
SERVICE UPDATE

<u>Name of Cluster:</u>	Corporate Services
<u>Date:</u>	30.6.25
<u>Title of Update:</u>	Aberdeen Performing Arts - Participation in the Creative Engagement Programme
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Further to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee Meeting on 11 June 2025, please see below an update in respect of Aberdeen Performing Arts Participation in the Creative Engagement Programme.

UPDATE:

We contact all schools in priority neighbourhoods to share information on our youth theatre, Beats & Rhymes music making and early years creative offer and we highlight the free space, no questions asked offer. We are contacting schools again now before the end of term, including those with pupils who received the family panto package with support from the cost of living fund, to share the information on the new term of Creative Engagement workshops which starts in August when schools return after the summer break. We will follow up again at the start of term.

In addition to our core programme, Our Light the Blue Festival, for and by young people, took place from June 1st – 15th this year. We had 1,146 young participants, 25 school engagements and 9,103 attendees.

Many events were free to attend, including Family Arts Day in Union Terrace Gardens and Takeover Day where young people took over the city centre in a day of performances curated in collaboration with our Young Programmers group with a trail that began at the Anatomy Rooms and ended at the Music Hall, featuring pop up performances from local and national youth groups, including dance, theatre and music.

One of the festival highlights was the Snappy Operas project which worked with pupils in Muirfield, Skene Square and Cornhill primary schools. The young people created mini operas with professional musicians and directors, rehearsing in school and then performing to their families and friends in the Music Hall.

Light the Blue engages with children and young people from across the city, offering opportunities to take part in creative activity, most of which is free, and gives our young people the tools to ignite their creativity, have fun and make new connections. It brings life to the city centre and encourages everyone to view our city in a different way.

More information on the festival can be found here:

<https://www.aberdeenperformingarts.com/light-the-blue/>