

The Dance Network Association

End of Year Report:

November 2015 – August 2016

In the period November 2015 – August 2016 The Dance Network Association has reached approximately 27,472 people across Essex and Barking and Dagenham as 491 deliverers 8531 participants or approx. 18,450 audience members. We have 273 likes on our Facebook page and 214 followers on Twitter. Participants have had the opportunity to engage with county and borough projects, and regional events including and our own county and borough platforms Springblast and Fusion, the Braintree Festival, RE:Generation sharing in the Summer term, Keeping Dance Alive Dance Rio performances at Weston Homes, Essex County Cricket Ground and the Jim Peters Stadium other performances took place at the 'Last Poppy Has Fallen Evening' presented by Essex County Council at the Civic Theatre in Chelmsford 'HOST' at DanceEast and 'Dance Ignite' presented by Herts Music Service at the Gordon Craig Theatre in Stevenage.

Our Portfolio of work

The Dance Network Association has been committed to develop our work in the following areas:

RE: Generation, a dance and movement programme for the over 50s.	Pages 2 – 10
Youth Dance Provision	Pages 11 - 12
Dance Teachers Network	Pages 13 - 22
Performance Platforms	Pages 23 – 36
Keeping Dance Alive	Pages 37 - 84
Commitment to nurture a workforce and facilitate placements for college students and graduates	Pages 85 - 86
Developing career pathways in Essex	Page 87
Bespoke programmes	Page 88

RE: Generation, a dance and movement programme for the over 50s.

RE: Generation aims to engage and inspire older communities. Making connections to access movement and dance in older age, and learn the importance of and its effects on brain and body; to mobilise, stimulate, coordinate and above all keep the body moving.

Aims:

- To stimulate older peoples learning and enjoyment of movement and dance
- To improve participant's fitness and health including lessening of joint pain and improved flexibility
- To improve mental capacity through placing demands on memory, decision taking and problem solving
- To share new skills and to create a memory bank of experiences
- To use technology as a tool to document the experience and further inspire and motivate individuals
- To encourage and strengthen psychological well-being and social interaction amongst participants and combat loneliness in older age
- Encouraging participants to actively contribute and collaborate in creative processes, being mindful of connecting and supporting those around them

Objectives: Throughout the programme participants will:

- Develop their movement skills, fitness, balance and coordination
- Feel confident dancing and expressing themselves through movement
- Be able to work with external artists in response to technology
- Extend and strengthen their relationships with other participants
- Be able to share documentation and work with family and the wider community
- Have their work shown via a public live art performance platform

Sessions have run within three sheltered housing schemes in Chelmsford (Coates and Napier in Jan – April and Coates and Hatleys in April – July) this year creating easy access for residents of all 24 CHP residential housing schemes and the local community to attend and engage. CHP provides taxis for all residents throughout their schemes to attend the classes, but the bulk of our dancers do attend from the schemes we work within. Last terms change to Hatley's had seen an increase in participants and accommodated four Hatley's residents, two of whom have mobility problems, with the Napier residents coming to the also.

Each week participants take part in a dance and movement session planned and delivered by Louise Klarnett. The sessions start with introductions and an opportunity for the participants to 'check in'. This could include how their body is feeling (e.g. if a particular body part aches) and what has happened to them that week. While Louise provides some instructions and guidance, she also encourages participants to take responsibility and self-adapt her instructions such as to reduce the size of movements or imagine their shoulders are both circling smoothly even if they are unable to in reality. Knowing most of the participants well, Louise is often able to check in about any specific needs, such as stages of

recovery post-illness or incident, but always initially reminds participants to manage themselves too.

A seated body warm-up is carried out, followed by travelling around the space for those able (material is adapted for those who prefer to remain seated). Set material was devised, learnt and recapped and new material explored via improvisation both with and without props. We used imagery taken from Butoh dance to inspire quality of movement during improvisations, for example the body being full of lava or light wispy smoke.

The group got to know each other more through movement games with a giant balloon where we shared things about our lives that no-one else might know. This also benefitted reflexes as well as sparking lots of conversation during tea and coffee time!

Sessions always end with a cool down, checking back in with the body, reducing the heart rate and breathing and grounding the group ready for the rest of the day. All our sessions are topped off with time for tea, biscuits and a chat to ensure we speak with our neighbours and friends so no one ever feels alone.

Louise Klarnett

Longevity of the project has enabled Louise to deepen her connection to the group members and observe their journey. She has witnessed them become more confident improvisers, open to a range of stimuli. She has pushed them creatively, worked with them as a whole group as well as in small groups, pairs and as individuals. She has encouraged appropriate physical contact as part of the sessions and seen the group become friends and supporters of one another. Artistically, since working with the elders, Louise has been delighted to create short pieces of movement for informal end of term sharing's, as well as produce additional material such as the souvenir books, postcards of hands, and more specially the two films this term. The ongoing gentle collaboration with photographer Rachel Cherry is a way of documenting the work, but also is the work, most notable in 'Untitled'.

All these ongoing experiences all filter into Louise's wider practice, and dances such as her version of 'Waltz of the Flowers' have been performed by the CHP elders, reception aged school children, parents, carers, babies and toddlers in community settings, families, services users and staff at children's hospices as well as at intergenerational workshops at the Victoria & Albert museum in the beautiful tapestry gallery. Each of her groups inspires the other... Louise is grateful for the ongoing support of her work by Gemma Wright.

January – April 2016

Funding Overview:

The funding Essex County Council (ECC) have invested into RE: Generation has enabled the programme to be delivered for another term with lead dance artist Louise Klarnett delivering and Gemma Wright managing the work. The remaining investment has helped to secure further funds from CHP Foundations and Chelmsford City Council in order to support this terms programme with a new dance apprentice (Emma Meek) and sustain the work until September 2016. We have also had a small additional income through the Heritage Lottery

Fund programme commissioned by Essex County Council for the 'Last Poppy Project' in order for us to document our 'Flower Dance' and showcase this in a platform evening in a professional theatre and celebrate the centenary of WW1.

Delivery:

Target audience: 50 + participants located within the local community of the sheltered housing units and the residents of the schemes.

