

A large orange triangle pointing to the right, containing the text 'Liverpool Arts Regeneration Consortium' in white.

Liverpool  
Arts  
Regeneration  
Consortium

**Liverpool Thrive programme  
North Liverpool consultation research report**

April 2009



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## Executive summary

LARC (Liverpool Arts Regeneration Consortium) wants to ensure that culture is integral to the regeneration process in North Liverpool. This will be addressed through two major joint programmes that have brought in significant national funding- Liverpool Thrive and Find Your Talent - and through other long-term projects in North Liverpool led by individual LARC partners.

This critical mass of activity demonstrates the significance that culture can have in the regeneration of a local area, building on the community engagement achieved through the success of Liverpool's Capital of Culture programme.

### LARC

LARC is a partnership of eight of the major cultural institutions in Liverpool – the Bluecoat, FACT, Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse, National Museums Liverpool, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Tate Liverpool and the Unity Theatre. They believe that regeneration will be achieved through releasing the creativity and aspirations of the people of the Liverpool City Region. Their vision is to harness the power of the arts and culture to inspire, engage and involve the people of the Liverpool City Region, in order to create a confident, prosperous and healthy city that is open to ideas, globally connected and constantly learning.

Liverpool Thrive is supported through Arts Council England's Thrive scheme, and has attracted £1.34 million which is the largest award in this programme. One of the main aims of Liverpool Thrive is to find new ways of working together in culturally led regeneration, specifically focusing on North Liverpool.

LARC is also leading a national pathfinder for the government's Find Your Talent programme, which aims to give every child and young person access to five hours of culture per week. LARC is working in partnership with Knowsley, Liverpool, and St Helen's councils to deliver this scheme, which has attracted £2.4 million from national funds, with a further £1.6 million from local sources.

### North Liverpool

LARC decided to focus on North Liverpool because historically the focus of arts development and outreach work has been on areas to the south of the city centre.

Also, North Liverpool experiences some of the most extreme social and economic deprivation in the UK, and performs significantly worse in terms of key issues such as employment and health compared to the rest of Liverpool.

To address these issues, Liverpool City Council drew up the North Liverpool Economic Development Plan to ensure that regeneration programmes in this area are co-ordinated to have the maximum benefit<sup>1</sup>. The plan focuses on the four wards of Anfield, Everton, Kirkdale & County.

LARC therefore decided to target the main focus of the Liverpool Thrive programme on these wards, although inevitably cultural activity cannot easily be confined to administrative boundaries. This does pose a challenge in that these wards cross three neighbourhood management areas, but there is a geographic and emotional coherence to focusing on these wards in terms of how people locally perceive the "North End". LARC's first step in developing the Thrive programme was to appoint a co-ordinator to build links between LARC partners and with the wider cultural and community sector in the area.

Find Your Talent also has a North Liverpool focus, although this will be concentrated on the City and North neighbourhood area, which includes the city centre.

### Purpose of the research

This report has been undertaken primarily to inform the development of the Liverpool Thrive programme, but will also contribute to Find Your Talent. The research was undertaken between September 2008 and February 2009.

The purpose of the research was to provide an overview of current cultural activity in North Liverpool, and to identify how LARC could work most effectively with community and cultural organisations based or working in North Liverpool.

It is also intended to inform the development of partnerships with other agencies and programmes working in North Liverpool, including Liverpool First (the local strategic partnership), Liverpool City Council, Liverpool Vision, Step Clever, and the Primary Care Trust.

### Cultural Activity in North Liverpool

Individual LARC partners have demonstrated a growing commitment to North Liverpool, seen through initiatives such as the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic's new rehearsal and education base in West Everton; Liverpool Biennial's public art work with Rotunda Community College; the establishment of a new youth theatre facility in Vauxhall by the Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse; and FACT's Tenantspin community media work in Anfield, run in collaboration with Arena Housing. National Museums Liverpool have consulted extensively in the area in developing content for the new Museum of Liverpool; Tate Liverpool has worked with the Community Justice Centre,

and the Bluecoat has an extensive outreach programme in the neighbouring area of North East Liverpool, Alt Valley.

Other cultural organisations in the city that have worked in North Liverpool include the Merseyside Dance Initiative, Hope Street Ltd, Brouhaha and Liverpool Lantern Co.

There is also cultural activity led by community organisations based in North Liverpool. The most significant arts programmes have been developed by the Rotunda Community College in Kirkdale, and the Liverpool Lighthouse in Anfield. All the community councils in the area have developed some degree of cultural activity. Other community organisations such as the Eldonians, an innovative social housing company, and the League of Welldoers also include a certain amount of arts activity.

Hope University's Everton campus has provided a particular impetus for arts development in the area, not only through the arts teaching and facilities it provides, but also through its proactive support for smaller arts organisations. It currently houses Collective Encounters, a theatre company working largely in North Liverpool; Weekend Arts College, a youth arts project; and the European Opera Centre. This role will expand with the opening of a new building on the Everton site which will provide incubator support for small companies.

Artists are often attracted to regeneration areas due to the affordability of premises. This can be seen in North Liverpool, with companies and artists' groups moving into the area, such as Wired Aerial Dance, the Ceri Hand gallery and the Royal Standard artists' group. There are a few local cultural groups, including some that are relatively long established, such as the Vauxy Theatre, the Scottie Press and the North End Writers.

### Key Findings

The key findings of the research were that:

- ▶ The scope and success of projects based in North Liverpool are directly linked to the strength of relationships with key local organisations and support workers, and to the degree of understanding of the history and context of the area.
- ▶ There is a growing critical mass of cultural activity in North Liverpool, but some of this is quite fragile and inadequately resourced. Community organisations would welcome support to develop their expertise and fundraising capacity if they are to increase their cultural programmes.

▶ North Liverpool Cultural Committee is a valuable network, but could benefit from a closer connection to the neighbourhood management service so that it can link into strategic programmes for the area.

▶ Relationships between community organisations have improved in recent times, and there is now greater potential for joint initiatives and partnership working. Relationships between cultural organisations, including the LARC partners, are developing strongly but there is still room for more co-ordination and improved awareness of what other organisations are doing in the area.

▶ There is the potential to encourage artists and independent arts groups to move into the area, and to draw those already based in the area more effectively into community networks.

▶ Most groups undertake evaluation and recognise its value, but there is significant variation in capacity and expertise in this area.

### Next Steps

LARC is already initiating some projects that address the findings of this report, such as the evaluation support programme to help organisations articulate the value of their cultural projects more effectively.

LARC has organised a series of consultative action planning events between mid May and mid June 09 to develop specific proposals for joint projects and further capacity building initiatives between cultural and community organisations. Discussion is also underway with current or potential partners such as Step Clever, the Primary Care Trust, and Liverpool City Council.

The LARC Thrive programme will also address the following areas in the next stage of its work in North Liverpool

- ▶ Encouraging Neighbourhood Management Services and other partners to support the establishment of an arts development post for City and North, informed by the post in Alt Valley that has been funded as a result of the Bluecoat and Everyman & Playhouse's partnership work in the area
- ▶ Supporting the further development of a neighbourhood level cultural engagement framework, through working with North Liverpool Cultural Committee and encouraging a greater integration with the neighbourhood management consultation structures, in partnership with Liverpool Community Network

- ▶ Improving communication by developing the LARC website as a forum for information exchange, establishing a Thrive North Liverpool newsletter, working with local newsletters, and ensuring that the Partnerships and Development Co-ordinator is regularly available for drop in and chat sessions in North Liverpool
- ▶ Networking with independent arts organisations and artists groups in North Liverpool and encouraging others to work in the area or consider relocating or establishing a base in North Liverpool, where appropriate
- ▶ Ensuring that the various LARC programmes work effectively together to add value to the focus on North Liverpool, e.g. by progressing young people engaged through Thrive or Find Your Talent into other opportunities within LARC partners, or encouraging North Liverpool community groups to join audience development initiatives run by LARC.

# 1 Introduction

The purpose of this report is to offer an overview of arts and cultural activity delivered in North Liverpool. This research has been commissioned by Liverpool Arts Regeneration Consortium (LARC), a partnership of eight of the major cultural organisations in Liverpool.

The results of this research are intended to help the LARC organisations to work more effectively in North Liverpool, by supporting the development of arts and cultural activity in the area, and by strengthening partnerships with cultural and community organisations and regeneration agencies working in North Liverpool.

The consultation for this report took place between September 2008 and February 2009. 35 organisations were interviewed (for the full list please see Appendix 1). LARC is grateful to everyone who gave their time to this process, and recognises that inevitably some people who should have been included will have been missed out. LARC's Thrive programme in North Liverpool will continue until December 2010, so we would be pleased to hear from anyone who wants to contribute to this process<sup>2</sup>.

The report includes a description of LARC and the programmes it will be delivering in North Liverpool, a summary of cultural activity and engagement in North Liverpool, the key findings from the research and a series of recommendations for future action are put forward.

A summary of the partnerships between LARC partners and community/cultural organisations in North Liverpool is given at Appendix 2. Further information on the work of each of the LARC partners and other cultural organisations working in North Liverpool is given in Appendix 3. Appendix 4 gives information on cultural activity delivered by organisations based in the area.

## 1.1 LARC – Liverpool Arts Regeneration Consortium

There are 8 partners that make up LARC: the Bluecoat, FACT, Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse, National Museums Liverpool, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Tate Liverpool & the Unity Theatre. For more information on LARC please see [www.larc.uk.com](http://www.larc.uk.com)

The LARC organisations were actively involved in the delivery of Liverpool's European Capital of Culture which gave strength and impetus to the LARC partnership. As a result of the growing strength of partnership between these eight organisations, they have been able to attract significant external funds to deliver

programmes of activity in the city region, as described below. There is now a significant critical mass of activity and investment in North Liverpool delivered both through these special programmes, and through the work of some of the LARC partners in North Liverpool. This demonstrates the commitment LARC to the area, and gives a good opportunity to show how co-ordinated cultural activity can contribute to the regeneration agenda in a specific local area.

### Liverpool Thrive

Arts Council England has invested £1.34 million in LARC from its organisational development scheme, Thrive! This programme will assist LARC to deliver a series of programmes aimed at increasing the role of the cultural sector in civic leadership and social and economic renewal. This programme began in spring 2007 and will run until December 2010.

LARC identified three aims to be addressed through the Liverpool Thrive programme:

1. Developing the role of the cultural sector in civic leadership
2. Creating a more audience and people friendly city centre
3. Researching and developing new models of delivery in arts-led regeneration, with a focus on North Liverpool

This report was commissioned to support the planning of how Aim 3 can be addressed.

The achievement of a more co-ordinated planned approach to working with arts organisations artist and local people was identified as central to the achievement of this priority. The first decision was to create a post to hold this responsibility. Adeyinka Olushonde, the joint author of this report, took up his post in September 2008 as the Thrive Partnerships and Development Co-ordinator.

Adeyinka's first job was to carry out a mapping and consultation exercise on cultural activity in North Liverpool which is this report. A summary of the report will be used to support dialogue with regeneration partners such as Step Clever (a Local Economic Growth Initiative), the housing agencies, and Neighbourhood Management.

The next stage was to develop a detailed action plan for Thrive's North Liverpool programme, in consultation with the Heads of Education and Participation from the LARC partners. This process was led by Rebecca Ross-Williams, Theatre & Community Director at Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse, as the Everyman & Playhouse is taking particular responsibility for leading LARC's Thrive work in North Liverpool.

<sup>2</sup> Contact [thrive@liverpoolphil.com](mailto:thrive@liverpoolphil.com)

The action plan includes capacity building seminars for cultural practitioners in the area, information and data sharing initiatives, the intention to develop programmes that can be delivered jointly between one or two LARC partners and smaller organisations based in the area (the action plan is summarised in Section 4 below).

