

L8 Create

MEH Communications and Events Manager, Rosina Ndukwe visits Co-ordinator of L8 Create, Joshua Terry and Director & Development Manager, Margaret Mann to find out about the organisation and how it has developed since MEH awarded L8 Create a Social Capital grant in 2005.

L8 Create is a non-for-profit social enterprise based in the heart of Liverpool 8 which runs drama workshops for disadvantaged young people between the ages of 13 and 21. L8 Create was set up in February 2005 by Joshua Terry and Margaret Mann as a response to a growing need they felt existed for creative education for disadvantaged young people living within the Liverpool 8 area. Through teaching drama to youngsters, L8 Create aims to educate the youth on social inclusion and cover social issues such as teenage pregnancy and smoking through their drama workshops.

Joshua says, "There are not enough creative activities for the youth in the community and not enough practical teaching. We needed to reach out to the youngsters."

L8 Create does just that. A huge selling point for the youngsters is that both Margaret and Joshua live within the community and have the same background as a lot of the children they teach.

Margaret says, "We are more on a level with the kids. Because of our experiences they don't feel we are looking down on them. And as a result, we can engage more with the kids."

Margaret was in and out of school throughout her teens and knows the difficulties of how children can be socially excluded from the education system. Joshua, an ex offender also knew the difficulties disadvantaged children can

face and wanted to do something for the community and put something back into the community.

Joshua says "I wanted use the skills I had developed and the experience I had gained to do something good and to show young people that they don't have to sell drugs or commit crime to make money". Now based at Toxteth Town Hall since February 2006, L8 Create has their own office space where they do most of the course administration, development work and funding research for their projects but the drama workshops take place in the youth centres across Liverpool 8.

Recently, L8 Create ran a Toxteth Riot project with the Unity Youth Club in Toxteth and they also took part in the Liverpool 8 Anti-Gun Crime Initiative.

The Liverpool 8 Anti-Gun Crime Initiative was a six month pilot project co-ordinated by Toxteth Educational Trust and environmental regeneration organisation Groundwork to help reduce levels of gun crime in the city. L8 Create held a series of 100 youth workshops at centres around Liverpool 8: Unity Youth Club, Granby; 468 Youth Club, Dingle; St John's Youth Club, Dingle; the David Lewis Youth Centre, Toxteth; the Methodist Centre, Toxteth; St Michael's Youth Community Centre, Lark Lane, and at Liverpool's Youth Offending Team. This was a major achievement for Joshua and Margaret who single handedly carried out these workshops.

A DVD about the workshops and drama presentations produced by L8 Create was shown at the Anti-Gun Crime Conference in April 2006.

To stay sustainable, L8 Create also offers corporate presentation training, First Impressions and Lasting Impressions.

First Impressions is a training session specifically designed for business people looking to develop their presentation skills by developing body language techniques, assertiveness, confidence building networking and negotiating skills. L8 Create will also hold follow up workshops and provide statistics to monitor the progress. Lasting Impressions will combine elements from the First Impressions course with team building exercises.

With the revenue gained from these training courses, L8 Create is able to

hold free drama workshops for the young people.

The social enterprise also plans to run a project with the Neighbourhood Management Team and European Capital of Culture Project involving thirty children from diverse backgrounds from the seven wards of Merseyside focusing on gun culture life choices. Details will be posted on the L8 Create website.

L8 Create is doing great things for the community - the project is a huge success and MEH is not the only organisation to think so. So far, L8 Create has received support from Community Champions, Central Liverpool PCT and most recently, Awards for All.

So what does the future hold for L8 Create? Joshua and Margaret are extremely optimistic about the future, "We would love to see L8 Create move out of Liverpool and become a national organisation. Ideally, we would like to market 'First Impressions' and 'Lasting Impressions' on a national level". With the drama workshops L8 Create currently do, Joshua and Margaret also hope to do more outreach work in areas such as Runcorn.

For further information about L8 Create please contact, Joshua or Margaret on 0151 726 8493 or email: jterry@l8create@hotmail.co.uk

Joshua is to star in MEH's new Social Inclusion Video, Experiencing Social Inclusion, to be launched in July 2006.

