

Streetwise Opera

£3751.28

To support our Nottingham Workshop Programme for one year which includes the delivery of weekly workshops in two Nottingham homeless centres leading to concerts and theatre trips for participants

The support from the Funding Network enabled Streetwise Opera to continue and build on work they had started with homeless people in Nottingham in 2005 through our Workshop Programme. Streetwise's pioneering work in using the arts to support the personal development of homeless people is unique in the sector. There is no other arts-based work that takes place every week in centres and is so plugged into the support structure of the homeless agencies themselves. In Nottingham during the period of funding, they delivered 55 workshops, 8 small performances, one theatre trip and 36 work placements (including a placement for a homeless participant that resulted in the participant moving into employment). They worked regularly with 48 participants - a group of individuals who are some of the most social excluded, marginalised in society. The work has had profound effects on the confidence and self-esteem of the people involved. During the period they have developed a new evaluation model - the Evaluation Tree - which has had an impact on the homeless sector and is being used by Homeless Link, the national body that supports homeless centres to lobby the government about the importance of the arts. Their evaluation results in Nottingham will be included in the full report. The support from the Funding Network has enabled them to attract other funding from local sources and they are continuing the Workshop Programme in 2007/08.