RE: Generation between January – April 2016 has been delivered each Thursday (during term time) at:

11.00 – 12.30 at Coates Lodge, Hollis Lock, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6SL

13.30 – 15.00 at Napier Court, Chelmsford CM1 2ED

We recapped set material from last term with the artificial carnations in preparation for a session of filming where the group were captured both moving and talking about the sessions. This was subsequently edited into a film for the event: 'Now the Last Poppy Has Fallen' at the Civic Theatre by Erato Tzavara and Ioanna Manoussaki-Adamopoulou. This was able to happen due to additional funding from the Heritage Lottery fund. Participants were delighted to have this dance documented. 'Flower Dance' as it became known is something which the dancers and Louise had been working with since September 2015. The group got to know each other more through movement games with a giant balloon where we shared things about our lives that no-one else might know. This also benefitted reflexes as well as sparking lots of conversation during tea and coffee time!

Additional funding from Chelmsford City Council enabled us to produce a film of stills, 'Untitled', a collaboration between photographer Rachel Cherry and Louise Klarnett. This film is two-fold; firstly, to document and showcase our work and secondly to be shown more widely beyond CHP and Essex to inspire others and increase understanding and exposure of dance and older participants. The film was inspired by some of the elements of authentic movement and witnessing. It captures partner work, where one person describes the other person's movements which are mostly hand and arm focussed. Some participants felt this a little challenging, but quickly experienced the benefits of using language to describe what they saw. They sometimes struggled to name body parts and shapes but improved as they practised, some really enjoying being in the present moment with their partner with both brain and body activating. Louise and Rachel's common interest in hands also inspired the film. We explored handholding – something that some of the participants rarely do as a result of losing their husband or wife and their families not being local. We worked with feathers and also rainbow elastics (taken from previous term's explorations) with Rachel capturing an array of images from different angles, levels and ranges – close up and wide. These black and white still photographs were edited into a film accompanied by a soundtrack of voices which comes in intermittently. This style was inspired by Chris Marker's film 'La Jetée' from 1962 and has been something Louise has wanted to do for over ten years.

Dance Apprentice: We sought and placed a dance apprentice to work alongside Louise Klarnett to support weekly delivery. Emma Meek is a recent dance graduate and has been supporting Louise in the sessions and through observation and dialogue. Louise is informally mentoring her. Emma has proven to be a fantastic asset to the sessions and is very popular

with the participants. We hope in the future to expand the programme across more CHP schemes and/or roll out the model across the county more widely so that in time Emma can take on leading sessions.

Performances: As mentioned above, part of the central focus is on community engagement and performance at the two schemes which allows community participants to work in collaboration with professional artists to create an installation / performance piece in response to the classes.

Installation / Performance dates: SpringBlast 2016 at the Civic Theatre in Chelmsford 21 March 2016 Now the Last Poppy Has Fallen at the Civic Theatre in Chelmsford 23 March 2016

The focus this term has been on creating a documentation film/installation film rather than a live performance at the end of term with family and friends. Previous projects have highlighted anxiety around live performances where the participants are leaving their own environment. We have agreed this term that they are more than happy to be filmed and watch as part of the audience, but do not wish to dance live in the showcase. However, Frances Maynard, one of our dancers who also writes beautiful poetry, took to the stage and gave a reading of a poem she had written specially before we shared our film at 'Now the Last Poppy Has Fallen' showcase at the Civic Theatre in Chelmsford 23 March 2016. For the individuals taking part, the performative outcome can offer an individual sense of achievement, belonging and community ownership of the work. This creates a positive output on emotional and psychological well-being. This in turn builds confidence, self-esteem, aspirations and friendships which all support in reducing social isolation and combating loneliness which is one of our key aims of the project.

Here is some of the dancers' feedback and more details from Louise Klarnett our delivering artist:

"Exercises help you to be more mobile. Enjoyed the exercises. Feel more mobile for the day. Good to meet other people with similar problems. I feel it difficult to keep 'in tune'. Finger exercises etc. are beneficial to our general health, e.g. arthritis. Knee and thigh rub also helps arthritis. Learning to work with a partner – good memory as with whole class. All enjoy the photography of what we have achieved. Difficulties: Can be too quick with wrist movements – ached afterwards. Appreciate visits to theatre & see other performances. And the individual inspiration from poems from a member of the group".

*"Learning dance routines. Very enjoyable and meeting new people is lovely. Exercise is very beneficial. Everybody throws themselves into it. Wouldn't change anything!! Challenging: Using muscles & doing exercises we wouldn't usually use or do".
The group were proud of themselves and excited to witness and observe other people seeing them in action. One participant mentioned the mayor watching them!*

Following the two films being screened in one week and many of the participants attending one or both of these, one in particular displayed a new sense of confidence and energy in her movements that week. Upon my commenting on this, she said she felt inspired by all the

other groups she had seen dance that week. It was so clear that this had had a positive effect on her whole being.

Here are our films:

'Untitled' Film of stills created Spring Term 2016 <https://vimeo.com/159195898>

'Flower Dance' filmed and edited in Spring 2016 <https://vimeo.com/159212776>

Beneficiaries in each of our sessions:

Reached between 8 – 20 participants.

Coates: 20 Participants (2 gentlemen/18 ladies) Napier: 8 Participants (all ladies)

Total participants seen across the whole term: 196 dancers

PLUS, one new dance apprentice, Emma Meek - who has volunteered her time this term but we have supported with the additional grants to cover Emma's travel costs.

Within the performance films we brought together all the participants to film on the same day and also to introduce them to one another. We had around 28 dancers for each film; including Louise, Emma and myself around 31.

Audiences: The dancers then became audience members at the Civic Theatre not only to watch themselves but to take part and be an audience for the evenings showcases. 24 of the 28 dancers came to each evening to watch the showcases.

Future planning April – July 2016

Moving space – Napier to Hatleys to engage more residents.

Expansion of the programme to support Emma to deliver on her own with informal training from Louise Klarnett. Contract Emma Meek our dance apprentice for her time to sustain the programme. Installation piece collaborations further explored with Rachel Cherry and Louise Klarnett

April – July 2016

Funding Overview:

The funding CHP Foundations has invested into RE: Generation has enabled the programme to be delivered for another term with lead dance artist Louise Klarnett delivering with support artist Emma Meek and Gemma Wright managing the work.

We have had also additional income from CHP of £350.00 (Sharon Mills) and a few donations amounting to £40.00 to support some transport in order for the RE: Generation dancers to go on a trip to DanceEast in Ipswich for a whole day's workshops and performance event (Tuesday 5 July 2016). Without this additional support our dancers would not have been able to attend.

Delivery:

Target audience: 50 + participants located within the local community of the sheltered housing units and the residents of the schemes.