There will also be an evaluation development scheme, to provide external evaluation support for cultural activity in the area and to build evaluation skills amongst the participating organisations. This will result in a report summarising the impact achieved by these projects, by Autumn 2010, and demonstrating how they address key government agendas such as Every Child Matters. Francois Matarasso, an internationally renowned author and consultant, has been appointed to lead this project. Gerri Moriarty, an experienced community arts practitioner and consultant, has agreed to be an advisor to the evaluation strand, and will also be involved in facilitating other aspects of the programme.

### Find Your Talent

LARC is one of ten national pathfinders to deliver the Government's Find Your Talent scheme, which aims to give every child and young person access to five hours of culture every week. It will run until August 2011. Find Your Talent will work in partnership with Liverpool, St Helen's and Knowsley Councils and Creative Partnerships Merseyside. It is supported by both the Department for Children, Schools and Families and Schools (DCSF) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The total budget is £4 million, including £2.4 million from central government, with the balance from local partnership support. It is managed by National Museums Liverpool on behalf of LARC.

Find Your Talent will include a focus on the City and North neighbourhood management area in Liverpool, and will therefore work alongside the Thrive programme. The intention is to work towards achieving the target of five hours access to cultural activity for every young person in the area, particularly for 11 to 19 year olds.

Find Your Talent has now appointed a co-ordinator for City and North, Jenny Liddy. The FYT team is working closely with the Thrive programme to ensure that the two programmes add value to each other.

For more information on the Find Your Talent programme, please see [www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/learning/projects/findyourtalent](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/learning/projects/findyourtalent)

### Creative Apprenticeships

This is a national pilot for the Government's scheme that aims to diversify the range of people who enter employment in the cultural sector, by offering employment opportunities to young people who have not had access to degree-level education.

Ten young people have been recruited as the first group of apprentices placed across the LARC partners. In future years, it is hoped to recruit some of the apprentices from North Liverpool, thus helping to provide progression routes for people engaged through either the Thrive or Find Your Talent programmes.

This project is supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, the Working Neighbourhood Fund, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and the Learning and Skills Council. Nationally, Creative Apprenticeships is led by Creative Cultural Skills, supported by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

For more information on the national Creative Apprentices scheme, please see [www.creative-choices.co.uk](http://www.creative-choices.co.uk)

### Audience Development Project

This programme includes the development of a family friendly website for Merseyside ([www.familyfriendlymerseyside.org.uk](http://www.familyfriendlymerseyside.org.uk)), and a new audiences development scheme, Open City. This will recruit a team of volunteers who will be paired up with community groups. The volunteers will then set up a series of visits for the groups to attend a range of cultural venues over a 6 month period. Again this offers opportunities to link through to the work in North Liverpool, building on the audience development work already undertaken in the area by the Rotunda, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, and Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse.

## 1.2 The Liverpool context

Liverpool's cultural organisations have an unprecedented profile throughout the UK and Europe, as a result of the success of Capital of Culture.

LARC partners and the wider cultural sector are well aligned to assist the city to achieve its aspiration to "improve the image of the city and to help inspire a further surge in regeneration and private investment across Liverpool"<sup>3</sup>.

Cultural organisations need to ensure collectively that their innovative artistic programmes and new models for working are not only able to capture the imagination of public & private

funding bodies, but that the research and evaluation they employ can demonstrate a significant and measurable change in the attitudes, aspirations and skill-levels of those with whom they engage.

Liverpool has a long history of socially engaged cultural practice. The Black- E (formerly the Blackie), is the longest established community arts centre in the UK, and there are a number of organisations which specialise in community engagement. All the larger organisations also have significant education and participation programmes. The strength of this track record was vividly demonstrated through the Creative Communities programme of Liverpool 08, which represents a unique body of community focused work compared to any previous European Capital of Culture.

The Four Corners scheme was a significant part of the Creative Communities programme, whereby a cultural organisation was contracted to develop a particular relationship with one of the Liverpool neighbourhood management areas. Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse was assigned to work in City and North, and the Bluecoat to Alt Valley. As a result, both organisations have developed strong links in these areas. Creative Communities also included a wide range of work with schools, and with young people in a range of contexts.

For more information on the Creative Communities Programme, please see:

<http://www.liverpool08.com/participate/CreativeCommunities>

## 1.3 The Larc focus on North Liverpool

LARC decided to use its Thrive and Find Your Talent programmes to focus attention on North Liverpool for a number of reasons:

- ▶ There is the highest concentration of social and economic deprivation within Liverpool, including several wards that are amongst the most deprived within the UK
- ▶ The outreach work of LARC partners has not in the past focused as strongly on North Liverpool as on other parts of the city
- ▶ North Liverpool is a strategic priority for Liverpool City Council and other agencies.

Liverpool City Council has drawn up a North Liverpool Economic Development Plan to ensure that regeneration programmes in this area are co-ordinated to have the maximum benefit<sup>4</sup>. The plan focuses on the four wards

of Anfield, Everton, Kirkdale & County – all of which include a disproportionate number of Super Output Areas that experience some of the highest levels of deprivation in the UK.

LARC has followed this focus, and is targeting its work through Thrive on these four wards.

These wards cross over three different neighbourhood management areas<sup>5</sup>. To date, the research process has mainly engaged with the City and North neighbourhood office<sup>6</sup>, however the opportunity to work flexibly across different administrative and geographic boundaries is a strength of the Thrive Programme.

Other major regeneration initiatives also reflect this flexibility – such as the North Liverpool Economic Development Plan itself, and the Step Clever enterprise development programme<sup>7</sup> (which not only crosses over neighbourhood management areas, but also across local authority boundaries).

As part of this research, people were asked about definitions of North Liverpool, to gain an understanding of how they identified with the area. The replies were varied, but identified that for most people North Liverpool covers a wide area "north of Islington", stretching into Bootle (which is in Sefton, not Liverpool). For this project, LARC will focus on the four wards noted above, but not exclusively, as cultural activity cannot and should not be confined within administrative boundaries.

## 1.4 Themes

The initial research brief for this report focussed around three main themes:

1. Gaining an introductory overview of the overall education and participatory work carried out by LARC organisations and other major cultural organisations in North Liverpool
2. Identifying programmes of cultural activity that are currently being delivered in the area
3. Identifying possible gaps in service delivery, with a view to developing a more coordinated approach to working with and across the North Liverpool communities.

This report and the supporting information provided will provide a platform for discussions through which new working relationships may be established.

It will assist in the design and delivery of capacity building and continuing professional development initiatives for both LARC partners and the wider cultural sector based within the area.

<sup>4</sup> Please see: [http://www.liverpool.gov.uk/Business/Economic\\_development/Area\\_or\\_site\\_specific\\_regeneration/North\\_Liverpool/north\\_liverpool/index.asp](http://www.liverpool.gov.uk/Business/Economic_development/Area_or_site_specific_regeneration/North_Liverpool/north_liverpool/index.asp)

<sup>5</sup> Liverpool has five Neighbourhood Management areas: City and North; East Liverpool; Alt Valley; South Central; and South Liverpool. Vauxhall and Kirkdale come under City and North, Anfield under East Liverpool and County under Alt Valley.

<sup>6</sup> The City & North Neighbourhood covers an area north of the city centre, the city centre, parts of Kensington to the east of the city centre, and some wards to the south and south east of the city centre.

<sup>7</sup> [www.stepclever.co.uk](http://www.stepclever.co.uk)

## 2 Cultural activity in North Liverpool

It is envisaged that the initial findings within this report may be used to create a brief for partnership working within a particular strategic agenda (e.g. health, worklessness, or skills development).

The creation & implementation of a new model of partnership working – focussed on information sharing, partnership development and strategic planning will be informed by this report and the discussions that arise from it.

Finally, the development of a 2-year programme of externally evaluated projects will also be informed by this report and the ongoing discussions that are taking place within LARC.

From the consultation undertaken, it is clear that there is a growing engagement with North Liverpool by several of the major cultural organisations, and that a number of community organisations in the area are including cultural activities within their programmes. The arts focus of the Liverpool Hope University Cornerstone campus in Everton provides an important resource for cultural development in the area, hosting various small arts organisations and working in partnership with Royal Liverpool Philharmonic.

There are a few long established voluntary arts groups in North Liverpool, and some independent arts organisations and artists' groups are also basing themselves in the area, attracted by its affordability.

More information on the work of individual organisations is given in Appendices 3 and 4.

### 2.1 Cultural organisations based outside North Liverpool with significant work in the area

All the LARC organisations have some engagement with North Liverpool. From the consultation it appears that the Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse, the Liverpool Biennial, FACT and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic have the most substantial programmes in the area. The Bluecoat has a significant outreach programme in the neighbouring Alt Valley area, in North East Liverpool.

- ▶ **Liverpool Biennial** has developed a particular relationship with the Rotunda Community College in Kirkdale, and has developed some significant public realm initiatives with the Rotunda, including the Winter Lights illuminations and the Pavilion structure and community garden on the land outside the Rotunda. The Biennial is also working with other community organisations in the area, and is developing an arts programme along the Leeds Liverpool canal to encourage greater use of this public space, leading up to Urbanism, a programme of activity in September 2009.
- ▶ **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic** opened a new rehearsal and resource base at the Friary in West Everton in January 2009, which will be a base for several of the RLP's community and youth ensembles, as well as a rehearsal space for the orchestra. This will further increase RLP's engagement with North Liverpool, which has included its partnership with Hope University at Cornerstone, and work with several schools and community groups in the area. For example, RLP recently succeeded in its bid to secure funds for the In Harmony project. This is based on the renowned

Venezuelan El Sistema model, which works with children and young people from deprived areas, creating music ensembles of an international standard. In Harmony will work with all the children and their families at Faith Primary School in West Everton, in partnership with West Everton Community Council and Hope University.

- ▶ **Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse** have worked extensively in North Liverpool, in leading the Culture Company's Four Corners programme for the City and North neighbourhood (see 1.2 above). For the next three years, their youth theatre programme will be based in Vauxhall, fitting out the Athol Village Hall as its base. The Everyman & Playhouse works with many groups in the local area, including travellers, and the majority of venues for its community tours are in North Liverpool. The Everyman & Playhouse has also encouraged people from North Liverpool to visit shows at the theatres, moving from special visits as part of a community group, to an increase in people from North Liverpool making their own independent bookings at the theatres.
- ▶ **FACT** is working in partnership with Arena Housing, a major residential social landlord in the area, in the delivery of the Tenantspin community media programme. Various projects have been developed, including work with the Lighthouse in Anfield, and FACT may establish an outreach base at the Lighthouse in the near future.
- ▶ **The Bluecoat** has a significant outreach programme in Alt Valley (North East Liverpool), resulting from the Four Corners programme. The Bluecoat has worked with Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse to test out a model of partnership working with the Alt Valley Neighbourhood Management Service and housing agencies in the area. Funding has been secured from the partners for an outreach worker who works with both organisations, and has an office with the Neighbourhood Management Service.

Tate Liverpool is working with the pioneering Community Justice Centre in North Liverpool, and National Museums Liverpool has undertaken significant consultation in the area in developing plans for the new Museum of Liverpool. Unity Theatre is working with schools in North East Liverpool, in the Alt Valley area.

Merseyside Dance Initiative has undertaken outreach work in the area through their *Barging In* series, including site specific dance performances based around the Leeds Liverpool canal.

Brouhaha, Hope Street Ltd and ACME have also all delivered work in North Liverpool. For example, Brouhaha has been

establishing a yearly festival in partnership with community organisations in the area.