Visit L8 Create at: <http://homepage.mac.com/l8create/L8CREATE1.htm>



From left: Margaret Mann and Joshua Terry.



Merseyside
Expanding Horizons

Network News

July 2006

Enterprise and Inclusion Event

Merseyside Expanding Horizons held a one day event, aimed at assisting individuals who are facing specific barriers, to support them into self-employment. The event took place at the LACE Conference Centre on 5th April, starting at 9:00am. The free event hoped to answer questions such as - Have you ever wanted to work for yourself but faced barriers to becoming self-employed? Don't know who to turn to for advice, or been given advice that is not relevant to you?

The event aimed to inform people of the support that is available to them, to inspire them to take the next steps towards making self-employment a reality, to make contacts with the right

people who can help and advice, and to take the first steps towards getting their business ideas down on paper.

The day started with a talk from an experienced business advisor, Tim Dugdill, Chair of Knowsley Business Forum about how to begin to put ideas down on paper and eventually form those ideas into a business plan. There were also two presentations from individuals who faced and overcame their own barriers to set-up their own businesses. These were Joshua Terry from L8 Create, a non-for profit social enterprise which holds training courses for corporations and runs drama workshops for disadvantaged young people between the ages of 13

and 21 and John Vaughan from Allcans Recycling, a social enterprise that has been in operation in the Beechwood area of Birkenhead assisting in the recovery of aluminium cans from the Birkenhead area.

Each individual then sat down and discussed their ideas with a businesses advisor in a one-to-one setting. Merseyside Expanding Horizons will then hopefully provide the most appropriate support available to help each person realise their self-employment ambitions.

We will keep you updated on the outcomes of this event.

Enterprise & Inclusion Directory Launched

MEH have launched a new Enterprise & Inclusion Directory to assist individuals in accessing self employment. Funded by The Phoenix Fund and Change Up, the Directory was launched in response to the enterprise and inclusion development work MEH undertook with partner organisations exploring the role that enterprise can play in tackling social exclusion and to identify any specific issues for the client group and any specific gaps in provision. Research found that there was a need to find out more about what enterprise and personal support was available and this information needed to be publicised and made readily accessible.

The Enterprise & Inclusion Directory designed by Brava Design is set up to assist individuals looking for general business support or information on the support available for a specific client group.

Directory at <http://directory.expandinghorizons.co.uk>



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Tel: 0151 330 0552 Email: info@expandinghorizons.co.uk

Office Space Available at Comtechsa

Are you a small community, voluntary or charitable organisation looking for accessible office space in Liverpool City Centre? If so, call Comtechsa on 0151 707 4300 or email: john.wood@comtechsa.org



Energywise Recycling

Energywise Recycling is a Liverpool based social enterprise providing jobs and offering training placements (New Deal or ILM) throughout their three sites in Liverpool. Energywise Recycled Glass makes unique kiln fused glass products and stained glass design from the glass that Energywise Recycling currently collects from approximately 50 licensed premises in Liverpool, 30,000 households in South Central Liverpool via their kerbside recycling scheme and 10,500 households in flats and multi-residential properties. Window glass is also collected via housing regeneration schemes. Energywise Recycled Glass

demonstrates that local waste can be transformed into a range of fine art and beautiful gifts.

Energywise Recycled Glass also offers Community Arts projects and workshops alongside Waste Education packages to involve and engage local community groups in 'creative' recycling. Workshops are also run for corporate team building events.

There are a range of products available from the shop at 49 Jordan Street, Liverpool. These include jewellery, stained glass, coasters and bowls both for the home and for



Energywise 3 spot square bowl.

corporate purposes. Individual commissions can also be undertaken or bring in your bottles from your special occasion and have them made into something unique.

Look out for our on-line shop coming soon www.energywiserecycledglass.co.uk.

Merseyside Expanding Horizons in partnership with Merseyside Disability Federation and Community Foundation for Merseyside present

Be Inspired 2006 3rd October 2006, Crowne Plaza Liverpool

Be Inspired returns following on from the success of 'Be Inspired: An Event to Celebrate Achievement, Inspire and Motivate' held last year on 15th November 2005 at Blackburne House, Liverpool. This second instalment promises to be a truly unmissable event, bringing more key figures to Merseyside to showcase their inspirational life stories.

