

## Young Liverpool Project

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- ◊ Aims of project
- ◊ Choice of locations & approach
- ◊ Participatory techniques used
- ◊ Experience of methods & reflections

## Impact O8 - Special Project

Background context

- Exploring young people's sense of identity & awareness of ECOC
- Qualitative in-depth approach
  - Rich and detailed insights
  - Meaningful outputs
- Aim to engage with young people in Liverpool
- Short time frame Jan - March 2006

## Young Liverpool Project Impact O8 Special Project

Research questions :-

- What are young people's perceptions of their own communities & Liverpool?
- What are the local geographies, social and cultural pathways of participants?
- What is their knowledge of the cultural programme in the build up to 2008 and how does it affect them?
- How does this programme affect their sense of ownership of the city?
- What activities do they want to see in the city centre and in their own 'community' in 2008?

## Croxteth & Toxteth



WHY ?

Geographical connectedness

socio econ & cultural background

mixed gender and ages  
11 - 18 years old

Key contacts

WHY NOT ?

Crown copyright

## Defining our approach Ladder of participation



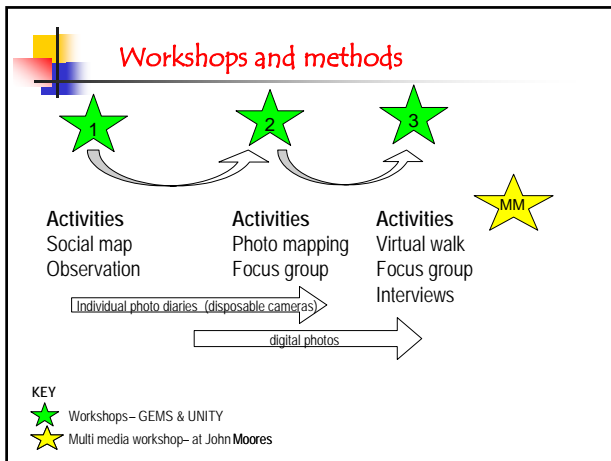
Hart's (1992) ladder of participation  
→ Children's participation from Tokenism to Citizenship adaptation of Arnstein's ladder (1969)

- In this project - consulted and informed potential to influence decision makers but not challenging decision making process or empowering participants
- Constrained by time and resources & power to affect the outcome

Hart (1992)

## Participatory techniques

- Participatory tools used in workshops
  - Address the 'researched' 'researcher' power imbalance
- Went in without preconceived ideas and assumptions
- Create opportunity / atmosphere for young people to share their time, ideas and knowledge with us
  - Engaging, interesting, stimulating, relevant, fun



Activities  
Social map  
Observation

- Attention span, group dynamics, sharing knowledge
- Local geographies, boundaries, fear, identity

KEY  
★ Workshops- GEMS & UNITY

Individual photo diaries /disposable cameras

### Photos, diaries and focus groups

Activities  
Photo mapping  
Focus group

- Lack cameras returned
  - images taken key areas
- Developed maps further
- Areas they liked and disliked
- Focus for discussion and further questioning

### Virtual walk

- Replaced 'walk about' session with young people
  - shootings in Croxteth & tension in area
  - parental consent forms
- Enabled wider participation
- Brought maps together
- Focus for discussion and sharing opinions

### Multi media & virtual space

- Feedback session at JMU
  - Fed back key ideas and quotes
  - Also worked on images and web site ideas

### Multi media & virtual space

## Multi media & virtual space

- Further work required on developing web sites
  - For benefit of youth centres
  - To engage young people
  - Photography courses and support
- Line between action research and action .....
- ➔ 'Getting involved'
- ➔ Follow on work needed currently exploring ideas

## Lessons learnt

- In relation to methods employed
  - Tiring but rewarding
  - Worthwhile
  - Enjoyable
  - Rich source information
- If you give people a voice you need to be prepared to listen to what they say and potentially not like what you hear !
- And act on it
  - Concerns over level of participation
  - How to sustain and support



Comments feedback and questions welcome

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