

University of Leeds Theatre in Education (TIE) Collaborative Project

Best Project under Â£1,000

This collaborative project between Leeds City Council (LCC) and the University of Leeds has run annually from 2010/11. The students from the School of Performance and Cultural Industries at the Leeds University are in their second year of a Theatre and Drama degree and undertaking a module which involves working with partners. The students split into Production Companies and each company produces their own piece of theatre, either as a performance or an extended workshop, around the safe and sustainable travel theme. The students deliver a number of sessions lasting 40 -50 minutes to Year 9 pupils at schools in Leeds. Secondary schools in Leeds are targeted based on which have a high number of pupils travelling to school by car and/or have recorded a high number of pedestrian casualties in the ward. A variety of theatre-in-education techniques are used and each session is interactive. Feedback is always positive from both the University students and pupils.

Local Authority

Becky James, Team Leader – Road Safety, Leeds City Council, Highways and Transportation Ring Road Middleton Leeds LS10 4AX 0113 395 2590 e-mail Rebecca.james@leeds.gov.uk Alison Barraclough, Assistant Transport Planner, Leeds City Council, Highways and Transportation Ring Road Middleton Leeds LS10 4AX 0113 239 52529 e-mail alison.barraclough@leeds.gov.uk

Who Was Involved

Philip Kiszely, Lecturer in Performance and Cultural Histories Director of Student Education Associate Editor: Punk & Post-Punk School of Performance and Cultural Industries University of Leeds 0113 343 6796 Alison Barraclough (LCC - Assistant Transport Planner) and Jennifer West (LCC - Apprentice Technician) provided a safe and sustainable presentation and resources for the students.

Budgeting

The only cost for this initiative is council officer time to deliver a safe and sustainable presentation to students giving them background information. This is supported by a list of safe and sustainable resources including trusted websites for further reading or data. LCC then contact schools with high casualty rates in their area and/or high numbers of pupils travelling to school by car.

Project Development

The project has run since 2009/10. It started as a partnership with West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYF and RS) and focussed on young driver safety. Subsequent budget constraints have reduced the

number of WYF and RS personnel dedicated to engagement activities. The project is now a partnership between the University and ITB team. Originally the main focus was around road safety education to meet our statutory duty to provide education to reduce the number of deaths and injuries on the road. In agreement with the University of Leeds the project was extended to include education and promotion of sustainable travel to meet the statutory duty placed on LCC by the Education and Inspections Act 2006 section 508A to promote sustainable travel. This new focus was welcomed by the University as it has enabled the students to be more creative and innovative in their development of a performance/workshop to educate pupils to keep safe whilst travelling sustainably

What Was The Outcome

There is always an evaluative process and the reviews and feedback from the schools involved has always been excellent. ITB staff have attended several sessions and it is clear that the TIE method of delivery is powerful and the University students are able to engage with the school pupils in an entertaining and thought-provoking way. This is the response from one school when asked if they would like to support the project earlier this year: I would love to have you come to Brigshaw High School to perform this. We have had similar performances in the past and they have been great for our students Travelling to school or college by car raises issues for air quality, road safety and the long term decline in children's levels of physical exercise and we will continue to support and develop this project in partnership with the University of Leeds.

How Does This Project Meet The Criteria

The project has been running since 2009/10. Despite a reduction in support staff to deliver the project and extending the project brief it has continued to be successful. The inclusion of sustainable travel has enabled the students to be more creative and engages with hard to reach groups of young people ie students and secondary school pupils. In order to develop their preparation/workshop the University students think back to being a Year 9 pupil themselves to understand how they can effectively engage and involve their audience. This results in attentive audiences and a high transfer of learning. Central government has reduced its public sector funding and local government has been particularly hard hit. TIE is recognised as an effective method of education delivery in schools and is normally expensive to make available to schools. This collaborative project provides a high return on investment which is only a few hours of council officer time.