



Project Report 2010 – 2011

Proposal of New Project 2011 - 2012

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Between June 2010 and March 2011, the Synergy project ran:

- 50 arts workshops in 5 youth service organisations (10 sessions per group).
- 22 Steering Committee sessions for 8 youth-leaders who led the planning, delivery and content of the project.
- 14 integration arts workshops held at the Roundhouse
- 1 performance-workshop event entitled: *"It Ain't Working"*



Participants were accessed from Camden Youth Service partners :

- Camden Youth Offending Service
- Camden Leaving Care Service
- Queen's Crescent Youth Centre
- Winchester Project Youth Centre
- Castlehaven Youth Centre

Synergy participants discussed themes and issues affecting young people in Camden.

These themes were :

- Media Representation
- Young people's attitudes and aspirations
- Law and Order
- Opportunities



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Between June 2010 and March 2011 the Synergy programme engaged:

A total of **80** young people living in Camden in arts-based activities exploring community issues

69 were under 18 years old

11 were 19 – 25

25 were female

24 were refugees

63 were Black & Minority Ethnic backgrounds

31 were NEET (Not in education, employment or training)

8 participants were awarded ASDAN accreditations in Peer Mentoring

131 audience members attended



We engaged young people who experience disadvantage, poverty, crime and violence and are not in education, employment or training. Young people were in transition from leaving care, at risk of, or have been involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. Some participants were dealing with younger dependents, family troubles, making their own living, negative peer pressure and the added pressure of conflict from other gangs. The young people carry powerful emotions such as anger, depression, frustration, and they lack the means to deal with these feelings in a constructive way. A number of participants have been issued with ASBOs, dispersal and reparation orders or curfews and attended sessions as a positive diversion from their lives on the streets.



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Opportunities, Skills and Experiences

Participants had the opportunity to:

- Be involved in a long-term creative community project
- Develop technical, creative and performance skills in:
 - MCing
 - DJing
 - Graffiti Art
 - Dance
 - Drama
 - Filmmaking
- Perform in cultural venues: Roundhouse, Shunt and Bloomsbury Theatre
- Receive youth-leadership training
- Gain ASDAN Accreditations
- Interview community members and a Police officer on issues that are relevant to young people in the community
- Create and manage a high quality arts event from conception to completion.
- Further develop their skills and experience beyond the project

Participants developed:

- Confidence, Self-esteem, Motivation, Communication, Conflict resolution
- Artistic and expressive skills
- Event management skills including planning, decision making, budgeting, publicity, directing, working on initiative and capacity to keep calm under pressure
- A deeper understanding of community issues and the differing opinions of people
- Aspirations and ambitions for their futures with a better understanding of how to reach their goals.



The young people shared experiences and views with people they saw as their 'enemies' thereby developing tolerance and understanding. Most of all, participants were empowered to take ownership of the project and make a real difference in their community.



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Our aim is for young people to develop skills in :

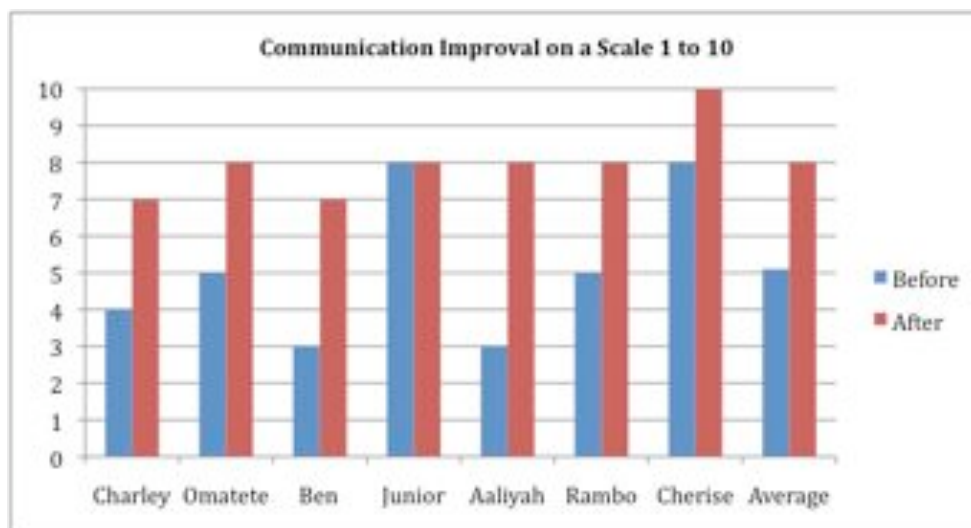
COMMUNICATION

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

LEADERSHIP

Young people recognised the programme increased their **COMMUNICATION** skills

Personal development assessment on a scale from 1 - 10 by participants at beginning and end of project.