Keynote Speakers Include:

Doreen Lawrence OBE

Director of the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust

Doreen Lawrence was awarded the OBE for services to community relations in 2003, almost 10 years after the murder of her son Stephen. Through her work in the Stephen Lawrence Trust, launched in 1998, Doreen has worked tirelessly to achieve the Trust's vision of tackling under-achievement and empowering Black and minority ethnic young people through education. She was recently named in a survey as one of 100 greatest Black Britons and 8th most influential woman in the UK.

Liz Jackson

Founder and Managing Director, Great Guns Marketing

Liz Jackson is truly an inspirational figure and her story is extraordinary. Liz launched Great Guns Marketing six years ago with only £5,000 of investment. Her business growth is phenomenal and this is all the more remarkable given she is totally blind having lost her sight the year she started the business. Her life's mantra is lack of sight doesn't equate to lack of vision.

Paul Whittaker

Founder of Music and the Deaf (MATD)

Music and the Deaf (MATD) was founded in 1988 by Paul Whittaker, a unique national charity, which has opened up the enjoyment of all forms of music and the performing arts to the hearing-impaired community. Paul is profoundly deaf. Paul is an Oxford Graduate in Music and Associate of the Royal College of Organists and the London College of Music. Paul is a crusader for music education in schools and is a pioneer of signed theatrical performances. He has worked with such prestigious producers as Lord Lloyd Webber and Cameron Mackintosh.

The Anthony Walker Foundation (AWF) will also give a presentation.

Merseyside Inspirational Awards 2006 will take place at Be Inspired 2006

In partnership with Merseyside Disability Federation and Community Foundation for Merseyside, Merseyside Inspirational Awards 2006 will honour groups who have recently received ESF Global Grants. In total, 3 awards will be given:

Merseyside Expanding Horizons Award: The Merseyside Inspirational Award for recognition and celebration of a group that has provided innovative and capacity building projects working with socially excluded groups through the Social Capital Fund.

Merseyside Disability Federation Award: The Merseyside Inspirational Award for recognition and celebration of a group of and for disabled people that has provided real social and economic development opportunities for disabled people through the Social Risk Capital Grant.

Community Foundation for Merseyside Award: The Merseyside Inspirational Award for recognition and celebration of a group that brings added value to the cultural and creative life of Merseyside, whilst also helping give people improved skills confidence, self-esteem and improving employability prospects through the Arts & Culture Fund – Merseyside, delivered in partnership with Liverpool Centre for Arts Development (LCAD).

Lunch and refreshments provided and local entertainment will be showcased. Time: 9am – 3:30pm

Places are strictly limited. For further information and to book a place please contact Rosina Ndukwe on 0151 330 0552 or email: beinspired@expandinghorizons.co.uk.

Merseyside Inspirational Awards nomination forms are available to download at www.expandinghorizons.co.uk, www.merseydisability.org.uk and www.cfmerseyside.org.uk.

Sponsorship Opportunities!

Sponsorship packages are available. If you would like to support Be Inspired 2006 please contact Bob Spary at Fortis Media on 0151 281 4994 or email: bob@fortismedia.co.uk.

Experiencing Inclusion MEH Social Inclusion Video is launched

'Experiencing Inclusion' is the new social inclusion film launched by MEH. The film sets out to challenge preconceived ideas and prejudices about excluded groups. The film features a wide range of people exploring issues around ex offenders, disability, black and minority ethnic (BME), homelessness, mental health, substance misuse and refugee and asylum seekers.

The film gives people the opportunity to tell their 'own' stories. As a result, 'Experiencing Inclusion' is a hard hitting, challenging and thought provoking watch.

The film was produced by Mocha Productions, an award winning multimedia production company based in Liverpool.

MEH would like to thank all those who took part and helped to produce the video.

'Experiencing Inclusion' will be launched at a private event in July 2006.

Listen to 'Experiencing Inclusion' on MEH Website!