RE: Generation between January – April 2016 has been delivered each Thursday (during term time) at:

11.00 – 12.30 at Coates Lodge, Hollis Lock, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6SL

13.30 – 15.00 Hatley's Barclays Close, Vineyards, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 7QU

Dance Apprentice:

Emma Meek is a recent dance graduate and has been supporting Louise in the sessions since January 2016. Through observation and dialogue Louise is informally mentoring her. Emma has proven to be a fantastic asset to the sessions and is very popular with the participants. We hope in the future to expand the programme across more CHP schemes and/or roll out the model across the county more widely so that in time Emma can take on leading sessions. This term in particular Emma has lead two sessions solely (with Louise's mentoring) once when Louise had another mentoring engagement in April and once during our photographic day in June when Louise was directing the individuals during their portrait shoot.

Performances:

As mentioned above, part of the central focus is on community engagement and performance at the two schemes which allows community participants to work in collaboration with professional artists to create an installation / performance piece in response to the classes.

Installation / Performance dates:

1. Photographic installation and informal sharing of the 'Hats Dance' at Coates Lodge, 30th June 2016
2. Frances Maynard recited a poem 'I Used to Dance' at Dance East's HOST day alongside an evening of older dancer's performances.

The focus this term has been on creating a documentation film/installation film rather than a live performance at the end of term with family and friends. Previous projects have highlighted anxiety around live performances where the participants are leaving their own environment. We have agreed this term that they are more than happy to be filmed and watch as part of the audience, but do not wish to dance live in the showcase.

For the individuals taking part, the performative outcome can offer an individual sense of achievement, belonging and community ownership of the work. This creates a positive output on emotional and psychological well-being. This in turn builds confidence, self-esteem, aspirations and friendships which all support in reducing social isolation and combating loneliness which is one of our key aims of the project.

Hat dance and installation:

During the summer term, Louise once again led sessions where both creative material was explored as well as taught sequence to Nat King Cole's version of Straighten Up and Fly Right was danced with bowler hats. The group really enjoyed this dance and their unison really improved as well as ability to work to counts.

Again, Louise collaborated with Rachel Cherry creating an installation of suspended black and white portraits of the participants which was displayed at Coates Lodge for the end of summer term sharing. The residents were delighted to see themselves and very proud of the work they have accomplished this year. They were each given a DVD of the recent films and requested copies of the photographs, several taking snaps of the installation to show friends and family. The display will remain at Coates and will hopefully be moved to CHP Myriad House in September 2016 ready for our board meeting.

You can see a short clip of our installation here:

<https://vimeo.com/175219473>

We also have many photos from this term which can be seen via our google drive:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0By7FeAzprBcvOXBrZnBKSkTcDg>

HOST at DanceEast in Ipswich Tuesday 5 July 2016

We were invited to attend DanceEast for a small cost of £15.00 per dancer and providing our own coach cost. Frances Maynard our dancer from Cottey House was also invited to share her poem 'I Used to Dance' in the performance section of the day.

10 of our dancers attended: Sue Cremen, Georgina Brazier, Frances Maynard, Lilly Clark, Chris Henderson, Vernon Cox, Ange Barnes and Gillian Parker and myself Gemma Wright.

<https://www.danceeast.co.uk/workshops/hostsummer16/>

HOST is an event about shifting attitudes to older people in dance performance contexts, focusing on the artistry of choreographing with older bodies. The day will include workshops, presentations from experienced artists and a facilitated panel discussion, and will end with a sharing of performance work and film. This event is for older dancers, as well as practitioners, leaders and choreographers, and those working with older people.

12.00 | Shared lunch

13.00 | Workshops led by specialist artists, including Danielle Teale and Mary Davies

14.30 | Presentations by Sonia York-Pryce and Jennifer Jackson

15.45 | Panel discussion

17.30 | Performances from The Elderberries, Countpoint Dance, Damn Fine Dance (choreographed by Molly Wright) and others

Sonia York Pryce's Presentation 'The Mature Dancer: value, validation and visibility'

Sonia York-Pryce PhD Candidate from QCA Griffith University. The research investigates the role of dancers who extend beyond the industry expectations of acceptable age and analyse the contribution that they are making to current dialogues relating to ageism in the field. Sonia's research highlights the mature dancer's 'corporeal difference' and how their practice rather than age defines them.

Jennifer Jackson 'Making room for new questions: ballet and ageing'

In 2004/05 I danced with *from Here to Maturity* Dance Company in a duet choreographed by Matthew Hawkins. The experience of returning to performance practice stimulated many

questions about embodiment, ageing and my identity as a dance artist and I have been chipping away at these ever since through a series of collaborative and solo projects. As an older practitioner, I observed profound shifts in the balance between the athletic and 'artistic' dimensions of my practice, as well as in the relationship between body and self. I pondered how mature or older dancer challenges established dance performance practice, especially in ballet which is so closely associated with youthful beauty and physical virtuosity.

My presentation draws together performance and reflection on this journey. I return to a question which Matthew posed during our 2004 creation. 'What is a mature dance' and to Virginia Woolf's inspirational essay *A Room of One's Own* (1928) to consider how the older practitioner can make room for new questions about ballet practice

We attended Danielle Teale's workshop:

Danielle Teale's' Seated Dance Workshop

Informed by ballet and contemporary technique, Danielle's class will explore the choreography of a seated dance class and the possibility for artistry and creativity in chair based dance. The session will give examples of how expression, fluidity and lines in space, power and a range of dynamics can all be achieved in a seated context as well as give examples of how you can progress from seated to standing with a group that has a diverse range of abilities.

The dancers all commented on how much they really enjoyed it and said it was nice because even though very similar to you i.e. seated work they really enjoyed the different themes that Danielle used which they had not covered with you before, so was nice to have a new class.

In the class Danielle taught a phrase and then asked for them to give her words that related to Earth, Wind, Water and Fire and then used those words to develop material together such as crackle, whoosh, sprinkle etc. and we created 4 pieces of dance using the same set material but through the feeling and emotions in the words then put this to different pieces of music.

We then did a standing and seated partner dance where one person was seated and one standing and they had to hold hands and Danielle taught a sequence that was translated both for the standing person and the seated. The standing dancer found their way to the back of the chair then did a few moves on the back of the chair, back to the person in front and then helped each other to change places and started again. So they both had chance in both places.

Then finally they created a new dance which had to involve four closed positions and four wildest dreams positions they enjoyed this the most and you could really see them grow in confidence as they tested out balances and moving around quite a bit which I think is a bit more difficult for our group.