### 2.2 Community and cultural organisations based in North Liverpool

There is some significant cultural activity led by the Rotunda Community College in Kirkdale, and the Liverpool Lighthouse in Anfield, and several of the community councils and community organisations in North Liverpool undertake cultural activity as part of their work.

**The Rotunda** runs a number of arts classes as part of its community college programme, and has worked in partnership with Liverpool Biennial (as described above) to host a series of public art projects. It has also run its own arts programme, both within the building such as after school activities for young people, or in partnership with other organisations in the area, such as the knitting project in 2008, culminating in an exhibition at the Rotunda. Local police noted that the after school arts activities resulted in a significant decrease in anti-social behaviour in the area.

This work has been recognised by the award of funding from Liverpool City Council for further development of the arts programme at the Rotunda. The Rotunda also aims to get people from North Liverpool to take up the cultural opportunities offered in the city centre, and has organised group bookings with support from most of the LARC venues.

**The Rotunda** has also taken on a strategic development role by creating and managing the North Liverpool Culture Committee, which provides a monthly forum for people working in the area to share information and network with each other.

**The Liverpool Lighthouse** is the UK's first urban gospel arts centre and has some useful facilities, including a 430 seat theatre. It includes cultural activities within its work with young people through the Harmonize project, including DJing, street dance and other urban art forms, and through its work with older people, Kaleidoscope. The Lighthouse is working with FACT's Tenantspin programme as described above.

**The League of Welldoers**, established in 1893, offer dance, reminiscence and cultural outings as part of its work with older people, whereas the innovative social housing group, the Eldonians, use culture primarily within their work with young children and their families.

**The community councils** all have some cultural activity within their programmes, or can offer facilities that could be used for cultural activity.

## 3 Key issues

These issues are drawn from the interviews conducted with 35 organisations during the period September 08 to January 09 (please see Appendix 1 for list of people consulted).

### 3.1 General

**The need for community partnerships:** Findings from this research suggest that the scope and success of projects based in North Liverpool are directly linked to the strength of relationship with key North Liverpool organisations and support workers (and sometimes even specific families).

**The North Liverpool Culture Committee** provides a forum to discuss new project ideas and to talk about artists & exhibitions/shows that may be available. It also provides a good place to explore and build new relationships that may be of wider benefit to communities and groups within North Liverpool. Some of the community organisations in the area do not engage with the Committee however, and it could potentially benefit from a closer link to the Neighbourhood Management service. This would help to ensure greater input on cultural issues to neighbourhood management, and facilitate access to new strategic programmes and associated funding.

**The pattern of relationships:** The relatively simple research question about an organisation's partners helped to provide an initial map of which communities and organisations the LARC partners had made their priority (and by their absence, who was not currently a priority). These partnerships are summarised in Appendix 2.

**Capacity:** Although most of the cultural organisations interviewed were keen to develop new work in North Liverpool, many recognise that they do not have a significant amount of capacity to do so.

**The need to generate more arts development expertise and capacity:** There are few community organisations that regularly programme significant arts and cultural projects, although several include arts activity to some extent. The majority of community organisations stated that they would like to include more cultural programmes into their offer, but lack the expertise to do this. As many depend on project funding to support their core programmes of activity, their fundraising efforts tend to focus on non arts programmes.

**Increased willingness to work in partnership.** North Liverpool has been perceived as a difficult place to work, with the local community seen as fragmented and factionalised. The multiple layers of deprivation and the historic community cohesion issues faced by the area have a profound effect on

the way organisations operate and work together within the community. However, from this consultation, it seems there is a willingness to collaborate in ways that in the past would have seemed unusual. Organisations that have historically worked against each other are developing more joint programme initiatives and are at a point where they are discussing the possibility of joint posts. This represents an opportunity for the LARC organisations to build on the current goodwill and partnership to forge deeper and stronger relationships in the community to help affect change within a neighbourhood.

**Building and bridging social capital:** LARC partners have an opportunity to affect both regeneration and community cohesion by building social capital and bridging the social capital as well<sup>9</sup>, given that cultural activities can be significant in bringing people together in a neutral space, helping to build a network of social relationships and interactions.

**Lack of long term programme funding for cultural activity:** Despite the intrinsic, social and economic value of cultural activity taking place in the area, almost all of it is reliant on short term funding. The Residential Social Landlords (RSLs) such as Liverpool Housing Trust or Arena have been supportive of cultural activity, and some cultural organisations have been adept at securing support from a range of sources. However few have been able to secure longer term service level agreements for this work, which would help to sustain its future.

**Potential to attract more artists to base themselves in the area:** Several arts organisations and groups have moved into North Liverpool in the past couple of years, and this trend could be encouraged. It is a well known phenomenon that artists tend to move into regeneration areas attracted by affordability, and bring a degree of animation and lateral thinking with them. Given the availability of space, and the general interest from community partners, there could be some mutual benefits to encouraging these moves, where appropriate.

### 3.2 Evaluation

Specific questions were asked in each interview about evaluation issues, since one of the objectives of the Thrive programme is to undertake an evaluation development programme, focusing on work in North Liverpool. The intention is to produce a body of evidence for the social impact of the arts, and to develop the evaluation skills of the participating organisations.

► All organisations featured within this report demonstrated an awareness of the importance of evaluation. The breadth of

organisations' capacity and will to develop this area typically correlated with the size and experience of the organisation.

- Some organisations were quite advanced in applying different evaluation techniques, having articulated a clear set of policies for evaluation of programmes. Other organisations were just beginning to evaluate projects and were a long way behind some of their peers. Some organisations were quite advanced in applying different technologies and media, gathering information to be used as evidence of achieving against set targets, other organisations used less technologically-advanced, yet equally creative methods, of gathering data.
- Each of the LARC partners demonstrated good awareness of the purpose and importance of a robust evaluation and for every project delivered some evaluation process was employed; however the breadth of organisations' capacity and will to develop internally in this area was varied.
- Working with external evaluators was something that many of the partners felt was worthwhile and brought added value to the process of organisational development and project appraisal. There were issues as to whether some evaluators were more intrusive than helpful and if the process of working with them produced as much work for officers as it alleviated.
- One telling comment came from a LARC partner who said that although they found evaluations useful, they were often only used to evidence against short-term priorities. There seemed to be few opportunities to use the same evidence as part of a wider longer-term study on the socio-economic effects of participation in the arts.
- Another issue related to having to work to multiple funding partners on the same project, where the evaluation priorities of one of the partners may not be in harmony with another, which may take the documentation of a project (and its indicators of success) away from its original purpose.
- The development of a sophisticated central system for gathering qualitative and quantitative information around participant experiences of arts programmes through Find Your Talent represents an opportunity for LARC partners. This will be led by National Museums Liverpool, based on the online evaluation tool My Visit.

<sup>9</sup> Social Capital here is used in the context of the document 'Dynamics of Local Economies & Deprived Neighbourhoods' (North & Syrett, DCLG - June 2006). This report outlines the dynamics of local economies and how deprived neighborhoods interact within the wider sub-regional context.

## 4 Conclusions and next steps

It is imperative for anyone working in North Liverpool to endeavour to understand the history and context of the community (including their mindset, values & aspirations) before attempting to develop new work or partnerships.

Funding and capacity issues notwithstanding, the LARC partners have, through their very existence, a great opportunity to use their expertise and influence to be 'greater than the sum of their parts'.

Cultural projects have not been part of the staple community diet in North Liverpool – at least to the extent that it is in other parts of the city.

The aspiration to enable more residents within the community to feel as though cultural institutions that are based in the centre of the city also belong to them is one that is commonly shared between all LARC partners.

### 4.1 Conclusions

The following conclusions regarding North Liverpool work have been drawn:

- ▶ The LARC partners have shown their ability to design and deliver a range of innovative projects in North Liverpool.
- ▶ The LARC partners are a valuable asset in supporting local people to get involved in artistic and creative activities.
- ▶ More capacity building for community groups is needed to help develop the expertise to develop cultural programmes, and to secure the project funding required.
- ▶ An information and communication strategy should be developed for communicating LARC messages and information to the wider sector in North Liverpool.
- ▶ The North Liverpool Culture Committee should be supported on a long term basis as part of a wider communication strategy in order to feed back the needs and aspirations of the community. The Culture Committee may need to relate more closely to the City Council's neighbourhood management structures in order to be fully effective.
- ▶ More effective information sharing across the LARC partners should be developed. This should be flexible enough to handle the changing nature of programmes and relationships both within LARC & with community groups and partner organisations.

### 4.2 Next steps

This section summarises the main areas that LARC will address in drawing up a detailed action plan to address the

findings of this report. Some specific projects are already in place, and further ideas will be developed as a result of a series of consultative meetings taking place between mid May and mid June 2009.

#### 4.2.1 Consultation and partnership development

To drive innovation continually within neighbourhoods, LARC partners and other cultural organisations need to engage with statutory bodies, to secure longer term service agreements to support cultural delivery, and to be consistently represented on boards and task groups in order to affect change.

To this effect, links must be made at all levels with other strategic regeneration organisations such as Step Clever (Sefton & Liverpool Economic Growth Initiative), Liverpool First, and Liverpool Vision.

#### 4.2.2 Arts Development Structures and Support

Partnership working is critical to delivering Aim 3 of the Thrive programme, operating in symbiotic and mutually-beneficial relationships. At the neighbourhood level this should include:

- a) Developing neighbourhood representation models to complement the strategic city-wide agenda (in partnership with Liverpool Community Network), building on the work of the North Liverpool Cultural Committee
- b) Encouraging a 'drop-in-and-chat' relationship for the Thrive Partnerships & Development Co-ordinator to help to put a human face to strategic developments for those organisations working in North Liverpool as well as being able to pick up signs of dissent or negative shifts in community relations.
- c) Consideration of creating more staff capacity in arts development work, either through a shared Arts Development Worker post or through building capacity within individual community based organisations. The idea of a shared post is supported by a number of neighbourhood organisations who feel it would be beneficial to share a post that could develop more work on behalf of the arts and cultural sector at a neighbourhood level.

#### 4.2.3 Information Sharing and Communication

There can be a lack of mutual awareness between cultural organisations and the wider community sector about what is being delivered in a local area in terms of cultural activity and engagement. In order to improve communication, the following initiatives should be undertaken:

- a) Produce a regular newsletter, to be distributed both in hard copy and by email on what the Thrive programme is delivering in North Liverpool
- b) Work with local initiatives to produce regular newsletters on cultural activities
- c) Develop the LARC website as a place for LARC partners and others working in North Liverpool to share information on what they are doing, adding a discussion forum/blog facility to support increased dialogue and joint working

#### 4.2.4 Programme And Skills Development

In order to generate long term development, LARC needs both to build skills and capacity, and to attract funding to support new and innovative collaborations to deliver cultural programmes. Gaining the Find Your Talent programme for the Liverpool City Region was a significant achievement, and this is bringing in new resources to North Liverpool to engage more children and young people in culture. There are also discussions now underway with the Primary Care Trust to support arts and health activity in the area.

In order to make the most of these opportunities, it is recommended that LARC should develop both the skills of cultural practitioners, including the LARC partners' own staff, and build capacity within community organisations.

More detailed plans should be developed as a result of a series of meetings between cultural and community organisations in May to June 2009, aiming to identify needs and generate ideas for collaborations and further skills development initiatives. These events are being delivered in partnership with Curious Minds (formerly known as Creative Partnerships Merseyside), and will also involve CM's Creative Agents, to help them support schools to develop their relationships with the wider community through cultural activity. Following the events, a more detailed programme of skills development activities will be drawn up, potentially including specific fundraising training as this need has been clearly articulated in the consultation process.

