



V2 Manifesto - Devon Cultural Education Partnership (DCEP)

V1 First draft 19th April 2018

V2 Updated 26th July 2023

The Common Agenda - National

The idea for Local Cultural Education Partnerships (LCEPs) was developed by Arts Council England (ACE) in partnership with the Department for Education (DfE) in 2015, with the aim of improving the alignment of cultural education of young people. Pilot LCEPs were launched in Great Yarmouth, Bristol, and Barking & Dagenham.

Following these pilots, the Cultural Education Challenge was widely promoted by ACE. It asked art and cultural organisations, educational institutions, and local authorities to come together to drive a joined-up art and cultural offer locally, to share resources and bring about a more coherent and visible delivery of cultural education through Cultural Education Partnerships.

The Cultural Education Challenge **focused in particular on young people experiencing disadvantage, and on co-production with young people** who are increasingly involved in shaping the offer.

Local Cultural Education Partnerships (LCEPs)

In 2023 there are around 140 LCEPs who support children and young people to fulfil their creative potential and access high-quality cultural experiences where they live, where they go to school, and where they spend their free time. Partners come together from across sectors, responding to local needs and interests, **to drive a more joined-up cultural education offer, share resources, and improve the visibility of cultural education in their local area.**

Find out more about LCEPs [here](#)

DCEP - Our Common Beliefs

- That experiencing arts and culture in their formative years brings positive, and unique, benefits to young people's lives across their learning, cultural, and personal and social needs
- That there is a strong and diverse young people's cultural offer in Devon, and a depth of experience, practice, and energy within the local authority, education sector, and the voluntary sector, driving that offer forward

DCEP - Our Common Goals

- ★ That this cultural offer in Devon is not as consistent as it could be, nor as visible as it could be, nor as accessible as it could be, for all young people in Devon regardless of where they live and the disadvantage that they experience, and the progression routes that fit their needs. **Young people are still missing out.**
- ★ That we can enhance this offer, and improve access to it, by working together to agree and carry out concerted actions towards our common goals. And that we accept that these common goals will change over time as new people join the initiative bringing new perspectives and new information to the conversation

DCEP Journey - What we had done by April 2018

- ✓ Convened a number (5) of group conversations across the county, through which we networked and developed our ideas about need and the opportunities for collaborative action to address this need
- ✓ Initiated a number of working parties to take forward particular ideas for action that arose in those conversations, such as Cultural Champions, Youth Voice, and Digital
- ✓ Liaised and engaged with the ACE Bridge organisation, RIO, regarding our process and development
- ✓ Documented all conversations and events

Our focus was:

- developing awareness of the Cultural Education Challenge and its aims
- bringing as many voices to the table as we could, in order to identify current needs
- identifying who and where the energy for collaborative action to address those needs was currently held

DCEP Journey - What we did next (up to March 2020)

- ✓ Created an online place(s) where key documentation about the Devon CEP and how to get involved is available to all
- ✓ Convened 3 or more in-person conversation events per year, sometimes 'piggy backing' on activities and events which demonstrated cultural education partnerships in practice. For example, a Saturday afternoon event held at Exeter Library, and another at Exeter Phoenix, both attracting over 50 participants each and including presentations, round-table discussions, and the voices of diverse cultural champions including young people
- ✓ Collaborated on a funding application to ACE to support a shared project looking at creative approaches to youth voice influencing programming and practice. This application was 4/5 complete at the start of the first Covid Lockdown in March 2020 and unfortunately had to be shelved and was not submitted due to new priorities, including the survival of our CEP's small voluntary sector organisations
- ✓ Explored actions through a first phase of working parties: i.e.
 - building and making visible a diverse set of Cultural Champions, to highlight opportunities in Devon, and ways in which individuals and groups can take effective action towards our common goals
 - developing a digital portal which will support increased coherence and visibility of, and access to, Devon's cultural education offer
 - developing the concept of 'branding' or 'badging' activities and events which support and further DCEP aims, and building a set of diverse case studies to celebrate, and inform, practice

What we have done since November 2021

- ✓ In 2020-2021, ACE supported a National Leadership and Peer Learning Programme for LCEPs, which reached 172 participants from across 97 LCEPs. Liz Hill (Daisi, and lead for [DCEP](#)) and Erin Walcon (Doorstep Arts, and lead for [TASN](#), the Torbay LCEP) both participated in this programme which took place online during COVID.
- ✓ Began meeting again in November 2021 (following lockdowns and other COVID-19 restrictions). After the first online meeting and some consultation with members, it was agreed that we'd proceed with an online meeting once per half-term. Meeting dates are published by Daisi in advance, and are at different times/days of the week to enable as many people as possible to attend.

Meeting discussions have included, for example:

- Updates and discussion from LCEP national meetings

- Discussion around the Goldsmith's survey into LCEP value, impact and sustainability (Jan 2022)
 - Discussion around place-based opportunities such as ACE's Place Partnerships Fund
 - Updates on TASN progress and partnership (the Torbay LCEP with whom DCEP work closely)
 - Discussion around ACE NPO application process and results/implications
 - Building on idea of Hub and Spoke model – the potential of regional action-led working feeding into Devon-wide gatherings
 - Creating web presence and identity
 - Considering benefits of shared newsletter, or notice board
 - Supporting Dance in the region in the light of the closure of local Dance Agencies
 - How to map partnerships/identify gaps and priorities
 - Possibilities for collaboration regarding work experience and volunteering opportunities
 - Looking at where and how schools can best engage at the moment – such as through outdoor opportunities, environmental issues, health and wellbeing priorities
 - Developing the idea of promoting and celebrating local Cultural Champions from different walks of life – building on DCEP's cultural champion idea and TASN's hero awards
 - Informal presentations from regional cultural strategies such as East Devon
 - New funding opportunities
 - Sharing of member projects and activities – for example where collaboration or shared knowledge could enhance reach and impact
 - New government, local authority and other developments and policy – e.g. National Plan for Cultural Education due to be published in 2023
- ✓ Currently agendas and meeting notes are placed on Slack, where people can also connect with each other and share and promote their own projects, alongside other relevant papers and links to new policy information of interest to the group.
- ✓ Examples of outputs include:
- A shared event led by 4 cultural organisations in June 2023: a vibrant, 25-strong group of primary school teachers, professional artists, and local arts organisations from two Paul Hamlyn Foundation funded projects in Torbay and Devon met at a rural, outdoor venue to share learning and build on their confidence to use arts-based approaches across the curriculum
<https://daisi.org.uk/2023/07/05/collaborative-away-afternoon/>

We warmly welcome representatives from cultural organisations, education settings, music education hubs, the youth sector, local authority, local employers, creative industries, freelancers, organisations with specialisms such as health and planning, and local communities to get in touch and take part in DCEP.

To take part or find out more, please contact admin@daisi.org.uk