

THE STONEGROVE YOUTH PROJECT

A new and innovative model for working with youth clubs

Introduction

The Cineclub Youth Club pilot project aimed to research and test a new and innovative model for working with youth clubs on a sustainable basis to integrate filmmaking and film watching activities, linked to cinema screenings and cultural visits.

This case study is based on the experience at the Stonegrove Estates' Youth Project in Edgware, Barnet. In partnership with Barnet Youth and Connexions it was one of 5 youth clubs in the Borough to take part in the Cineclub scheme.

The Stonegrove youth club is a Voluntary Community Organisation that works with young people aged between 8-17 years old on the Stonegrove, Spur Road and Penniwell Estates, North West London. As a community organisation, Stonegrove had limited funds, resources and equipment, but Barnet Local Authority supported the project by paying for the main costs whilst the youth club was responsible for the equipment. The initial project ran over 10 weeks, with Senior Community Youth Workers working alongside a filmmaker to deliver filmmaking sessions.

Educational Impact

There were clear educational and social impacts:

- ★ The project challenged young people's conceptions: about film, about their place in society, and about themselves as learners
- ★ The project motivated the young people to learn
- ★ As the participants learnt new skills, over time they began to develop confidence about their own ability as learners
- ★ Many of the young people re-evaluated their attitude towards education
- ★ Many of the young people are now working towards receiving an accreditation for their skill development by gaining a Bronze Arts Award
- ★ The project also improved the young people's ability to work in collaboration with others, as well as developing individual enterprise.



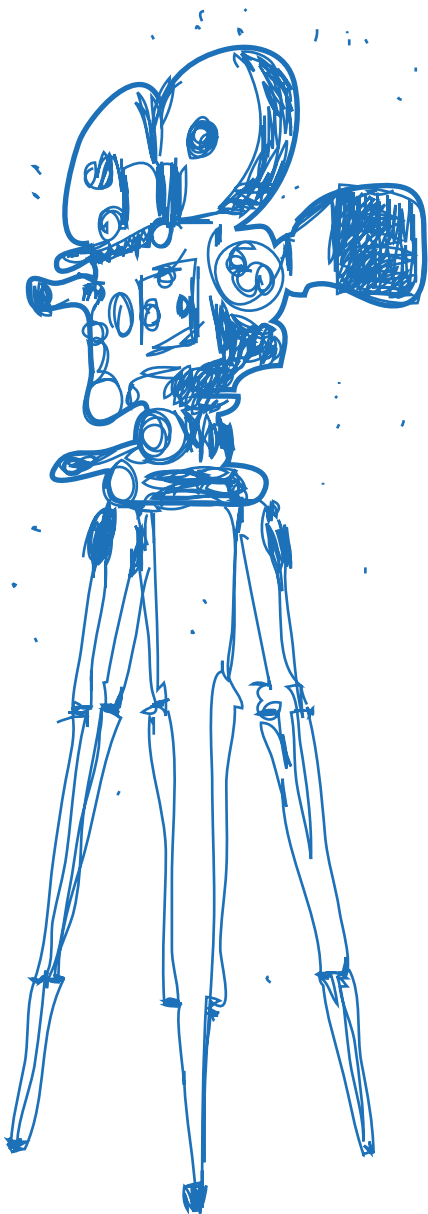
Young people's behaviour

A mixed gender group of 11-16 year olds took part in the project, some of whom had learning difficulties and behavioural issues such as ADHD (Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) and Tourette's. The filmmaker was able to adapt to the range of needs within the group by changing the structure of sessions to respond to challenges, such as group dynamics and short concentration spans, and to ensure they had the best learning experience.

Educators' practice

The Senior Community Youth Worker now wishes to keep the project going and run sustainably in the future.

Cineclub also paid for the Senior Community Youth Worker to be trained as an Arts Award Accreditor, a skill that has not only been useful for this project but has also supported 3 young people to gain accreditation on a Music Production course.



Project manager's view

Cineclub has been an invaluable project for the estate, even with the limited resources and a next to nothing budget, they have been able to equip and engage young people with new skills and abilities and also raise their aspirations and interests in the future.

Long-term legacy

Stonegrove is now running the third block of Cineclub sessions and have another young person acting as a young leader who took part in the second Cineclub programme.

Facts and Figures

15 Youth clubs took part in the Cineclub scheme, working with filmmaking and engaging in film watching activities
150 young people engaged with Cineclub's professional filmmakers learning filmmaking skills

Case study of a participant

One of the young people who took part, H, developed immensely throughout the Cineclub sessions. He does not have a great deal of confidence, largely due to bullying at school. Being involved in Cineclub has enabled him to not only develop skills in filmmaking but also to gain self-confidence through the recognition he received from his peers in the group.

H was often chosen to take up the role as camera person by other members of his group. This boosted his confidence and his involvement has developed an interest in this area of media. He was bought a video camera for Christmas in 2010 by his parents and has chosen Media as a subject at school.

He has gone on to help as a young leader on the second block of Cineclub sessions and it was great to engage him and empower him to teach others camera skills and techniques.

For the main film project the group split the larger film into short segments and each young person was responsible for one of these segments. They were in charge of all elements of the filming including the ability to choose which crew members to use on their segment.

When H was asked what his favourite part of Cineclub was and why? He said: "filming because I am kind of good on camera and partly acting because I've been told I'm good at that as well." At the Cineclub London Youth Club awards in July 2010, H received the award for best crew member, in recognition of his development and involvement.



Summary of the benefits of using film in education

- ★ An inclusive approach with young people of mixed ages, gender, backgrounds, ethnicity, needs and abilities
- ★ Young people and project leaders gain new skills and work towards accreditation
- ★ Encourages young people to work together as a team
- ★ Develops confidence in young people's own abilities, raising their aspirations and interests in the future
- ★ Develops a model of working with young clubs on a sustainable basis