LARC should ensure that the evaluation development support programme engages effectively with partners on the ground and with key stakeholders. This will take place during 2009 – 2010 to provide external evaluation support to five or six cultural projects taking place in and around North Liverpool. This aims to provide a body of evidence on the social impact of cultural engagement in the area, and to build the evaluation capacity of the organisations involved.

Opportunities to network with the range of artists and independent arts groups now based in North Liverpool, and to encourage others to consider moving to the area, should be developed.

#### 4.2.5 Co-ordination and Consultation

LARC must ensure that its various programmes work effectively together to add value to the focus on North Liverpool, e.g. by progressing young people engaged through Thrive or Find Your Talent into other opportunities within LARC partners, or encouraging North Liverpool community groups to join audience development initiatives run by LARC.

It must also ensure that its programmes work effectively with local community and cultural organisations, adding value to rather than displacing existing provision.

## Appendix 1 List of people consulted

Organisation	Contact
Addaction Liverpool	Nick Evans
Arena Housing	Sarah Renshaw
Bluecoat, The	Bec Fearon
BNENC	Frank Prendergast
Brouhaha International	Giles Agis
Business in the Arts NW	Dorothy Taylor
City & North NMS	Paul Morrison
Collective Encounters	Sarah Thornton
Community Justice Centre	June Baker
Creative Partnerships Merseyside	Chris Finn
Fuse Theatre	Kathy McArdle
Hope Street Ltd	Peter Ward
Kirkdale Community Centre	Sheena Orton
LCVS	Karen Harris
League of Welldoers, The	Lesley Black
Liverpool Biennial	Franny George
Liverpool City Council – City and North Neighbourhood Management Service	Paul Morrison
Liverpool City Council	Shannon Ledbetter
Liverpool Community Network – BRM network	Taher Qassim
Liverpool Community Network - Arts & Culture Network	Katie Beales
Liverpool Culture Company	Claire McColgan
Liverpool Culture Company	Alicia Smith
Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse	Rachel Littlewood & Rebecca Ross-Williams
Liverpool First	Gaynor Richards
Liverpool Hope University (Everton Campus)	Bill Chambers
Liverpool Lantern Co	Jackie Swanson
Liverpool Lighthouse	Sheila McCormack
Liverpool PCT	Taher Qassim and Tony Boyle
Liverpool Vision (Step Clever programme)	Mike Taylor
Merseyside ACME	Kevin McManus
Merseyside Dance Initiative	Karen Gallagher
National Museums Liverpool	Claire Duffy
National Museums Liverpool	Paul Khan
Notre Dame Catholic High School	Lesley Bentley
Royal Liverpool Philharmonic	Tamsin Cox & Peter Garden
Tate Liverpool	Deborah Riding
Unity Theatre	Louise Flooks
Vauxhall Neighbourhood Council	Marie McGiveron

## Appendix 2 LARC partner engagement with North Liverpool organisations and community organisations

Community organisations	Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra	The Bluecoat	FACT	Biennial	Everyman & Playhouse	National Museums Liverpool	Liverpool Tate	Unity Theatre
Kensington Regeneration	▶				▶			
Fazakerly Fed		▶			▶			
Orrel Park Community Centre		▶						
Clubmoor Active Age Centre		▶						
Norris Green Day centre		▶						
Liverpool Reads		▶						
Liverpool Lighthouse			▶			▶		
Rotunda (& NLCC)			▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶
Marybone Youth & Community Centre					▶	▶		
Refugee Action						▶		
Eldonians			▶		▶			
Kensington Community Centre					▶			
Lifebank					▶			
Travellers (through Liverpool Detached Youth Service)					▶			
Bronte Youth & Community Centre					▶			
Methodist Church Anfield					▶			
Fairfield Centre								
Kensington Fields Community Centre					▶			
Kensington Youth Inclusion Project					▶			
Rice Lane					▶			
Walton Youth Project					▶			
Liverpool WAC					▶			
The Evergreens (Picton)					▶			
The Clock (North Everton)					▶			
Epsom Street Play Centre					▶			
League of Welldoers			▶					
The Scottie Press			▶					
The Sylvestrian Club			▶					
Anfield Breckfield New Beginnings			▶					
St Anthony's Church, Scotland Rd			▶					

## Appendix 2 Continued

Community Councils	Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra	The Bluecoat	FACT	Biennial	Everyman & Playhouse	National Museums Liverpool	Liverpool Tate	Unity Theatre
West Everton Community Council	▶				▶	▶		
Anfield & Breckfield Community Council					▶			
Vauxhall Neighbourhood Council			▶					
Breckfield & North Everton Neighbourhood Council			▶					

Housing Agencies	Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra	The Bluecoat	FACT	Biennial	Everyman & Playhouse	National Museums Liverpool	Liverpool Tate	Unity Theatre
Arena Housing			▶	▶	▶			
Arena Options (Sheltered Housing Scheme)			▶					
Cobalt Housing		▶						
Liverpool Housing Trust		▶			▶			
Riverside Housing (CDS/Plus Housing)					▶			
Servite Housing			▶					
Liverpool Mutual Homes			▶					

## Appendix 3 Cultural organisations working in North Liverpool but not based in the area

This section describes the work of various cultural organisations that undertake work in North Liverpool or in immediately adjoining areas. This includes both the work of the LARC partners, and that of other cultural organisations working in the area. The research was completed in January 09 and new developments have happened since that time. These are reflected where possible in the text, but inevitably this research can only be a snapshot in time.

### 1.1 LARC partners

#### The Bluecoat

The Bluecoat is a creative hub housing exhibition and performance spaces as well as studios and offices populated by a community of artists and creative industry businesses. The Bluecoat presents six visual arts exhibitions per year and provides a year-round programme of literature, live art, music and dance working with both local and international artists. It holds an annual literature festival Chapter and Verse and is a founding partner of Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival.

#### Learning and participation programme

This has 3 main strands:

##### Public Programme

A series of programmes that the public can access from within the building such as, Shine nurturing young talent and linking them with professional artists (funded by Yorkshire Bank, for 11-16 yr olds); and Explore, a set of activities focused on the exhibition programme at the Bluecoat.

##### Targeted Programmes

These include Blue Room which works with adults with learning difficulties in partnership with the local authority; activities linked to the Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival; and a programme of work in Alt Valley commissioned as part of Liverpool Culture Company's Four Corners programme.

##### Schools Programmes

This includes a focus on how contemporary art can be an inspiration for learning in different curricular subjects. It has a training mentors programme for new teachers, and a heritage programme using images developed by artists based on the historic building. The Bluecoat is also developing a Creative Media Diploma.

#### Work in North Liverpool

There is an extensive programme of work in the Alt Valley neighbourhood management area (North East Liverpool), which will be continued for the next three years. Alt Valley

covers one of the four wards (County) that LARC is focusing on as part of its North Liverpool programme.

*Superlambanana* involved artists working in the County ward of Liverpool and facilitating community groups' artistic designs for their Superlambanana. This project was hugely successful, managing to bring a large number of people together while fostering a sense of pride in their area. The artwork did get vandalised, but this helped to bring the group even more strongly together to condemn the destruction (which was repaired and restored).

The Bluecoat, Everyman & Playhouse, Alt Valley Neighbourhood Management Services and Cobalt (housing trust) have teamed up to provide a 6-month contract for an arts outreach officer (to be based in the Neighbourhood Management Service office, managed by the Bluecoat). It is intended to be extended beyond the initial 6 month period. This model is being investigated for the City and North Liverpool area, with support from several community groups and in the hope of support from City and North NMS and Residential Social Landlords.

#### Target groups for work in North Liverpool

Overall, the Bluecoat focuses primarily on 11-15 year olds & over 50's (and the intergenerational work therein).

#### FACT

FACT. (The Foundation for Art and Creative Technology) is one of the UK's leading organisations for commissioning, exhibiting and supporting artists' work in film, video, and new media. The main programmes of work include an exhibitions programme including projects and commissions presented in the FACT Centre's galleries and Media Lounge as well as with partner organisations in the UK & abroad.

*The Structural Programme* provides projects and services to support and develop the national infrastructure for artists and exhibitors working with video and new and emerging media forms. *The Collaboration Programme* engages participants as producers in film & new media, providing a professional and supportive structure in which artists can make new work. The programme aims to produce and present new works of artistic significance and social benefit, empowering individuals and communities to engage with the moving image and new media art as producers rather than just consumers.

#### Learning and participation programme:

This includes work with young people, schools and families. The young people's programme includes Freehand, a group of fifty 13-19 year olds who advise on how work displayed in the

building can be made more relevant and accessible to their peers. The members also have the opportunity to programme films for the venue. The schools programme includes skills workshops and CPD for teachers, curriculum based lectures and film screenings. FACT is, with the Bluecoat, a partner in the Creative Media diploma.

#### Work in North Liverpool

FACT's main focus on North Liverpool is delivered through the Tenantspin programme described below. In addition several schools from North Liverpool participate in the education programme, and some of the participants in the young people's work are from North Liverpool.

#### Tenantspin

FACT's outreach programme includes the Tenantspin project, a community broadcasting programme, which is based on a partnership between FACT & Arena Housing. Tenantspin take social housing agendas & work with the residents on what they would like to express through them. As Arena has a large number of tenancies in North Liverpool, this has focused part of the programme on to the area.

There are 5 strands to Tenantspin:

1. Web-casting
2. Training
3. Commissioning
4. Film Production
5. Community Film Nights

#### Web-casting

This began with residents in the tower blocks around Sefton Park where there is a purpose-built studio in one of the blocks. Residents have a dedicated channel on their TV that they tune in to. There is a core group, trained and supported in digital broadcasting, who plan programmes on current issues. A 1-hour talk-show style discussion is developed and broadcast live to other residents.

#### Training

Delivered from FACT's media lounge (using 12 G5 Apple-Macs), these are free courses for anyone over 25, providing camera equipment, a trainer and support. Other training schemes are based at Liverpool Lighthouse in Anfield including digital film making.

A 12-week course was delivered leading up to the Tate's Fifth Floor exhibition, which took place from November 08 to January 09. This provided intensive training for anyone in Liverpool (in camera operation, presenting, internet tips & tricks) to use the purpose-built studio within the exhibition.

Many of the participants came from North Liverpool due to Tenantspin's links in the area.

#### Community Film Nights

FACT provide a night dedicated to community based film featuring or inspired by Liverpool, including historical footage, works of local interest and a showcase for undiscovered Liverpool talent.

#### Spaces for Contemplation

A long-term collaboration between Tenantspin, FACT, the Primary Care Trust & Luke Jeram (a Bristol-based artist). This project looks at the way people are affected by the waiting process. Currently the project is working with the local school, St George's church and the staff & patients' forum of Everton Park health centre. They will be installing a webcam on the brow of St George's linked to another 7 worldwide (chosen by the participants). A series of 2-day workshops for local people & young people in local schools will also feed into the project.

Tenantspin continue to stay in contact with and provide opportunities to organisations in North Liverpool, including:

- ▶ BNENC young people
- ▶ Lighthouse
- ▶ Churches including St Anthony's, Scotland Rd
- ▶ League of Welldoers
- ▶ Scottie Press
- ▶ The Sylvestrian Club
- ▶ Eldonian Village

Tenantspin regularly shares information with these organisations, inviting them to training, talks and social events..

#### Target groups for work in North Liverpool

Tenantspin generally works with those 25 years and older (a large number of the Lighthouse participants are over 60).

#### Liverpool Biennial

Liverpool Biennial is the UK's largest festival of contemporary visual art. The work of Liverpool Biennial is driven by the overall aim of 'Engaging Art, People & Place'. To ensure that this is achieved, Liverpool Biennial's learning and engagement programme currently operates in three main areas, Learning & Inclusion; Big Table; and the Visitor Programme.

