have every YOS officer attend at least one session from both CV and WIW;
- Invite a wider range of stakeholders from the borough to attend final performances;
- London Bubble and Southwark YOS could work together to try and gather and record longer term impacts on young people who take part in these projects;
- London Bubble continue to work with Southwark YOS to increase take up of other London Bubble Theatre opportunities.

“Secretly I feel like it should be longer, but that’s my view. I feel like we need more time to connect, and to make like a better performance. When it’s 6 weeks long, it’s like 3 weeks is getting to know each other, everyone’s vibes, the next 3 weeks it’s not enough time to put things into place and act. It kind of feels rushed. It works but maybe 7 or 8 weeks [would work better].”

Young person – Creative Voices

For more information

- Contact: sophiereid98@gmail.com or elliemendezsayer@gmail.com
- Read the rapid evidence review at <https://www.londonbubble.org.uk/project/creating-justice-rapid-evidence-assessment/>