In the evening we then watched Frances read her poem live to an audience of around 80 people. She was very excited as she was given her own dressing room, which made her feel

very important. We were so proud. Then we watched about 7 performances and a couple of films from different companies and they absolutely loved every one of them and I think quite surprised by the amount of dancing and how professional the groups were.

They also commented on all the people like them that they talked to throughout the day and feel they have made new friends and contacts so that was great for me to see as one of the main reasons for wanting them to leave the scheme and meet other like-minded dancers.

I think it will be good to take them to see more outings as I think it will add to their overall confidence especially for our Lilly who is in her 90's.

Louise: "One major observation was the change in energy of the group at Hatley's. In the past, after the Napier sessions, as soon as I packed up and was leaving, they were too. Now at Hatley's they linger and chat non-stop :)".

Emma: *"by moving to Hatleys I feel that the second group seem to come for a more social aspect as well as for health and have really gelled as a group"*.

Beneficiaries

Each of our sessions reaches between 8 – 20 participants.

Coates: 20 Participants (2 gentlemen/18 ladies)

Hatley's: 8-11 (all ladies)

Total participants seen across the whole term: 201 dancers
= an increase of 5 dancers from January – April

We have three new dancers who are continuing to engage each week Karen and Alison (sisters) one on site at Hatley's, one off. Sylvia Sillitoe on site.

Three of our participants are not from CHP but live on Hollies lock - Georgie Brazier & Dot Brown, and one Alison who is Karen's sister at Hatleys. There was also a lady called Janice who came to Hatley's once (from off-site) but didn't want to give her details and didn't return, even though she seemed to quite enjoy herself.

Dancers come from Cottey House, Coates Lodge, Glovershotts, Thetford Court, Sutherland House, Yeoman Lodge, Hatleys and Napier Court.

Future planning September 2016 – July 2017

Expansion of the programme and include a new space – Carstone Place has been mentioned to engage more residents from a different area of Chelmsford.

Emma to either deliver on her own in the new space or we employ a new artist and Emma continues her support with Louise.

To begin a performance group for those more able that wish to dance live and inspired by HOST.

Installation piece collaborations further explored with Rachel Cherry and Louise Klarnett – would like to tour photographic Installation both Colchester and Loughton Museums are interested.

Apply for further funds for a programme for Sep 2016 to July 17

Total funds required: £15,000

Youth Dance Provision

The focus of the Youth Dance Programme offers high quality and affordable dance classes for young people of all abilities, aged 11 to 19 years in contemporary dance.

Across this year we have reached a total of 1996 dancers between 11 – 19 years of age
792 Students in the Spring Term
1204 Students in the Summer Term

We have offered 6 teachers freelance work for these sessions, 4 of which are completely new teachers to the organisation and offering them the opportunity of freelance work.

Young dancers benefit from the high standard of teaching, are able to develop their Contemporary dance technique as well as learning how to be creative and choreograph for performance and be choreographed on also.

Students have performed in SpringBlast, Keeping Dance Alive Dance Rio performances at Weston Homes, Essex County Cricket Ground at the 'Last Poppy Has Fallen Evening' presented by Essex County Council at the Civic Theatre in Chelmsford and 'Dance Ignite' presented by Herts Music Service at the Gordon Craig Theatre in Stevenage.

Between January – April 2016 we begun these classes

1. Saffron Walden County High School (Rebecca Edwards)
2. Harlow College (Robert Gentle)
3. Colchester Academy (Lisa Warnock)
4. The Stanway School (Kerry Traecy)
5. Clacton County High (Lisa Warnock)
6. Dagenham Park (Wade Lewin)
7. Alec Hunter (Pamela Flemming)
8. The Boswells School (one term only) (Robert Gentle)
9. DNA Studios (one term only) Choreographed by the students and Bee Mighty

Between April – July 2016 we begun these classes

1. Joyce Frankland Academy (Rebecca Edwards)
2. Clacton Coastal Academy (Pamela Flemming)

Funding Overview:

We have received funds from Active Essex via Sportivate initiative for 8 of these sessions and a small additional income through the Heritage Lottery Fund programme commissioned by Essex County Council for the 'Last Poppy Project' in order for us to create dance showcases in this platform evening in a professional theatre and celebrate the centenary of WW1 but also supported us to begin 2 of these sessions (where it says one term only above)

For the longevity and sustainability of the after school provision Active Essex and Essex County Council will continue to support some of this provision as we set up 7 county youth dance classes or companies starting in September 2016. See the website for more details of

next year's programme <http://www.dancenetworkassociation.org.uk/#!youth-dance-companies/ka1zm>.

Additionally, in Spring 2016 we began a partnership with the Step into Dance a programme funded by the Jack Petchey Foundation and led by the Royal Academy of Dance, where some of these classes above were then offered 20 weeks of free provision to ensure a continuation and sustainability of these sessions.

Boswells School and Saffron Walden County High auditioned and were offered the opportunity to dance in Step LIVE at Sadler's Wells in July to represent Essex Schools in the platform. We are extremely proud of their achievements in performing within this evening and footage can be seen on Step into Dance's website: <http://www.stepintodance.org/>

From September 2016 we will be able to offer 20 schools the opportunity to become part of the Step into Dance Programme in Essex that will be managed by the Dance Network to increase secondary and colleges after school provision across greater Essex.

Dance Teachers Network

- Annual Conference
- Teacher training for EES for Schools.
- North Essex Dance Network launched June 2016 a small collective of schools in and around Colchester to increase curriculum development of dance.
- Mid Essex Dance Network a small collective of schools in and around Braintree increase curriculum development of dance
- Barking and Dagenham Primary and Secondary Dance Networks a small collective of schools in Barking and Dagenham to increase curriculum and after school dance activity.

Summary:

The focus of the Dance Teachers Network (DTN) is to offer high quality teacher training programme for our teachers to upskill and develop their dance skills across the county in a variety of dance styles, but also to network with other likeminded teachers. We would hope that our network programme will help to support teachers to feel like they are part of a bigger network and not working alone but also raise the standard of dance in the county. Part of the DTN we also work with EES for schools to deliver training for new teacher trainees in dance. This is a new relationship for this year and we have already been booked for 2016/17 teachers as well as deliver assessment mentoring too.

Dance Teachers Network Annual Conference:

Monday 18 April 2016

10.00 - 17.00 (or those that wanted to partake in an early morning Bounce warm up class started at 08.30 – 09.30am).

Venue: Zinc Arts, Great Stony, High Street, Chipping Ongar
Essex CM5 0AD

35 teachers attended from across community and education settings and 14 deliverers lead the sessions.