#### Work in North Liverpool

The main focus is on the Rotunda through the Big Table project which is a partnership between Garston Cultural Village,

Liverpool Biennial, Metal (Kensington), and Rotunda (Kirkdale). The partnership exists for the joint realisation of a visual arts programme that takes place in the three neighbourhoods, linking up communities in different parts of the city. Through the programme the partnership aspires to bring the best in international visual art into sustainable contact with each neighbourhood.

#### Liverpool Biennial's Big Table projects include:

##### Winter Lights

The Winter Lights series (including 'Animal', 'Liverpool Jackpot' and 'Title, Author, Genre'), which involves artists working with local community groups to produce art works that use light to express meaning within the created pieces.

##### Pavilion Project

The Pavilions project takes the form of three large-scale, temporary creative spaces in the Liverpool neighbourhoods of Kirkdale, Garston and Kensington. For the Rotunda Pavilion, Rotunda worked with internationally acclaimed landscape architects GROSS Max on designs to convert a strip of derelict land outside their building into a community garden and to create an open pavilion structure (see also the section on the Rotunda in Appendix 4).

For the Edge Hill Pavilion, Metal in Kensington invited Colombian father and son team Luis and Juan Pelaez to transform the disused approach to Edge Hill Station. Nexus is a sea of glowing columns along the length of the space, referencing the design of the original 1830 flooring found in the station.

For the Garston Pavilion, Garston Cultural Village and artist Michael Trainor worked together to stage a 'Cultural Revolution' as the declaration of the Artistic Republic of Garston on 31 May 2008. The Wellington Street School building in the neighbourhood became The Garston Embassy, complete with palm trees, fountain, sculpture garden and a balcony of waving dignitaries.

#### For the likes of us (Cities on the Edge)

This was a commissioned photography project for Liverpool European Capital of Culture 2008. This exhibition and book on the theme of people and places featured Liverpool in relationship with five other European port cities. As part of this project, a group from Rotunda did an exchange visit with Naples.

#### The Canal Programme

In 2009 (Liverpool's Year of Environment), the Biennial will collaborate with local and regional agencies, commissioning artworks with residents neighbouring on a four-mile stretch of

the Leeds-Liverpool canal, from Seaforth, through Bootle, to where it currently terminates in Stanley Dock.

#### Target groups in North Liverpool

All ages

#### Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse

The Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse produces and presents theatre in both venues. At the Playhouse, the focus is on bold, theatrical productions which bring great plays to vivid life. At the Everyman, the in-house programme centres on new writing, often emerging from a new generation of playwriting talent from within the city.

**Complementing this work, the outreach team work in 4 main areas:**

**Theatre Linked:** For current audience members, including theatre master-classes, talks, 'meet the artist' sessions etc.

**Education:** Supports the work of schools, colleges and universities in the region with a variety of shows & packages suitable for different levels of study.

**Youth Theatre:** Providing a platform for young people to explore different texts and perform theatre to high standards

**Outreach:** Enabling community groups to take part in workshops and experience professional work within the community, as well as engage with the various programmes and shows presented within the Everyman & Playhouse

#### Work in North Liverpool

Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse have developed a strong focus on North Liverpool since they were commissioned to work in the City and North neighbourhood area through the Culture Company's Four Corners programme. Four Corners aims to explore the views, dreams, aspirations and memories of people who live in the communities within the neighborhood areas of Liverpool.

This 3-year project has created a strong network in North Liverpool for the organisation, helping to embed Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse into North Liverpool's cultural landscape. They have now stimulated activity in the local area to the point where communities are raising their own funding to work in partnership with the Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse (for example ABCC raised £5,000 for a project with a book to be published soon).

North Liverpool groups regularly access Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse's overall community programme, for example through the Included programme which was developed

alongside in-house productions. Over 3-4 weeks the Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse partner a school & the actors deliver workshops relevant to the in-house show. Groups also visit the theatres through the Community Nights initiative which invites community groups into the theatres to watch relevant shows, with support from different departments in the theatre, for example, providing themed food. The theatres have seen an increase in people making independent bookings from North Liverpool as a result of this initiative.

#### Horrid Henry Project

This project used drama to explore different emotional development themes. Participants from a school in North Liverpool created recipes using the worst behaviour that they can think of (using alliteration in their every day school life). These will be exhibited in the theatre

#### Community Tours

The majority of venues visited by the Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse's community tours of The Cruel Sea and Billy Wonderful were in the City and North area.

#### Youth Theatre

The Everyman Theatre historically had one of the most active youth theatres in the country. During the period of financial difficulty for the theatre in the late 1990s, this fell away, but the New Everyman Youth Theatre was developed (as a separate company). It is now intended that the youth theatre should be a central part of the capital project planned for the Everyman Theatre (with a dedicated space planned for the youth theatre). The youth theatre will be housing its work in North Liverpool (in the Athol Centre, Vauxhall,) until the Everyman redevelopment is complete. There are also plans to establish a larger staff team to facilitate the further growth of the youth theatre, with a target of engaging 300 young people per week.

#### Target Groups in North Liverpool

Covering a range of groups

#### National Museums Liverpool

National Museums Liverpool (NML) incorporates eight museums and galleries in Liverpool & Merseyside including the World Museum, Walker Art Gallery, Lady Lever Art Gallery, Sudley House, Merseyside Maritime Museum, the Conservation Centre, the International Slavery Museum and the forthcoming Museum of Liverpool.

#### Learning and Engagement programme

The Learning and Engagement team within NML address a series of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for which progress must be reported nationally to the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS). These KPIs include:

1. Audience Numbers – to increase the numbers of people accessing the museums currently estimated at 568,000 (2007-2008)
2. Under 16's – increase the number of under-16's accessing the museums and galleries – currently estimated at 360,00 (2007-2008)
3. Number of Outreach engagements – increase and maintain the standard and number of outreach opportunities and engagements

The 7 NML sites are currently open 361 days a year with tours, demonstrations, formal education programmes, community education packages, public programmes and targeted education packs available across a wide range of related subjects.

NML also have strong formal relationships with primary/secondary/further and higher education establishments. The Learning Team has developed a number of curriculum-based learning resources for primary & secondary pupils. NML provide material and support for Masters and PhD courses as well as having an innovative online learning resource providing learning support for teachers.

NML have developed Learning Communications Networks in order to get information from teachers. This research looks into the provision that the museum has for different key stages of learning and enables them to tailor it accordingly.

The Children First Forum gathers together a number of early years practitioners to deliver a strategy around early years delivery.

The Make the Link, Break the Chain project linked schools in the transatlantic slave trade triangle (involving schools from Brazil, Haiti, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Liverpool) and developed lesson plans that were translated into other languages. This award-winning heritage project led to Make the link, Be the Change, exploring the history of Transatlantic slavery. Through an international school twinning project this programme will link over 3,000 pupils in 13 countries. The theme this year is climate change. Children from 25 schools and groups in 12 countries (El Salvador, Ecuador, Brazil, Haiti, India, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Senegal, Malawi, Philippines, Bangladesh and Indonesia) plus 50 schools from the North West region, will work and learn together over one academic year.

#### Work in North Liverpool

NML's work in North Liverpool is mostly focused around the new Museum Of Liverpool consultation, looking at projects exploring the heritage of North Liverpool, including football and the docks.

#### Target Groups for work in North Liverpool

Key anchor groups for the learning team include: early years; adult learners; community groups; children with special educational needs; young people & families.

#### Royal Liverpool Philharmonic

Royal Liverpool Philharmonic includes both the orchestra and the hall. The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra is one of the oldest concert-giving organisations in the world, and the second oldest in Britain, currently giving over sixty concerts from September to June each year. The Philharmonic Hall delivers a year round programme of live music, film, comedy and other events.

#### Learning and Engagement Programme

The work of the Learning & Engagement department is spread across several areas of work including:

- ▶ Choirs
- ▶ Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra
- ▶ Music For Life
- ▶ Family Concerts
- ▶ Children's Workshops
- ▶ Schools Concerts
- ▶ Young Musician's Pass
- ▶ Tours

The Philharmonic facilitates a number of choirs that tour and produce a yearly programme of work. Choirs include the Philharmonic Choir, the Youth Choir, the Community Choir and the Gospel Choir.

Young Musician's Pass is a scheme offering under-18s living in the city of Liverpool who play a musical instrument the opportunity to attend a wide range of concerts at the Philharmonic Hall for just £2.

Super Sing and Super Orchestra programmes provide opportunities for up to 100 people to audition to participate in large scale participatory orchestral and choral events

The RLP also works with the health sector, for example through a residency by a cellist working at Alder Hey hospital, working with hospital play workers.

#### Work In North Liverpool

The RLP has recently opened the Friary, a new rehearsal facility in North Liverpool, in West Everton. The Friary will also provide a base for many of the RLP's ensembles. Other RLP ensembles are already based in North Liverpool as they use the Hope University Cornerstone Campus.

RLP has recently succeeded in its bid to the In Harmony scheme to establish a nationally significant music education project in West Everton, working with Faith primary school which is adjacent to the Friary Centre. Hope University and West Everton Community Council will also be involved. In Harmony is based on the hugely successful El Sistema programme from Venezuela. The project will work intensively with every child in the school and with their families.

RLP also work in the North Liverpool area with the North Liverpool Academy, and Everton Family Centre.

RLP has been engaged in Kensington for several years, through the Music for Life programme. Kensington is part of the City and North Neighborhood area, but has not so far featured within the definition of North Liverpool established for the Liverpool Thrive programme. Music for Life provides a variety of music and music-making opportunities to children, teachers and families in Kensington. The adopted musicians visit their school on a weekly basis, delivering workshops in a variety of formats, in order to have a significant and long-term effect on the community.

#### Target Groups For Work In North Liverpool

The majority of participants are children and young people.

#### Tate Liverpool

Tate Liverpool (Tate) is the home of the National Collection of Modern Art in the North of England, and is one of the largest galleries of modern and contemporary art in the UK. Tate Liverpool welcomes over 600,000 visitors a year, and the work of the engagement programme is split between 2 main teams:

#### Schools & Families

Alongside the gallery exhibitions and in-house tours, Tate Liverpool provides a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme for teachers. Charges are levied for CPD sessions that enable teachers to come at any time & get the most out of the exhibitions.

Tate Liverpool runs research forums & critical forums, which enable young researchers to present papers for the Tate that are then shared with other Tate galleries. Artist Teacher MAs, MFA & PhD degrees are run in close conjunction with Tate. Alongside this is a 20-year impact study on education work at Tate.

In addition to the further & higher education partnerships Tate has a good track record in developing early years to primary work. The Schools & Families work includes a team of artist educators that work across the department to deliver projects on the ground. There is also a goal to enable the whole organisation (including the café and the shop) to be family friendly.

#### Community, Young Tate & Public Programmes

The Public Programmes work includes an interpretation curator who works on the very tangible aspect of how people interact with the exhibitions and the gallery as a whole. The Public Programmes work also develops the monthly Late @ Tate events. On the last Thursday of every month Tate Liverpool opens its doors until 21.00 showcasing music and events accompanied by food and drink.

Young Tate began as an advisory group for the gallery but has now developed into a peer-led programming group. Young Tate is constantly renewed and redefined through the various youth programmes that are delivered within the community.

Young Tate includes workshop leading courses and out of these have come ideas that have developed within the Fifth Floor project, an exhibition that took place from November 08 to January 09. The Fifth Floor refers to a floor that does not physically exist within Tate Liverpool's four-storey building, but the idea was to allow visitors to reconsider the gallery as a place of imagination and invention.

