

LEARNING VISIT REPORT

Arts For All 12184

1.1 Date of visit: 8 th February 2017	1.2 Name of visiting Grants Officer: Sandra Davidson	1.3 People met with: Caroline Barlow (Manager) + Service Users
1.4 Programme Area & Outcomes: Making London More Inclusive - disabled people actively taking part in the arts or sport		
1.5 Purpose of the award: £21,000 over three years (3 x £7,000) towards the salary and running costs of "The Rainbow Club".		
MONITORING INFORMATION		
2.1 Project Outcome 1: We aim to build confidence through creativity. It is a well-known fact that if you add an element of creativity into someone's life it can have a really positive effect. This is a difference that we will be hoping for. Progress made: Last year "The Rainbow Club" worked with 20 adults with learning disabilities normally catering for upto 15 on a weekly basis. The organisation has built up a regular group of participants keen to take part in varied creative activities every Wednesday. The sessions provide an opportunity for participants to develop their communication skills and interact with each other in a warm and comfortable environment.		
2.2 Project Outcome 2: Through fun and vibrant Makaton sign language sessions we will help the members of the group to grow in confidence in the area of general and simple communication. This will help them in their lives outside of here. Progress made: The charity encourages the use of Makaton sign language helping members to communicate in everyday life. One of the group members completed a short training course in Makaton teaching and is now able to work alongside the staff to teach the rest of the group. This has been life changing for the member and has boosted their self-esteem. For example, several members being able to go to the local shops and travel by public transport. Encouraging the use of Makaton group members feel more confident to participate in external activities, i.e an annual exhibition of their work at St. Botolph's Hall to sell their artwork.		
2.3 Project Outcome 3: By going on a few outings we will give them exciting opportunities that they would not get normally. These are good opportunities to develop friendships and this is important as many of our members do not have many friends. They are good opportunities for social development. Progress made: Trips are organised several times a year providing the opportunity for members to experience the theatre, bowling and the seaside. A trip was		

<p>organised in October 2016 to Devon with a group of 10 adults with learning disabilities and volunteers. This proved very successful and life changing for participants so much so that a trip for this year is in the pipeline.</p>
<p>2.4 Project Outcome 4:</p> <p>By taking part in an exhibition and having the chance to exhibit their own works of art, their confidence and self-esteem will soar. This can actually be life changing.</p> <p>Progress made: Having built up a permanent exhibition members are able to sell their artwork on a week to week basis. This has proved to be a great confidence boost and drives them to develop their creative skills and try new interesting techniques. The work is of a high standard and well received at exhibitions. Artwork produced includes paintings and vases. Group members are keen to show off their own individual pieces of work and are clearly excited about their achievements. Examples shown on the day of your officer's visit were impressive.</p> <p>A further successful project called East End Stories provided the opportunity of members to tell their real life stories. After being interviewed by a volunteer the biographic stories were reproduced in a small booklet.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">GRANT OFFICER COMMENTS</p>
<p>The weekly activities of "The Rainbow Club" continue to be well attended with regular referrals. The charity normally caters for upto 15 adults with learning disabilities. The oldest member is 90 and the youngest is 39. The venue is bright and beautifully decorated, offering a safe and welcoming space to sit and chat and make friends. Speaking to members of the group and being able to observe sessions taking place clearly showed how the members interacted with each other and staff members and volunteers. Your officer spoke with a number of the participants during and after the club session. One of the members who recently turned 80 was so proud showing me all his creative artwork which was of a very high standard. Not wanting to feel left out another member decided to show his artwork in great detail. The value of this project was endorsed by all of the service users taking part in the meeting. The Project manager works tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of the club and it could be clearly seen has developed a very close relationship with club members. I was impressed by the thoughtfulness and professionalism of the staff and volunteers. The venue is bright and beautifully decorated.</p>