8.30 - 9.30	Early Morning WAKE UP	((Bounce)) with Kate Tozer	Dining Room
9.00 - 9.50	Registration and Coffee	Register participants, hand-out conference itinerary, Coffee/Tea Served	Atrium and soft space areas
9.50 - 10.00	Move into the theatre to begin	All delegates	Theatre
10.00 - 10.10	Welcome with Gemma Wright	Intros, housekeeping etc.	Theatre

10.10 - 11.30	Guest Speakers 10.10 – 10.30 Fern Potter – One Dance UK 10.30 – 10.45 Roxie Curry – ROH Bridge 10.45 – 11.00 Dawn Catley – Active Essex 11.00 – 11.15 Sarah Girling – Essex County Council 11.15 – 11.30 Panel Discussion – Open questions to the floor	All delegates	Theatre
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11.30 - 11.45	Refreshment Break	Change into practical if needed	Atrium and soft space areas
11.45 - 12.30	Healthy Dancer - Practical with Elsa Urmston	All delegates	Theatre
12.30 - 13.15	Lunch - Buffet	Networking cafe	Atrium and soft space areas

13.15 - 14.15	Practical Workshop with Louise Klarnett	Creative play	Theatre
	Practical Workshop with Vanessa Gayton	Just for you adult class	Dining Room

14.15 - 14.30	Short break - Move to next space	All delegates	
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14.30 - 15.30	Practical Workshops with Lisa Warnock	Youth mental health	Oak
	Practical Workshop with Vanessa Gayton	Food and Nutrition	Dining Room

15.30 - 16.45	Performances Dance East CAT, Step into Dance Plume School, RE: Generation and Louise Klarnett, Epping Forest District Council - Vanessa Gayton & Robert Gentle DigiDance	All delegates	Theatre
16.45 - 17.00	Q & A session with all artists/speakers in the performance part of the programme. Evaluation.	All delegates	Please tell us how to shape Dance CPD

The conference involved talks from our national and county organisations, a series of practical workshops and a performance programme, it also included lunch and refreshments. At a cost of £30.00 extremely early bird rate /£75.00 Early Bird/ £95.00 General Bookings. The conference is self-funded by attendee's fees.

Essex Teacher Training:

“Essex Teacher Training is a large provider of Initial Teacher Training in the Eastern Region. As part of EES for Schools, we offer high quality school-based training routes for both

Primary and Secondary. Working with our SCITT and School Direct partners we are able to offer training places in schools across Essex and its surrounding borders”.

<http://www.essexteachertraining.co.uk/>

Over the year we have trained 3 young dance teachers (=15 sessions) across 5 sessions in the following areas.

1. Dance and Technology Wednesday 18 November 2015 with Diccon Hogger
2. Key Stage 3 Dance Thursday 10 December 2015 with Lisa Warnock
3. GCSE Dance Thursday 10 March 2016 with Lisa Warnock
4. A Level Dance Thursday 14 April 2016 with Lisa Warnock
5. BTEC Dance Thursday 28 April 2016 with Lisa Warnock

Teachers from our training programme will go on to lead in schools as the Dance teacher.

This programme is fully funded by Essex County Council – EES for Schools.

North Essex Dance Network launched June 2016 a small collective of schools in and around Colchester to increase curriculum development of dance.

After being awarded funding from Essex County Council small grants scheme we set up the launch of the North Essex Dance Network. Through the Braintree Network that Gemma Wright has programme managed for 3 years, we realised that professional development is more engaged with if we deliver work within a district rather than the county as a whole. In the past we have attempted to run one off workshop days which we have cancelled due to unviable numbers and from feedback realising it is due to location. Essex is a vast county and we have found with the Braintree Network (now the Mid Essex Dance Network) we engage with far more schools and teachers as a whole if we offer opportunities on location but also support those schools to come together as a collective.

Colchester is an area where quite a vast amount of dance is offered but teacher said that they felt very rural and alone and asked if we could offer what Braintree have, and therefore became the launch of the North Essex Dance Network. If schools or freelancers become part of the network, they will receive

- A network meeting once a term
- Support for school to implement or continue to run after school dance clubs or opportunity to run a club
- Training programme days (twilights/mini workshop series)
- Opportunity to attend dance performances
- Opportunity to take pupils/dancers to take part in an annual festival
- Place to attend the annual conference

We launched the network by inviting schools and freelancers to a meet and greet at Colchester Sixth Form on 7 June 16.00 – 18.00

Here we briefly spoke about the programme ahead and announced the first date, also if schools wanted to join it would be a small contribution this year of £50.00 (as the funding was slightly less on this occasion than what we have hoped for) but also as this network

would also have to be self-sustaining from 2017/18 it would get schools and teachers used to paying a membership type fee in return of what they receive.

Approximately 20 teachers attended the launch event, and from this so far 8 teachers have signed up from the following schools: Clacton Coastal Academy, Colne Community School and College, Colchester Academy, The Stanway School, Honywood and Clacton County High.

The Mercury Theatre have offered to host our twilight sessions in kind.

Mid Essex Dance Network a small collective of schools in and around Braintree increase curriculum development of dance

The former Braintree Dance Network saw its third year of existence and this year we covered the following areas:

- Meeting once a term to discuss aims and objectives of the programme for the year ahead and what schools want to achieve as a collective.
- Supporting school to implement or continue to run after school dance clubs.
- Training programme days will be provided during twilights and after school as mini workshop series.
- Teachers will also have the opportunity to attend dance performances and understand how to develop the work for the classroom.
- Braintree Festival will take place on Wednesday 22 June 09.45 – 11.45 to offer pupils and teachers the opportunity to share their dance works with one another and celebrate in an end of year performance.

The programme was awarded funding from the local delivery group of £1000.00 and schools then had to pay in £150.00 to make up the shortfall of a full programme (approx. cost £3000.00)

In total 11 teachers joined the programme across the following 8 schools: Great Bradford Infant and Nursery School, John Bunyan Infant School, Lyons Hall Primary School, Notley Green Primary School, St Andrews CEVC Primary School in Great Yeldham, St Michaels C of E School and White Court Primary School.

Workshops:

Monday 9 November 2015 17.00 – 19.30 at White Court Primary School with Robert Gentle – Matthew Bourne medley, how to develop works for curriculum. 10 teachers in attendance

Monday 1 February 2016 17.00 – 19.30 at St Michaels C of E School with Bobbie Gargrave – Olympics and the East London Dance Resource 11 teachers in attendance

Monday 23 May 2016 17.00 – 19.00 at Notley Green Primary School with Gemma Wright and the collective discussing the festival performance pieces. 7 teachers in attendance

Go and see:

Matthew Bourne's Sleeping Beauty Sadler's Wells London Saturday 9 January
4 teachers attended.