Tate sent artists into the community to ask people what they wanted from their cultural lives and what they wanted from their cultural institutions. The strands of ideas that were brought out became exhibitions. People asked for a space for people to do their own thing. Many of the ideas for the Fifth Floor come from North Liverpool residents.

In addition to this, Tate offer free life drawing & lectures for the public & students.

#### Work in North Liverpool

Tate worked with the Community Justice Centre and the Rotunda as part of its 20th birthday celebrations in 2008.

Tate is also working with Walton Prison and Altcourse Prison – the Engineers Project provides a creative sculpting & engineering project that encourages team-working and teaches transferable skills.

#### Target groups for work in North Liverpool

All ages

### Unity Theatre

Unity Theatre is dedicated to enhancing the quality of the performing arts on Merseyside by encouraging creativity, participation, innovation and diversity. The intimate spaces within the Unity have historically been linked with productions of creative, forward thinking and politically conscious theatre.

Complementing the Unity Theatre's long history of creating socially relevant community productions and programmes, the community department runs a number of engagement programmes.

Splatterdays workshops have now been running for 16 years and provide a range of activities to engage young people. Participants can experience crafts, painting, puppetry and poetry, they can make music, write a story and learn drama techniques.

Unity Theatre also provides an ongoing course of theatre workshops for 5-13 year olds. This is an opportunity for any group across the city to come into the Unity and experience workshops delivered by professional artists.

The Unity Theatre also run the National Theatre Quest and Creator Quest projects, developing work with groups of young people using script writing, music, dance and other art forms.

The Unity's Youth Theatre not only engages young people in drama workshops and productions, but it also provides routes for young people to get more involved in the coordination of productions themselves (ushering, finance, front of house etc).

Making Art offers adults support in putting on a show – for emerging theatre companies & practitioners.

#### Work in North Liverpool

Supported by the Children & the Arts Fund, Unity is offering some schools in Alt Valley a year-long partnership with the Unity, including workshops, programmes and performances. Unity delivers a number of exchanges and 'experiences' with an aim to help young people feel that the theatre is somewhere they can engage in. The young people get 2 theatre visits a year (accompanied by workshops, talks and backstage tours). Through this initiative the young people also get to think about the many other areas of working in the theatre.

#### Target groups for work in North Liverpool

Primary (yr 2-6) Croxteth Comprehensive school (yr 7&8)

### 1.2 Other cultural organisations

#### Brouhaha International

Brouhaha International is primarily a carnival & street arts organisation, delivering three core areas of work:

##### Arts outreach work

Brouhaha deliver a year-round programme of outreach programmes (involving dance, street theatre, music, carnival, costume-making and circus arts).

##### Festival events and community celebrations

Brouhaha produces an annual programme of festival events and cultural celebrations. Each year local, national and international street theatre performers deliver performance projects and community workshops. These events and celebrations are both small and large-scale, involving between 200 and 2000 performers with audiences ranging between 300 and 45,000 people.

In North Liverpool/South Sefton Brouhaha organised both the Bootle Carnival and the North Liverpool Cultural Festival as part of their 2008 programme – which also included community tours and workshops. Brouhaha works to promote the idea of 'cultural rights' within communities and over the past 5 years have placed North Liverpool as a strategic priority for expanding their work, mainly because of the historical lack of cultural provision within the area.

##### International work

Brouhaha has built a reputation for developing innovative international cultural projects. Brouhaha hosts artists and companies from Europe, the Caribbean, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, South Asia and the Far East developing employment, training, and co-production opportunities for young artists and companies.

#### Hope Street Ltd.

Hope St Ltd specialises in cross art-form collaboration, street theatre, site-specific performance and physical theatre.

Hope Street provides opportunities for people to realise their aspirations by providing training & performance opportunities on local/national/international level, focusing on three main areas of work;

1. Artist Development
2. Art-form Development
3. Community Engagement

#### Artist Development

Hope Street runs an apprenticeship programme for artists. Building on the apprenticeship programmes delivered in 2007 and 2008, Hope Street has developed a programme that attracts high-profile artists from the UK and Europe, to work with their apprentices in developing five experimental pieces of work.

Hope St has a Knowledge Network programme providing a range of support services such as access to arts industry publications, employment and training opportunities, use of equipment as well as careers and business advice.

Hope St also runs a Small Scale Theatre Company Development programme. Several professional theatre companies have emerged from Hope Street such as Spike, Big Wow, Rejects Revenge, Momentum and Ullaloom.

The development package includes business planning support, action planning, marketing advice, artistic advice and networking opportunities as well as free rehearsal space and access to equipment.

#### Art-form Development

Hope St continues to develop innovative children's theatre and in its latest production The Emperor's New Clothes worked in collaboration with Random Acts of Wildness and The Unity Theatre, to bring a unique retelling of the story that was performed to over 7,500 young people in 2008 and 2009.

#### Community Engagement

Hope Street have focussed on community engagement through a number of innovative projects such as Message From The Flight Path. This project engaged with a broad cross section of the population of Speke and Garston. The artists facilitated the design of four models for a piece of public art, which will be produced in 2010, that can be seen by airborne passengers as they land or take off from Liverpool John Lennon Airport. Designs came from facilitated work in the communities of Speke, with the winning design voted for by local people.

#### Other engagement projects have included:

**Gang Culture, Liverpool:** This project runs from November 2008 to April 2009 and takes place in crime 'hot spots' with the aim of reducing the levels of crime in these areas.

In particular, the project will tackle gun, knife and violent crime through the delivery of practical sessions in youth clubs, with

detached youth work teams and with community groups including the Refugee Action Group using the arts as a tool for expression and awareness raising.

Accompanying the workshops in music, drama, rap/poetry, street-dance and DJ-ing Hope Street work on a piece of text-based research to help build a current picture of violent crime 'hot spots'.

#### Previous Work In North Liverpool

Although at present Hope Street is not conducting any work in North Liverpool, they have in the past had a focus on that area with the following projects:

**Girls Allowed** – this involved weekly drama, creative writing and visual arts workshops with a group of excluded young women in Sefton, exploring issues around self image, self exploration and personal development.

**Barnardo's Young Carers Project** – Regular workshops were held with young carers exploring issues around peer pressure and bullying and discovering coping strategies.

**Violence Prevention Education Programme** – Commissioned by Liverpool Children's Services and working in partnership with the NSPCC, this project employed actors/teachers to tour primary schools, raising awareness of domestic violence through interactive drama and role play.

#### Liverpool Lantern Company

The Liverpool Lantern Company is an artist-led organisation, based in a community centre on Lark Lane in Liverpool.

The Liverpool Lantern Company focuses on producing high quality artistic work, developed by a pool of experienced artists that promote creativity & large scale community celebration.

To facilitate this, community participation workshops are delivered across the city, enabling a range of groups to take advantage of lantern-making workshops, creating pieces that feature in various parades & festivals that the company now takes part in with those community groups.

Liverpool Lantern Company offer workshops for groups from across the city, with many taking place in their base on Lark Lane. Further workshops are delivered in the community, when they have the capacity.

Workshops are available for all ages however their relationship with schools and community groups means that many of their participants are young people, as well as a number of parents & toddler groups.

#### Commissioned Work

In addition to the participatory workshops, Liverpool Lantern Company takes on commissions to produce large scale pieces of public art. These are then displayed at events such as the Lord Mayor's Parade, community lantern processions, the Anfield Festival, Tranmere Festival, Diwali in Manchester, and Under & Over the Mersey – an event that sees large numbers of people in a procession through the Mersey Tunnel.

#### Work In North Liverpool

The Liverpool Lantern Company is currently developing a relationship with the Anfield Breckside Community Council in order to produce a parade for the North Liverpool communities.

In addition, Liverpool Lantern Company have worked with Rotunda College (with their youth groups) on several city centre parades. Participants from the Rotunda have now been trained to run workshops themselves & they now participate in lantern festival events independently.

Cobalt Housing have funded creative workshops for residents in the area and this work, alongside work with the Traveller community in Tara Park, has been featured in the Lord Mayor's Parade and the Halloween festival.

#### Merseyside Dance Initiative

Merseyside Dance Initiative (MDI) is a dance development agency. Based on Hope Street in the centre of Liverpool they have a Merseyside wide remit with the following mission:

*"MDI is about People, People as artists, People as communities and People as audiences."*

MDI has developed three main areas of work:

- ▶ Art-form Development
- ▶ Outreach & Education
- ▶ Regional Development

#### Art form Development

MDI undertakes an advocacy role, profiling dance as an art form in its own right across Merseyside.

#### Outreach & Education

As well as providing dance classes in MDI's studios, the Community Dance Team also works in partnership with a range of organisations to develop participation in dance across Merseyside, via outreach workshops and projects. This can involve master classes and continuing professional development for established artists, one-off taster sessions for beginners or a six-week block of workshops which usually take place in an organisation's own building or regular meeting place.

#### Regional Development

MDI has a regional remit and is actively engaged in cultivating partnerships and developing solid foundations and best practice in dance as well as audience development across Merseyside. They operate a freelance pool, of around 30 dance artists, teachers and educators. The artists within the freelance pool are regular collaborators on projects and have a high level of skill and proficiency for working in a number of contexts (within staged shows, educational and dance development work).

#### MDI's current major projects include:

**LEAP** – an annual festival now in its 17th year, LEAP promotes middle and small scale dance companies of national and international repute linked to educational workshops in schools and commissions new works by local/national companies.

**Cultiv 8** – a bi-annual festival celebrating African & Caribbean dance in the 21st century, profiling groundbreaking dance by artists from the African & Caribbean Diaspora including Zimbabwe, Jamaica, Burkina Faso, the USA and the UK

In addition to performances, MDI stages seminar events such as:

**Cultural Intelligence** – Laying Down Roots/Passing on Knowledge, highlighting the importance of high level educational provision for young people, through the formal education system, and into professional development of artists.

**Capital Nights** – a new festival exploring European influences in contemporary dance, with companies from previous European capitals of culture. MDI presented four evenings of work both classical in nature and experimental alongside a two day seminar.

#### Learning and Education

The Sefton Music project involved a group of musicians & dancers working as a team to provide early years arts sessions.

MDI's African People's Dance Post has nurtured a strong resource for the community, feeding into various projects. This success has enabled MDI to develop satellite provision for African dance in Birkenhead with Lamin Dumbuya.

#### Work in North Liverpool

Barging In project was devised in collaboration with the Eldonians, British Waterways, Mersey Canal Forum, The Mersey Basin Trust and Liverpool City Council. Underpinning this was the creation of opportunities for artists to devise work responsive to an environment and to encourage new partnerships through animating the canals with arts activities.

MDI developed the World Dance Project, working with Kensington Regeneration & five primary schools.

## Appendix 4 Cultural and community organisations based in North Liverpool

This section describes the work of various cultural and community organisations who are delivering cultural activity in the North Liverpool area. Inevitably it is not an exhaustive list, instead aiming to give a snapshot of the most active organisations.

In addition to the organisations listed here, there are some independent arts companies who are moving into North Liverpool, attracted by the potential for affordable premises. These include the Royal Standard, an artists' studio group and exhibition space; Wired, an aerial dance company with a rehearsal studio on Cotton Street, and the Ceri Hand contemporary art gallery, also on Cotton Street.

There are also some longstanding local cultural groups such as the Vauxy Theatre, a theatre company formed in 1983 at the Vauxhall Neighbourhood Centre, motivated by a desire for working class people to have complete production control over their creative output, ranging from poetry readings to full theatrical presentations. The North End Writers are another local group, who aim to involve local people in creative writing, and in particular to engage with "people who feel excluded from metropolitan 'culture'."

