

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

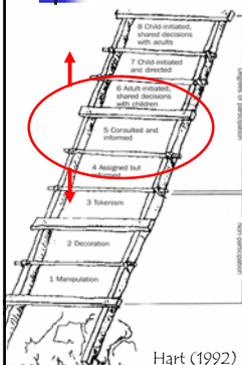
mixed gender and ages
11 - 18 years old

Key contacts

WHY NOT ?

Crown copyright

Defining our approach Ladder of participation

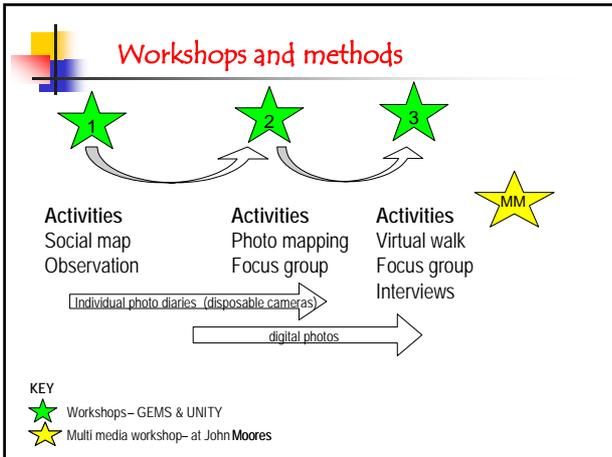


- Hart's (1992) ladder of participation
- ➔ Children's participation from Tokenism to Citizenship adaptation of Arnstein's ladder (1969)
 - ➔ In this project - consulted and informed potential to influence decision makers but not challenging decision making process or empowering participants
 - ➔ Constrained 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

★ Workshops- GEMS & UNITY

Individual photo diaries /disposable cameras

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

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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