Braintree Dance Network Year 3 Teachers Feedback 2015-16				
	What worked well and why	What didn't work well and why not?	Next time, the thing I can do differently	Other comments
1	communication, always thorough and on time. Sharing of work. Meetings of teachers. Good to share ideas etc.	Very late finisher. Tired and long journey home	Learning all the time, so many things	Thank you for everything. You put such a lot of time and effort into this. Want you to know how appreciated you are xxx
2	Loved the way KDA was delivered this year, with the one-day training session. The resources were fabulous			Had a great year. Thank you
3	Really loved the feedback meeting before we performed at the festival. We shared the feedback with the children and you could see the progress.		Could we have a group where we can share tips, photos etc. like a FB group, but maybe email to ensure everyone can be included	Thanks Gemma! Looking forward to another year of dance!
4	Enjoyed the CPD, Robs class was very good. Dance Festival was lovely this year		Use more of the information from the CPD's in dance classes at school. I need to teach the skills learnt straight away to retain the knowledge.	
5	Practical session with resources / Plans given ideas for warm ups and how to put pieces together	Very late session Could we alternate afternoons for practical sessions	Repetition of dance styles?	

Festival Wednesday 22 June 2016 09.45 – 11.45

Total of 255 people in attendance (221 Dancers, 29 Teachers, 5 Deliverers)

Programme:

Full festival warm up led by Bobbie Gargrave and then a short workshop led by the Bam Bam Boogies.

Guest Performance: Professional hip hop company Bam Bam Boogies.

The Bam Bam Boogies are a performing dance company and established dance school based in Essex, specialising in the styles of Street Dance, Hip Hop, Popping/Boogaloo, Locking, House & Waacking.

As a Dance Company we are a talented team of dancers/instructors who are individually creative and offer a high standard of professionalism. Our experience has seen us work for some of the top major companies and events worldwide offering performance as well as choreography.

Dancers: 2

Lyons Hall Primary School

Title: Colourise

A high energy piece created using technology, inspiration created from the children's names as a starting point.

Choreographers: Lyons Hall Teachers, Dancers and Robert Gentle 'DigiDance' project.

Type: Curriculum Dance, including cross curricular Science, Light and Sound.

Dancers: 30

St Michaels C OF E School

Title: A whole new world

performed by foundation stage, this dance has a narrative stimulus about the magic carpet; where it could take them, using scarves as props to show their carpets flying through the sky. the children also jump aboard their magic carpets and fly to their own imaginary world, then show their experiences in their whole new world by using their imaginations and movement to express themselves.

Choreographer: Kristie Peacham/Ruth Mattin

Type: curriculum dance

Dancers: 29 dancers

John Bunyan – Olympics

Dancers: 28

White Court Primary School

Title: Candyland

Inspired by the Nutcracker, our piece is about a girl who falls asleep and finds herself whisked away into a magical kingdom of candy and sweets. She is guided through the kingdom by various sweets, which she interacts with, until eventually the dream begins to fade and the girl awakes.

Choreographers: Miss Stimpson, Mrs baker

Type: School dance club

Dancers: 19

St Andrews Great Yeldham Primary

Title: We are the Champions

A curriculum dance piece based on our topic The Olympics. This dance was inspired by a piece I worked on with Bobbie a few years back, used the basic ideas from past choreography but added the children's ideas of sports from the Olympics

Choreographer Nic Smith – using past choreographic inspiration from Bobbie Gargrave.

Type: Curriculum dance

Dancers: 18

St Michaels – Jungle book

Title: Jungle Book

the children have enjoyed and embraced the characters of the jungle book and brought them to life. they have been developing their skills and creativity, working independently, with a partner and as a whole to show the different characteristics such as the elephant regiment, the movement of the snake and the cheekiness of the fun loving monkeys.

Choreographed by Kristie Peacham
Type: Curriculum Dance
Dancers: 30

Notely Green – 3 Rights
Title: The Three Rights

Summary: The children decided to base their dance on our schools three rights (the right to learn, the right to feel and be safe and the right to respect). The dance begins with the children 'collecting' each other, they then form a tree to represent growing and learning. Their dance continues with partner, individual then finally group work. The piece ends with three groups, each one representing one of the three rights.

Choreographer: The children, Victoria Brown and Emily Austin
Type: KS2 After School Club
Dancers: 16

St Andrews Great Yeldham Primary
Title: Beijing- London – Rio

A year 2/3 class curriculum dance based on our topic Olympics 2016.

This dance shares something from each country which has held the Olympics 2008,2012 and now 2016.

Choreographer: Ideas have been taken from a past dance which were choreographed by Nic Smith and Kristie Peacham. For this dance Nic Smith and Jo Young developed these ideas to create the piece further.

Type: Curriculum dance
Dancers: 29

Great Bradford's infant and nursery School.

Title: 'Energy'

Children moving in response to the beating within the music...some formation movement.

Some free style

Choreographed: By Suzanne Ager and the Dancers

Type: School Dance Club

Dancers: 18

Guest Performance – Professional Company Flux Dance Collective

HAZE, REINVENTED' (a special presentation for Braintree Dance Festival 2016)

Flux dancers Kerry and Emma, will present extracts of the above piece choreographed by Joanna Keeble and developed by Artistic Director, Lisa Warnock for today's event.

Dancers: 2

Festival Dancers Feedback:

I think everyone done well. You come some good guests and thank you for letting us come	Milly
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I was very entertained by all the dancers! It was very fun indeed. Thank you for having me!	Isabella
I think it went really well. However, we could have done it outside and more dances could be involved. Thank you	Hollie
It was fun because not only did we just see dances everyone had a theme so it was really creative.	Katie
I thought it was brilliant it was better than school because it was fun	Keira
I thought you was amazing and I wish to come next time	Eleanor
I think that everyone did amazing and it was very fun thank you for letting us come	Katrina
It was quite fun as we got to see lots of dances Have refreshments	
I think that this was an amazing dance festival and all the dances were fabulous. Thank you for everything	Saffron
You could improve by having food and drink	
It was really and everyone did amazing al the dances were great	
I liked it because there were lots of acshons [actions] and amazing dancing	
I think that it was very entertaining don't change it!	Hannah
I liked that the acts were very good	
I Love it	
I loved it I think it was best I ever been to	
I like the duss (?) becss [because] they got good	
I loved it	Natalie
I really love it	
I Fick it woos good	
This dance in was the best dancing I've ever seen	
I loved it so much and the dancing was brilliant	
I loved it was amaysing [amazing]	Sasha