"I wouldn't go on stage before...so it really has boosted my confidence. Got me talking to a load of different people from different backgrounds." Charley, 21

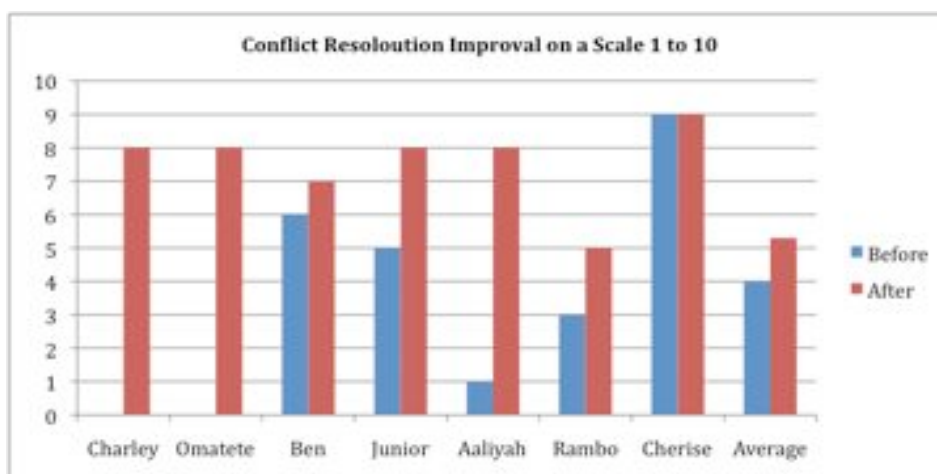


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Young people recognised the programme increased their CONFLICT RESOLUTION skills

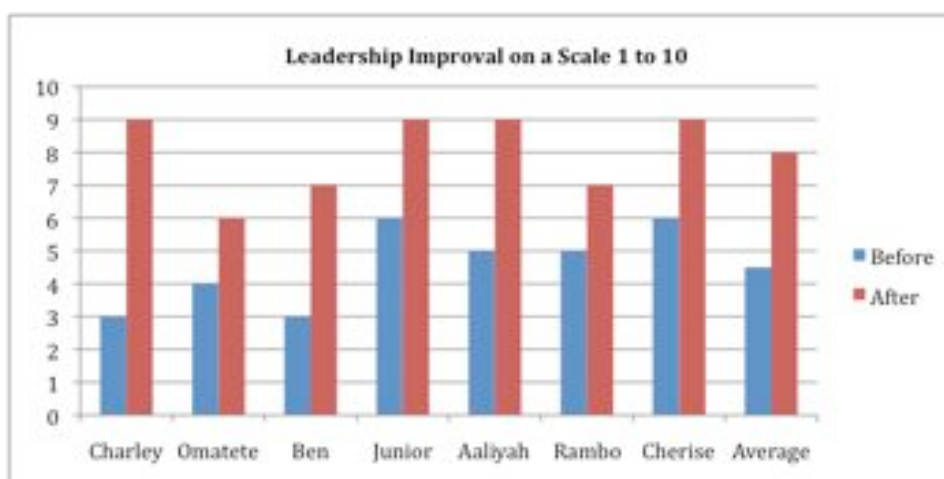
Personal development assessment on a scale from 1 - 10 by participants at beginning and end of project.



"Now, I reckon I'll probably just, either walk away from it, or try to talk it off, or I could hold it in. Like, I can, I'm less likely to kick off at them..." Junior, 18.

Young people recognised the programme increased their LEADERSHIP skills

Personal development assessment on a scale from 1 - 10 by participants at beginning and end of project.



We made the performance ourselves – so it was kind of an opportunity to see who was the leaders, who's going to do what? It kinda gives people an opportunity to see what they want to do in life really..." Aaliyah, 15



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“...I think its just letting it all out...someone actually listened. Synergy is basically there to listen. A lot of young people need this - you really don't find anywhere you can actually go to where you can kinda lay it out through the arts anymore, most of the time you have to pay for it...”



“we gave each other respect...”

“I know it's going to help because it's got me motivated again and got me back on to what I want to do.”

“Made me have faith in myself... with hard work I believe I can get where I want to...”



“Through the peer mentoring stuff they've kind of like, got me to be more patient...”

“I'm more confident with speaking. Cos Usually I just say a few word answers if I was talking to someone I didn't know that well.”



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THE FUTURE OF SYNERGY?...