### Anfield & Breckside Community Council

Anfield & Breckside Community Council (ABCC) is a local neighbourhood council 'working to advance opportunities for the benefit of the local community'. With an office situated on Priory Road (Anfield) ABCC provides support and services to the communities within the immediately surrounding wards of Anfield & Breckfield (including parts of Tuebrook).

After it became clear that the New Anfield Stadium Plans would not be able to reach the deadline of December 2008, ABCC were one of four community centres given access to ERDF funding under the Liverpool City Council's Community Partnership Centre scheme.

ABCC was given funds to convert the nearby Holy Trinity Church basement into new offices and a much-needed community hall. An extension also provided a lift and additional community rooms, including a new micro-business suite and a training kitchen.

As well as operating an open-door policy for community members to drop in and chat, and use the IT equipment. ABCC support 14 Residents Groups and run a number of programmes that benefit community members including:

#### Youth Team

ABCC's detached team work with young people on the street, delivering a range of workshops and diversionary activities for

8 – 12 and 12-16 year olds – with the older ones completing an accreditation scheme, turning them into peer leaders.

#### Creative/Cultural work of ABCC

ABCC deliver a small amount of arts programmes and also work in partnership with other agencies, providing a signposting and support service for their service-users.

The in house arts activities include:

- ▶ A free guitar group (young & older group)
- ▶ Involvement in North Liverpool Brouhaha (all ages)
- ▶ Involvement in the Lord Mayor's parade (won 'Best Newcomer')
- ▶ A community pantomime
- ▶ Delivering an intergenerational environmental project & an intergenerational history project

#### Health Kicks

Health Kicks is a partnership between ABCC and North Liverpool Action for Health that provides family food nights every week. Under this scheme ABCC PIPS programme runs "Same place, different taste" (Spanish night, Moroccan nights etc.) which engages around 50 parents & families who learn to cook & then eat a meal together and get nutritional advice.

#### Positively Inspired Parents - PIPS

ABCC has a nursery facility & provide a day-care service, and they also focus on work with the parents and families providing support and a range of needs-led activities and educational programmes.

The group, calling themselves 'PIPS' (Positively Inspired Parents) have enabled their members and residents to take part in a number of initiatives, linking in with creative projects such as the North Liverpool Brouhaha, the Four Corners Project (with the Everyman & Playhouse), the Lantern Parade, and shows at Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse.

The PIPS programme also includes;

- ▶ Dads club – this involves showing football matches in the centre (instead of the pub) and weekend breakfast mornings for dads who have their children for the weekend (about 16 dads take part in this).
- ▶ Development of a sensory garden.
- ▶ Development of a Keepsakes project (using IT skills & Photography).

### Breckfield & North Everton Neighbourhood Council

Breckfield & North Everton Neighbourhood Council (BNENC) is a community organisation that works 'for, with and by' the communities within the immediately surrounding wards of Anfield and Everton.

BNENC prioritise work that focuses on education, regeneration & community participation. BNENC start & support residents' groups that can come to them with suggestions that they can work on and try to work in partnership with them to realise them.

In common with Anfield & Breckside Community Council, BNENC have been able to secure funds under the Liverpool City Council Community Partnership Centre scheme. This has enabled them to develop a new sports hall, changing rooms and multi-purpose community rooms to provide much needed additional indoor space for recreation, health and community facilities at the centre.

BNENC centre currently provide rooms for hire (this forms the basis for their income) and host a number of project initiatives including:

Liverpool Crossroads Caring For Carers – this organisation works with parent carers, adult carers and young carers, providing information, support and respite for those looking after family members.

Merseyside Diabetics Support Group which provides information and support (including day trips, speakers & events) for people with diabetes, their family and carers.

Merseyside Fire Service Advocates – Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service funds a number of fire safety and anti-arson advocates that work in partnership with a number of agencies across Liverpool. A North Liverpool unit is based within the BNENC centre and works with their service-users to raise awareness of fire safety issues within the community.

WAVE project (Witness And Victim Encouragement & Support). WAVES is a multi agency scheme piloted in Breckfield to give assistance to witnesses and victims of crime and to encourage their support in the reporting of it. This includes victims of anti-social behaviour, fires and hate crime.

#### Community Projects

These include:

Day nursery for 0 – 4 year olds

IT lessons for anyone over the age of 16, BNENC brings participants up to European Computer Driving Licence standard in order to take their test.

Tailored IT Support – where participants are lacking in confidence and equipment to work from home, BNENC take laptops (mostly into sheltered accommodation) and get people used to the feel of a computer – boosting their confidence to come into the centre and learn further.

Volunteers Work – A number of volunteers work on the community garden which grows fresh food for residents in the area.

### Collective Encounters

Collective Encounters is a theatre arts organisation based in Hope University's Everton Campus. Collective Encounters has a mission to create and present theatre for social change. The majority of their work is carried out in North Liverpool and adjoining areas.

Collective Encounters normally operates under 3 core principles:

1. All pieces are devised & supported by professional artists.
2. All are adequately resourced.
3. All the workshops are free.

#### Youth Theatre

The work of the youth theatre is accredited through the Open College Network and the Arts Award, with young people being able to gain qualifications through participation.

Youth outreach work is also undertaken and this is completed through workshops & talks to groups to get more marginalised young people to join the youth theatre.

#### Over 50's Drama Group

The 3rd Age Theatre works with people of varying ages & physical abilities with the same aims as the Youth Theatre – providing a space for participants to explore their concerns through theatre.

#### Professional Programme of work

Collective Encounters aim to do 1 large scale site-specific piece of work every 2-3 years. They also do smaller pieces of professional work in between that tying this into the work that the participants are doing at the same time.

Collective Encounters also run Arts for Social Change days. These days included workshops followed by short performance (followed by a party) and provide opportunities for young people to look at how arts can be used in different contexts.

## Community Justice Centre

The Community Justice Centre (CJC) is a Magistrates & Crown Court like any other in the country, dealing with adult & youth offenders in North Liverpool.

The North Liverpool CJC is significantly different however, in that it has a mandate to deliver community justice (often called restorative justice). The CJC is based on a model that was developed in New York called Red Hook. A number of MPs visited Red Hook, after which they decided to replicate the model here in Liverpool.

The success of the CJC model has meant that elements of the programme have now been rolled out to other magistrates courts across the country.

The CJC has access to all the court teams that are associated with the legal process, based in one building. The agencies work together to deliver a tailored programme supporting those accused of crimes, supporting victims of crime and helping to stop re-offending.

### Community engagement

The CJC team go out and engage with the residents and community centres in North Liverpool, setting up surgeries to talk to residents with issues in their local area, also offering advice on other problems. These can then be referred to up to 14 agencies based at the centre for example the Youth Offending Team, Citizens Advice Bureau and Liverpool Anti Social Behaviour Unit.

### Work with Young People

The team also delivers workshops in schools on issues such as knife/gun crime as a preventative method.

CJC hold mock sentencing events at the centre giving schools the opportunity to see the work of the court and how sentencing is delivered. They also have the opportunity to vote on how they would sentence and ask the Judge any questions. This gives residents an insight to how the CJC tackles crime and delivers justice. Partnerships have been developed with the North Liverpool Academy, Alsop School & Notre Dame on a project called Act Together – the final results of this were showcased at the Arena.

A Rock School is run from the CJC, two evenings per week. Several victims & some offenders that have gone through their restorative justice system can learn music skills, helping to instil teamwork skills and build bridges between different groups.

CJC also partnered in the LAMP project with Tate as part of the Tate's birthday celebrations. This involved a mix of offenders,

victims & residents (some of them from the Rock School) taking part in workshops in creating special lanterns for the event.

CJC support several diplomas with 14-19 year olds who take an interest in community justice (looking at the analysis and application of community crime statistics). These diplomas look at different aspects of the restorative justice system, also focussing on social healthcare, issues & problems in people's lives.

### Supporting the Community

The CJC gives money each year to LHT & the Youth Strategic Issue Group. This funding is then made available for managers from community centres to apply for small grants to provide diversionary activities for young people in North Liverpool.

## Eldonians

The Eldonians was established by local residents, and formed a housing co-operative in the Vauxhall area in 1983. It has now extended its services to become a local development agency, social landlord and service provider. The Eldonians focus on using big projects to reach social aims & outputs, operating in three main areas:

1. Eldonians Neighbourhood Services (ENS)
2. Delivery of Children's Services
3. Social Enterprise Support

### ENS

As a social landlord, Eldonians group has a responsibility for providing bespoke services for their tenants and focuses on delivery in five areas:

- ▶ Cleaning
- ▶ Gardening
- ▶ Security
- ▶ Canal Rangers
- ▶ Wardens

The award-winning Eldonians Neighbourhood Services have since set up & developed social enterprises around these services (working with unemployed & low income households).

### Children's Services

Eldonians run projects that work with nursery age children. This involves working with Children's Centres & Sure Starts. It also includes training & employment initiatives as well as employing mums' workers & dads' workers. Cultural activities are used within the early years programme.

## Setting Up other Social Enterprises

Eldonians are currently contracted to deliver a business development project by Step Clever, offering fundraising, business planning and partnership development support. Through the Step Clever project, Eldonians are currently working with a number of grassroots groups & cultural organisations to develop them to support their aspirations and achieve wider social aims.

## Kirkdale Community Centre

Kirkdale Community Centre (KCC) has been in existence since 1886, when it was the Gordon Working Lads Institute. Since then, it has always had an association within the community as a place where young people can go to access services.

In common with other community councils in North Liverpool, KCC has been closely involved in regeneration initiatives such as the Liverpool Atlantic Partnership. Like ABCC and BNENC, it has also benefited from the funds made available for community facilities by Liverpool City Council. This has enabled KCC to redevelop their sports hall, changing rooms, gymnasium and performance space – bringing it up to date and making it fully accessible.

The KCC currently focus on three priority areas - young people, over 55's, and open access.

### Young People

KCC have a full programme for young people running from Monday – Saturday, often opening from 9am until 10pm. Activities include arts, craft, dance, drama, kick-fit and football.

Two dance troupes have started from taster sessions held within the centre and these have now developed into long-term fixtures.

KCC also have several outreach workers working in the Vauxhall neighbourhood, and are looking at reopening the Lee Jones building (owned by the League of Welldoers) as a centre for young people within the Vauxhall area.

KCC have a large number of young people who would like to find routes into artistic activities, and would like to partner with anyone who can help make a lasting change in young peoples perceptions.

### Over 55s Work

KCC support two over 55s groups that meet regularly at the centre. The groups are autonomous, but are supported with funding for initiatives such as theatre trips, IT skills development genealogy projects etc.

## Open Access

KCC makes its facilities available on an open access basis, with a computer suite and community rooms available for people to drop in and use, as well as being able to speak with staff and get support for various community initiatives.

KCC have supported a number of community groups (e.g. young mums), and also use their status as a community hub to integrate user groups with the work of service agencies such as Surestart.

### Facilities

Large theatre space, sports hall, IT facilities, community rooms.

## League Of Welldoers

The League of Welldoers is a community facility in Vauxhall, North Liverpool, set up in 1893. As a community centre, the League of Welldoers currently provide a number of key services for the community including a Lunch Club, a very popular Afternoon Bingo club and regular day trips to Liverpool's galleries and other places of interest to the members.

### Community Projects

The League of Welldoers has engaged members in a number of projects and initiatives either pioneered by or hosted within the centre.

Projects include:

#### Afternoon Dances

The Quick Step to Fitness project was funded through the Primary Care Trust (PCT) and caters for those who would never go to the gym. Now self-supported, the dances and events are very popular with older people.