I fink that it woz amazing	
Moor and woz	
Moving and the songs	
I had a great time and there was lot son team whurck [work]	Kai
I like the difrnt [different] tempos and music	
I really enjoyed this year and can't wait for next year! Maybe more dancers could be involved	
It was very good	
We have loved taking art in this wonderful oppportunity to learn and share dance. Thank you	Emily
I liked that the dancing was amazing but my favourite part was the two really good dancers	
It was there ??? dancing	
I liked the clockwise	
I think the festival was amazing and it was really fun. Thank you for everything	Alice
I really like the dancing	
The caches were good and working together	
Good, Get ys refreshment dancing is hard work lol Get us chairs our backs ache	
Very good I want to do it again	
I think it is a big oppportunity and to see what all different schools have corrigraphed [choreographed] and to see them outside of school	Faith
I think that all the songs were fantastic because of the styles and scenes in the music	Hannah
I enjoyed how people doing synced moved and contact moves together Thank you for organising it, it was brilliant	Frankie
I thought the dance was very good but to improve it I think you should have two years but both of the classes doing it	
I really liked dancing the jungle book I liked the candland dance it as fun looking at other school's dance	
I think this is really nice of you and all of you have really made an effort and it was really goof and thank you for letting us perform	
I think the festival was amazing and there is not a thing to change	
I think the dances were really good because all the movement and acetons [actions]	
I think the dance was really good because the people did really nice	

dances	
I think it was great	
I think it was good and amazing I liked the moves and also school colours. It was cool	
I thought it was just Amazing! WOW! WOW! I loved it (heart)	
I think it was amazing	
I think it was amazing to see what all of the schools could do and showing other people what we can do.	
I liked all the dances because some were bouncy and some were calm	
I think was amazing but I also thought that the spacing wasn't very good	
Thank you for letting us watch all of the different schools and my favourite school was St Andrews Beijing -London- Rio	
I thought it was amazing and great. I don't think you should change anything	
I think it was AMAZING! Don't know what you can change really it was amazing	William
I think that all the dances were amazing and I though they used their imagination to make a whole story	
I think the performance was very good but with St Andrews that was the best one of all because in mg I could see the picture	
Amazing and wonderful Love it! the best thing ever. Just you could try and speed it up	
I thought it was really good and once that all the schools got together to dance	
I liked when we learn how to do the wave and show Year 3's dance. thank you	Ruby

Barking and Dagenham Primary and Secondary Dance Networks a small collective of schools in Barking and Dagenham to increase curriculum and after school dance activity.

The Dance Network Association sit on the Primary and Secondary Dance Networks in Barking and Dagenham. Our role is to highlight dance activity from across the borough and also across the County of Essex, and also to support teachers in working together by offering advice.

There have been 5 meetings this year, 3 for secondary and 2 for Primary which we have attended.

Primary Schools:

Richard Alibon, Riverside Bridge School, William Bellamy School, William Ford, St Peter's School, Trinity School, Premier Sport, The Leys School, St Margaret's School, Valence School, Bobbie Gargrave; Freelance Dance Educator; Gemma Wright, Dance Network Association CIC; and Elaine Burgess, School Games Manager, Barking and Dagenham SSP.

Secondary Schools involved:

Robert Clack, Dagenham Park, Sydney Russell, Jo Richardson and Freelancers Sharlene Carter and Leon Hazlewood, Bobbie Gargrave; Freelance Dance Educator; Gemma Wright, Dance Network Association CIC; and Elaine Burgess, School Games Manager, Barking and Dagenham SSP.

Performance Platforms

- SpringBlast
- Attending other regional events – Dance Ignite, HOST and The Last Poppy Has Fallen.
- Fusion 1 and 2, Barking and Dagenham Platforms.

The focus of the performance platforms is to offer our young people and community groups a professional theatre to share with audiences their high quality dance pieces. The annual showcase is a variety of dance styles, from all ages where we will also invite our regional partners to join us in the sharing. We are keen for our dancers to also attend other platforms regionally to inspire and motivate them but also offer access opportunities to perform on professional stages with other likeminded dancers.

*SpringBlast Monday 21 March 2016 at The Civic Theatre Chelmsford
287 Dancers Performed to an audience of 568*

Charlotte Fieldson
Memories from Cats
Singer

Lyons Hall Primary School
Title: Colourise

Year 4's world flips from black and white to colour in this high energy piece. Developed over a six-week dance and technology exploration as part of Rob Gentle's digidance project

Professional hip hop company Bam Bam Boogies.

Title: Hip Hop Showcase

The Bam Bam Boogies are a performing dance company and established dance school based in Essex, specialising in the styles of Street Dance, Hip Hop, Popping/Boogaloo, Locking, House & Waacking.

As a Dance Company we are a talented team of dancers/instructors who are individually creative and offer a high standard of professionalism. Our experience has seen us work for some of the top major companies and events worldwide offering performance as well as choreography.

Footworks

Title: Untitled

The track was chosen by the dancers, and choreographer Jade Amy Nicholls has created their stories and journeys through the song.

DanceEast Centre of Advanced Training
Strata

This duet has been developed from a larger group piece entitled Strata which was a response to the second movement of John Adams' String Quartet. This version has been set to new music, drawing from the original choreography and focuses on the duet relationship between the two dancers. A significant amount of the movement material was generated by

the dancers through creative tasks, given to them with the intention of deepening their understanding and experience of the choreographic process and the relationship of movement to music.

Boswells – Step into Dance Programme

Innate

The piece is called 'Innate' and is all about things that are innate within us and come naturally. It is a physical exploration of these ideas with the inclusion of tension, suspense and danger.

Queenswood Youth Dance Company

White Piano

Contemporary dance piece with fast paced and intricate contact sections.

Flux Dance Collective

Haze

Haze explores the notion that our sub conscious mind is a vast and surreal world to be explored without us even having to be awake.

In 'HAZE' sleepy bodies inhabit the space caught between the real world and shifting dreamscapes where they explore and sense ever changing environments. A world that is neither real nor surreal and may or may not settle in their conscious minds.

'HAZE' has been created by choreographer, Joanna Keeble in collaboration with the dancers for Springblast. To find out more please go to www.facebook.com/fluxdancecollective or email fluxdancecollective@gmail.com.