“I think it’s good, I think it’s really good and I’d do it again if I had the chance to”



“we should take it further cos it changes the youths mind, helping them and making them stay focused”

Through evaluation with participants, steering committee, artists, audience and youth service workers, we have identified the following aims for a new project entitled:

Synergy Year 2 - “Communication Gap”

To **extend youth leadership** through an intense training programme

To use informal, creative learning experiences to **encourage more young people** to explore community problems.

To **facilitate a joined - up approach** to working with young people in Camden by helping Police, young people and youth services to explore and discuss issues creatively together.

To **“bridge the Communication Gap”** increasing **understanding and trust** between young people and Police Officers



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Beneficiaries

The young people who will benefit from this project will be slightly younger than the Synergy 2010/2011. We will engage young people aged 12 to 16 years. This is because our steering committee felt strongly that younger people would benefit more from being diverted from negative involvement in gang-related activity at an earlier stage.

“They should target younger, they should go for those pre-teens. Even though now we [at our age] can still benefit from change, we’re already affected ...we’ve already gone through being stereotyped and discriminated against... but they’re just getting into it all...”

“If there was more of this I when I was younger, I don’t think I’d have gone through so much stress right now, I wouldn’t have acted up at that age, there wasn’t none of this when I was 12, 13, 14. If there was more of this then I know I wouldn’t be like this, I’d have been a better dancer, I’d been more motivated and I wouldn’t have been in trouble. I know I wouldn’t have been in trouble if I’d had this around. I think we should just help open their eyes before they become pessimistic.”

However, we will ensure that the project remains open to older young people who will benefit from this project also.

We will engage young people who are:

- Affected by territorial conflict
- Involved in street violence, crime and gang related activities.
- Wanting to exit gang membership
- At risk of social exclusion, lacking in motivation, engagement, and aspirations
- Experiencing disadvantage, poverty and not in education, employment or training.

How we will access beneficiaries:

- Camden Youth Services refer young people that will benefit from the project
- Running arts workshops in youth service organisations where beneficiaries feel comfortable
- Through peer leadership and mentoring, so workshops are not too adult – heavy and therefore seem inaccessible to young people
- Entertaining and inspiring new participants through re-staging the “*It Ain’t Working*” performance/workshop.



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Partnerships

- Camden Youth Offending Service
- Camden Leaving Care Team
- Queens Crescent Youth Centre
- Winchester Project
- Castlehaven Youth Centre
- Coram's Housing Support
- Griffin - Restorative Justice Practitioners
- The Shed - recording studio
- Roundhouse Camden

"Synergy Arts enabled us to fulfill objectives for Youth Offending Service in a way that is creative and enjoyable at the same time. The quality of the facilitators was excellent. They succeeded in engaging the young people in producing work they were proud of." **Camden YOS Reparation Development Officer.**

Project Curve - A Metropolitan Police

Initiative for Camden has agreed to attend Steering meetings and workshops to:

- Inform on policies, practices and rights of young people
- Respond to questions and opinions expressed by participants in open dialogue
- Use project material as a resource in police training.
- Hold a Police and community partnership-training workshop to discuss solutions explored in the project.
- Assist in developing Police training strategies through ongoing consultations with the Synergy Programme.

"The approach of Pan Intercultural Arts is one that I fully support - to the point that I have requested that Operation Curve works closely and formally with yourselves. I found the passion, energy and ideas you were coming up with to be exactly what I am looking for." **Raj Kohli, Superintendent. Camden Police**



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OUTPUTS

A 12-month project starting November 2011 that will include:

- **10-week Youth Leadership Training Programme** including a 4-day residential for existing Steering Committee members to become assistants in the next project extending youth access and peer support.
- **4 extra performances of the “It Ain’t Working”** performance/workshop to invite local youth groups and community members to widen the knowledge and access of the project.
- **10 Creative Workshops in 4 Youth Service Organisations** where artists and assistants will build trust and relationships with participants and teach artistic and technical skills.



- **18 Steering Committee Sessions** to establish, train and consult a new group of participants to take ownership of the project.
- **15 Devising and Production Workshops** integrating 20 participants from the youth service groups in a process to create a performance and film.
- **A Training DVD for Police and Young People** to explore communication techniques and develop two-way understanding.
- **A Community Performance/Workshop** to bring community members together to share views and experiences to improve relations, trust and understanding between young people and the community.



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OUTCOMES

More young people will participate in positive activities within their community in Camden

Participants will develop a deeper understanding in community issues

Young people will be empowered to find solutions and make a difference

Participants will have an increased understanding of Police responsibilities and perspective

Tensions between young people and Police will be reduced

A team of highly skilled peer-leaders will be developed to engage young people from the street



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