ASPIRE

Akademi has received funding from the Learning Skills Council – European Social Fund to deliver ASPIRE, a multi – disciplinary arts project which will run from now until the end of October 2007.

The projects will run in Camden, Islington, Lambeth, Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea, Wandsworth and Southwark.

Project brief and aims

ASPIRE aims to support the retention in mainstream education and training of currently marginalised 16-19 year olds by engaging them in short intensive issue based arts workshops to:

- To develop arts / media based workshops delivered through 12 hrs contact
- To give young people the opportunity to experience a range of South Asian art forms which can be linked in to the curriculum areas they are studying.
- To include – group reflection through theatre, dance, and music on the barriers to accessing mainstream learning
- To increase self esteem, confidence, aspirations and sense of achievement
- To provide access to Connexions advisors to help road map a return to learning where needed.
- To develop a peer group support network with access to project staff to help sustain retention in learning
- To provide access to individual counselling and support where needed for up to three months after the project to sustain their progress.
- Address possible disaffection

Beneficiaries

Young people aged between 16-19 resident in the UK who are at risk of exclusion/ marginalised. Including minority ethnic people, ex-offenders, people with disabilities, lone parents, and those with basic skills needs.

Practicalities

- The project is designed to work with the same group of students during the workshops.
- We need to have 10-12 hrs contact with the same group of young people.

- The project will involve a number of different artists which will be dependent on the needs of the group we are working with – generally they will include a dancer, drama/storyteller and film/media artist. We can also provide musicians, DJs and vocal artists if your young people have an interest in workshops with musical elements.
- The project is funded by the Learning and Skills Council – European Social Fund. Due to the nature of funding the participants will be asked to fill in a short form at the beginning and the end of the workshops.

Akademi does not seek to promote any one culture or one religion; it aims to reflect the diversity of London's population in its users, its staff and its management. We have a duty of care towards our practitioners and participants they are aware of health and safety issues no matter where the workshops or training takes place.

For more information please contact Penny Homer or Kath Veitch at Akademi on 0207 691 3210 penelope@akademi.co.uk or kath@akademi.co.uk