

# Ideas and Strategies for Moving the Cultural Offer Forward

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Ryecroft Hall, Manchester Road, Audenshaw, Tameside, M34 5ZJ



## Group Discussion: What does culture mean to you?

### Individual

- Culture is a woolly word, what are the boundaries?
- Culture is anything that informs and underpins your 'personal creative identity'; a view of our own identity.
- Culture is communities, where we live, what we do, social structures and relationships, values, faith and beliefs
- Culture is 'High Art' and 'High Culture' – it can be seen as intellectual, institutional and exclusive.
- Culture is art, music, theatre, dance, drama; it's about inspiring people, broadening horizons, encouraging debate and increasing confidence and self-esteem; very important for children and young people.
- Culture is history, architecture, society, and everyday life; everything we see around us.
- Culture is Activities that enrich through engagement; this is in all areas, not just the arts.
- "Cultural experiences are about life itself, prompting us to think differently and to respond with our whole being. They are not only life enhancing, they can be life changing." – Anne Woo, BBC TV children's producer.

### Organisational

- Council definition of culture is Libraries, museums, galleries etc. Is it seen as separate from schools? Schools are not always represented at cultural tables/partnerships, need for more cohesion between schools, arts education, cultural learning and cultural provision.
- The arts; music, dance, art, drama etc. Cultural industries, cultural forums and partnerships with local stakeholders
- The DCMS list embedded within children and young people's plans and Local Area Agreements (e.g. NI 110 - Young people's participation in positive activities).
- Organisational culture – how people behave, perceptions.
- Communities and ethnic diversity – community cohesion.
- An entitlement, sometimes it's something to be quantified and categorised – is this a good thing?
- At an organisational level culture can tend to be defined as a set of rigid recognisable themes or areas. These are usually adult led and historically reinforced culture often indicates conformity to a mindset.
- Is cultural education there to enhance the culture we live in and experience or is it a tool to change or explore our world?

### Consortium

- Supporting the fusion of personal and professional definitions of 'cultural'.

[www.artslearningconsortium.org.uk](http://www.artslearningconsortium.org.uk)