#### Chair-based exercise

A 12-month contract funded through the PCT. This programme provides for those who physically cannot dance

#### Concerts

The League of Welldoers produces three concerts per year, staged in the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic hall. Concerts are also staged at the centre (e.g. celebrating Veterans' day, Burn's day, St Patrick's Day, St George's day).

#### 3rd Age Theatre

The Collective Encounters third age theatre group rehearse in the centre and provide performances for the Lunch Club members.

The League of Welldoers performed a play about older people who found themselves in debt (in partnership with Help the Aged & CJC).

**Down Memory Lane:** this was a reminiscence project for older members of the community. The project also links with other community groups and is looking to develop a heritage centre within the building.

**Homotopia festival** 'The Lavender Club' project was featured in The League of Welldoers and involved the character 'Timbolina' singing Noel Coward songs etc.

**Poetry writing** from one of the members (a small book was published – now in its third edition).

#### Community Links

Links are developed with other communities and community centres including Harold House (a base for Older Jewish Community members), the West African Elders and the Merseyside Caribbean Centre.

#### Facilities

League of Welldoers have a number of large performance & rehearsal rooms (including a hall with a stage & PA). There are also a number of office spaces available for hire & opportunities for small community/arts businesses/social enterprises to be based there.

#### Liverpool Fringe Festival

The Liverpool Fringe Festival Company is a small, newly-formed charity working to promote & develop an annual Fringe Festival in Liverpool. The Fringe Festival Company is aiming to partner with Rotunda and other organisations to establish North Liverpool community links. It has an office at the Rotunda

Essentially the Fringe festival comprises a month-long series of events in August (though this may change) with a focus on performance in the broadest sense (involving music, drama, comedy, dance etc).

Working with Liverpool artists is a key focus for the Fringe and they intend to retain that core of creativity (whilst welcoming national & international work).

#### Elements of the 2008 Fringe included:

##### St Luke's Church open sessions

In collaboration with Urban Strawberry Lunch, the Liverpool Fringe Festival hosted a series of free open-air events in the city centre. Events included performances by small bands, dancers, circus performers, poetry & story-telling, display of artwork in the historic grounds of St Luke's Church.

**Various pub & club events** which encouraged pubs to host art & performance exhibitions.

**Street performers** – the Fringe Festival recruited buskers, helped them with public performance licenses and then allowed them to be a part of the Fringe.

#### Liverpool Lighthouse

Liverpool Lighthouse is the UK's first dedicated Urban Gospel Arts Centre. Based in Anfield, on Oakfield Road, they have a 430 tiered-seat auditorium and produce a range of in-house pantomimes, plays, dances, youth and gospel events.

Lighthouse also hosts a range of educational and diversionary projects that use arts and gospel music as a tool for engaging, developing and enhancing the skills of community members:

##### Harmonize

Harmonize Project is an alternative education programme offering a number of vocational courses for young people aged 14-19. The three courses, Harmonize, Harmonize IFP and Harmonize Plus engage and motivate young people using contemporary urban art forms such as dance, drama, rap, DJ-ing, singing and graffiti.

The courses combine these arts with IT, literacy and numeracy skills and offer youth excluded from school, on the verge of exclusion or those wishing to pursue careers in performing arts a chance to gain recognised qualifications such as the OCR in literacy and numeracy and NCFE L2 qualification in Performance Skills and Music Technology.

##### Skills for Work

Liverpool Lighthouse runs a Skills for Work educational programme for community members. The courses offer adults a chance to build confidence and learn skills. Courses coming under the SFW programme include:

- ▶ Basic Skills (including OCR accredited Literacy & Numeracy qualifications)
- ▶ ESOL training
- ▶ Employability (including work experience placements in construction, hospitality and catering, admin/reception. Learners can also work towards the CSCS qualification)
- ▶ Computer & IT Skills

##### Business Incubation Centre

This unit within the Lighthouse features a Step Clever team (to help develop other social enterprises) and Rooftop Records (an independent recording studio).

#### Kaleidoscope

Kaleidoscope is a history and heritage programme for the over 55s within the Anfield and Breckfield wards.

Activities include walks, creative card making, IT, photography, line dancing, the Kaleidoscope Community Singers, cultural evenings, poetry groups.

#### Commissions

Lighthouse deliver diversionary activities around the Primary Care Trusts' PSST campaign to combat alcohol abuse, in the Anfield Tuebrook, Old Swan and Stoneycroft wards.

Lighthouse were commissioned to host and run a family fun day in Stanley Park which included a range of entertainment and community stalls.

#### Facilities

Lighthouse has a number of rooms/rehearsal spaces for hire – not to mention the auditorium with a large performance area

#### Rotunda Community College

The Rotunda Community College is a community led organisation in Kirkdale whose main aim is 'To provide a safe, happy environment in which individuals are encouraged and enabled to experience both personal and vocational development'.

#### Drop In Study Centre

Rotunda College is one of Liverpool Community College's 12 Drop-In Study Centres (DISC). Rotunda College host a range of training opportunities provided through both the Community College and the Workers Education Association.

Basic skills and fresh-start courses are available through the DISC initiative, with hot-desks and other vocational support including GCSE & ESOL support also being provided.

#### Cultural Projects

Rotunda sees the value of promoting arts & cultural projects in their area, and has developed a track record in delivering its own cultural projects and in hosting workshops for organisations such as Brouhaha & Positive Futures. Rotunda's cultural programme has increased in recent years, either working collaboratively (e.g. with Liverpool Biennial, the Bluecoat, Everyman & Playhouse and Tate) or on their own. These projects have included:

##### The Folly & the 'Barcode'

Rotunda worked with internationally acclaimed landscape architects GROSS Max on designs to convert a strip of derelict land outside the building into a community garden.

The Folly is a vertical garden which contains spaces for activities and events. The Bar Code is the land adjacent to the Folly. Rotunda are working to develop a project that will divide the land into garden strips of varying widths, which will be tended by community groups throughout the year creating a multi-textured environment for the whole community to enjoy.

**The Big Table:** through this Liverpool Biennial project, the Rotunda has hosted two light installations involving young people in their youth groups and play schemes. The Cat and a new project Tag have seen young people have their designs created into large scale public works of art using neon lights and displayed within their neighbourhood.

##### La Dolce Vita

Liverpool-based artists Alan Dunn and David Jacques collaborated with the community around Rotunda Community College and various parties from Naples on this large scale outdoor production as part of the Cities on the Edge programme. La Dolce Vita involved a temporary 80x10ft cinematic artwork displayed across three billboards outside Rotunda. The composition drew from community contributions and displayed both imagery and narratives.

Rotunda helped develop a project with local artist Jonathan Raisin on **The Rightful Owners of the Song** – a Karaoke project involving the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, exploring the tradition of singing in pubs that has been very much a part of the culture of North Liverpool residents.

In July 07 the Rotunda appointed an arts development worker, Ema Quinn, in partnership with Plus Housing. The salary was funded through European funds, which came to an end in July 08, although it was extended for a few months via project funding. The programme delivered as a result of this post has partly taken place in the Rotunda, e.g. after school arts activities for young people, and partly around North Liverpool. One major project has been a knitting programme, with groups across the local area, which culminated in a showcase of the resulting installation at the Rotunda.

Rotunda College host and run the North Liverpool Culture Committee – a network for disseminating information about cultural activity in and with the North Liverpool communities. The committee brings together officers from a range of organisations both based in and running significant programmes in the North Liverpool area.

NLCC is well attended by some organisations and as such is a useful and worthwhile network for the area, but some influential community organisations are conspicuous by their absence

The Rotunda has recently received support from Liverpool City Council's culture grants programme for the Folie Bergere programme, to promote a series of arts projects over the next two years, which will be delivered by their youth worker.

### Vauxhall Neighbourhood Council

The Vauxhall Neighbourhood Council (VNC) is a community council, historically styled as a hub for community engagement in the regeneration agenda. The VNC sat on the Liverpool Atlantic Partnership, cluster partnership boards and other groupings that helped to distribute Objective 1 and Neighbourhood Renewal Funding in the North Liverpool area.

Within the VNC building there are a number of meeting rooms available with community services provided, including legal & benefits advice and IT support services.

### Millennium Resource Centre

The VNC secured funding through the Millennium Fund to develop a multi-purpose community centre (across the road from the VNC). The centre has a day-nursery and several multi-function rooms which host community dance groups, pensioners groups, sports and social clubs and after school activities.

The MRC also provides office space, meeting rooms and hosts a number of projects and services for the community including;

### ICT Suites

Vauxhall Neighbourhood Council ICT Services provide a range of training and accreditation initiatives for local residents and employees within the Vauxhall Area.

### The Lighthouse Project

The Lighthouse Project hire office space and have several services & projects running from the building (such as Together Women) offering services to substance misusers and those at risk of offending.

### Lifeline

Lifeline is a 24/7 monitoring station for pensioners from across Merseyside. This provides 4,500 pensioners with emergency support from a pendant round their neck that they can press to gain assistance.

### MACTAC

The Merseyside Accredited Community Training & Assessment Centre provides a service that delivers early years & childcare training for people within the Vauxhall area.

### Scottie Press

The Scottie Press Community Newspaper was set up in 1971 and is the longest running community newspaper in the UK. The Scottie Press continues to have the majority of its content submitted by readers of the paper. In this way the paper aims to be 'The Voice of Vauxhall'.

The Scottie Press is a means by which past and present residents of the Vauxhall area remember the history of Vauxhall, review recent events that have taken place, advise of and promote events to take place, learn about and be actively involved in plans affecting the future of the Vauxhall area.

### West Everton Community Council

West Everton Community Council (WECC) was formed in 1969 and is "a resident led and owned organisation that exists to make sure residents have a voice at all levels in identifying and responding to issues that affect the community" and works to "make Everton a better place". WECC are determined to create an area where people feel safe, have a significant say in the future of the area and come together in solidarity to build communities where people want to live, work, stay, play and invest.

Recently new structures have been set up to develop community led projects in an attempt to tackle issues affecting the West Everton Community. Five strategic priority working groups have been set up; Health and Well Being, Arts and Culture, Children and Families, Community Engagement and Community Safety.

WECC is committed to partnership work and is a core partner with Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and Faith Primary school in the government funded In Harmony music programme. WECC also works closely with social landlords, Everyman and Playhouse, Hope University and Active Cities.

WECC currently houses a range of activities including work with families, pensioners, unemployed groups, and disabled people, and provides a meeting place for local groups, councillors and housing agencies.

WECC works in partnership with public and private stakeholders to enable people in the West Everton Community to have a say on the issues that affect them. Local campaigns have included saving the Faith School (ensuring this multi-faith school stays open to serve both the Catholic and Protestant members of the community), organising the Blue Run (a fundraising event for a young boy killed in Everton) and working to turn Everton Park into a community asset which can host public art pieces and large scale performance events.

### Cultural programmes

WECC has programmed several arts projects, and intends to develop some new initiatives. For example they plan to re-establish an outdoor music festival of local bands & music talent (utilising Everton Park & other venues), as part of their aspiration to re-animate the public spaces in Everton.

In addition to the partnership with Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, WECC has a good relationship with the Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse through the 4 Corners programme. As well as hosting the theatre's community tours, WECC have encouraged local residents to work collaboratively with the theatre in the planning and research stages of community touring projects such as The Cruel Sea. They have also organised trips for people to see shows at the theatres. WECC has also worked with Tate Liverpool, for example on Making Stuff, a junk sculpture project.

WECC has developed a partnership with Hope University and are also in dialogue with Liverpool Biennial to get people enjoying visual arts. They are working towards a programme of work that will see more visual arts on display on the streets, in schools and in the park.



**For more information on LARC:**

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