Podcasts of the film will be made available to download on MEH website. The audio files can be easily downloaded onto your work or home computer or onto an mp3 player completely free!

This service will be available shortly. Please visit www.expandinghorizons.co.uk to find out when our podcasts goes live.

Ask the Expert

Last month saw MEH run its second 'Ask the Expert' event where groups who are looking into becoming a social enterprise are given the chance to speak to those who have already done it.

The evening was held in Blackburne House on 10th May and was enjoyed by all. Over the evening there were several presentations by David Murray of the Glaciere – a boat moored at the Albert Dock, John Sandwell from Support after Murder and Manslaughter, Jim Flynn from Fun4kidz and Alan Johnson from MSEI.

The presentations were a mix of the inspirational and informative and gave the attendees something to think about and hopefully the motivation to go and do it. After the presentations the groups had the opportunity to ask questions to a panel made up of the presenters and Geoff Stephenson from Weston Spirit Trading and Rachel McGuinness from Business Link.

This gave the groups chance to 'thrash things out' and helped many to have a clearer idea of how to take things forward.

Feedback from the event confirmed it was a great evening and well worth attending, and to cap it off the food was great too!

So if you are interested 'watch this space!'

Sign Right

Sign Language is fascinating. If you are anything like me, you'll know what it is to be at an event where you haven't got a clue what the speaker is on about because you're too busy mesmerised watching the signer!

However what is fascination for some is vital for others. Deaf people have a profoundly different experience of the world to hearing people. Communication one of the basic necessities of life is front loaded with a host of problems. And how do you meet with people who share your world?

Well if wasn't difficult enough the people of North Merseyside had an even bigger problem - there were no deaf centres outside of Liverpool and Preston. Consequently people from all over Lancashire had a no choice but to travel a long way to meet with friends and receive support from people who understand and share their unique challenges.

However in the midst of problem came two women, Susan Butterworth and Linda Scott who were determined to turn the tide and bring quality services into the vacuum of Lancashire by opening 'Sign-Right' Deaf Club.

But its one thing having a great idea and another entirely different thing seeing it happen. But with grit, determination, good fortune and some Social Capital money from Expanding Horizons along the way – the deaf centre was born.

Firstly, there was the problem of a building, how do you get one and how do you pay for it? Well, fortune had it that King George V College in Southport had a spare building on the edge of their grounds and Susan had been doing some part time work for the college. So after some negotiation the College gave them a building rent free for 5 years but next problem it was derelict! Derelict, run down and dilapidated. This meant work – electricians, plasterers, carpet layers, kitchen fitters – you name it, it was needed.

So what do you do if you have no money and have to turn a tip into a social club? Answer – you do it yourself (with a little bit of help from an electrician and a plasterer)! So Susan and Linda set about months and back breaking work of hard labour to turn the building into a fully furnished social club with kitchen, offices, lounge area, computer suite and lavatories all with disabled access.

The centre is now extremely well used and is already proving an excellent resource for deaf people. Within weeks of the centre opening it houses a youth club, parent and toddlers group, a luncheon club, social activities drop in centre and will shortly have a fully furnished computer suite. Already the centre is hosting an introduction to British Sign Language course over 6 weeks, and Deaf Awareness Training.

However the activities don't stop there. By becoming a social enterprise the centre is aiming to become self sustaining. Revenue is being generated through a catering service that is being provided to the local students at the college, and this is in turn funding the work of the centre.

So all around it's a great example of what you can do with determination and a Social Capital Grant.

Article written by Robert Brewis, Project Support Officer for MEH.

For more information on Social Capital and how your group could access some money contact Expanding Horizons on 0151 330 0552 or email robertbrewis@expandinghorizons.co.uk

Premises Wanted

A VS organisation has asked us to find out if anyone knows of any premises available. Ideally they would want to move into shared premises with another VS organisation in either Liverpool, Sefton or Knowsley, from January 07 onwards and are looking for approx. 2000-2500 sq ft (186-232 msq).

If anyone has any ideas could they send an email to Rosina Ndukwe (rosinandukwe@expandinghorizons.co.uk) or phone her on 0151 330 0552