RE: Generation

Untitled film of stills

InPulse Youth Dance Company

Drummer

The dancers create the sound and movement simultaneously.

Dance 21

Uptown Funk

High energetic dance to the song Uptown Funk.

St Michaels Dance Group 1 Year 6

Movie Mania

A mash up of classic 70s and 80s film music featuring hits from Grease, Dirty Dancing, Flash Dance and Rocky

Harlow College

With You

A contemporary/lyrical piece choreographed by Danielle Barton for the students Level 3 UAL qualification.

Saffron Walden County High School – Step into Dance Programme

Down the Rabbit Hole

This is a contemporary dance piece based on themes and characters within the story Alice in Wonderland. It is an abstract choreography which uses a mixture of taught and student led material.

St Michaels Dance Group 2 Year 6

Disco Fever

A classic track from the all time favourite disco film.

Bam Bam Boogies

Janet Jackson Medley

Janet Jackson Medley. The Bam Bam Boogies are a performing dance company and an established dance school based in Essex, UK, specialising in the styles of Street Dance, Hip Hop, Popping/Boogaloo, Locking, House & Waacking

Dance 21 and Harlow College Dance Captains

Dance Rio

Dance Rio.... is an exciting programme of outdoor arts & sports events for 2016 in the lead up to the Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Dance Rio KDA 2016... aims to be the biggest performance year yet, with up to 850 dancers taking part in three high profile sporting events.

This year's choreography has been created by Jennifer Irons with a team of Lead Artists Lucy Blazheva and Lisa Warnock and a Team of Dance Captains from Harlow College.

Music sourced and mixed by Dan Beats and Jennifer Irons. Programme Managed by Gemma Wright. Gemma has led the programme since 2013

Charlotte Fieldson

I Could Have Danced All Night from My Fair Lady

Singer

Feedback:

Hi Gemma,

Thanks so much for last night it was great!

Please can swchs have a copy of the evening on dvd.

Thanks so much and congratulations on the success.

jackie

Saffron Walden County High School is part of Saffron Academy Trust

Dear Gemma,

Thank you for inviting us to the show, it was a fantastic opportunity for the girls and they thoroughly enjoyed performing and seeing the other acts.

They have been inspired to use some ideas for their GCSE pieces so that was a positive response!

Thanks,

Becky Edwards

Gemma

Congratulations to you! It was a fantastic evening and InPulse enjoyed being part of it. I only saw the first act but I certainly think it was the strongest and most slick SpringBlast to date.

I hope you get a chance to relax over Easter and then let's set a date to catch up over lunch or dinner.

Take care and well done again.

Carrie Washington

Gemma

Just a formal thank you and well done for a very successful week! Like I said today, 1 show in a week is enough, let alone 3! The boys have all thoroughly enjoyed all of this week's opportunities, so thank you for making them all happen.

Once I have had a few days to rest I will be back in touch to share our ideas for next term, and if you would like to come and watch our community dance show on 21/22 April (7pm) let me know and I'll pop a ticket by for you, I think Rob is going to come on the Friday.

Enjoy your Easter break too.

Thank you

Paul Butler

Hello,

We all really enjoyed the show last night.

I was especially impressed with Harlow colleges pieces was technically great.

Was just wondering how I could get hold of a dvd?

Thank you

Jade Amy (Footworks)

Hi Gemma,

Congratulations for last night! We really enjoyed the performances and performing ourselves.

Thanks,

Kerry Traecy

Dear Gemma

Thank you for you and your team's efforts in organising a fab event yesterday. The Queenwood girls enjoyed the experience.

Thanks again

Becky Lee

Head of Dance

Hi Gemma. What an amazing show. Well done it all went so smoothly. The children really enjoyed it thank you!

Thank you for the certificates but we are short 3.

Hope you have a good Easter break I am sure you are looking forward to it.

Gerry Smyth

TWEETS:

Fantastic eve @ChelmsCouncil Civic. Well done to all the talented dancers the standard blew me away! Thank you again for everyone's support!

RT @DanceEastCAT: #springblast @DanceNetEssex #dancerio is lots of fun! Final date of CAT tour! <https://t.co/VVOuLnetQW>

RT @Beckslouise_: SWCHS Youth Dance is now part of the @StepintoDance programme! Looking forward to all the performance opportunities theyâ€¦

RT @Beckslouise_: Really proud of my #swchs dancers - performed beautifully

@StepintoDance Chelmsford Spring Blast sharing tonight. Lots ofâ€¦

Made the news twice in one week! Thank you @BoswellsDance for getting info in the Chelms Weekly. Well done to all! <https://t.co/FYHRRObErG>

Thank You @BEEEcreative16 getting there! Looking forward to seeing you all in a few hours :)

Excited!!! Few last minute bits and pieces and be off to the Civic Theatre for this year's #Springblast2016 <https://t.co/78FmHlpUwH>

Attending other regional events

Now The Last Poppy Has Fallen Wednesday 23 March at The Civic Theatre in Chelmsford
In total we had 29 dancers involved in the evening to an audience of approximately 200

Essex County Council's Cultural Development team would like to invite you to attend a showcase of the work completed during "Now the Last Poppy has Fallen", a project funded by Essex County Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund, to research and share the stories of people from Essex during the First World War. Part of the resulting touring exhibition will be displayed on the night.

When: Wednesday 23rd March 2016
Where: Civic Theatre, Fairfield Road, Chelmsford, CM1 1JG
Time: 7.30 – 9.30pm

The evening will include a variety of poetry from our project poet, Luke Wright and poetry competition winners from schools across the County, plus original songs from project musicians, Georgia Strand, Vo Fletcher and Ric Sanders (from Fairport Convention). We will also have dances prepared by Essex schools, inspired by the stories, songs and poems, and programmed by The Dance Network Association CIC.

To book your tickets please email: sarah.girling@essex.gov.uk by Friday 18th March.



Funded by Essex County Council's Cultural Development team, Sarah Girling invited the Dance Network to present 5 pieces of dance in the evening that took influence from the music and poems that were also being read and heard in the night.

We commissioned 5 new pieces from the following schools and colleges and dance companies: The Boswells School, DNA Studios, Flux Dance Collective and RE: Generation.

PROGRAMME

Introduction: Sarah Girling ECC Cultural Development

Music: **Back Home to Billericay** – performed by The Last Poppy Band; Georgia Strand, Vo Fletcher, Ric Sanders

Filmed poem: **No More Hatred** – performed by Greensted Junior School (Year 5) pupils; Frankie Curran, Chevy Quirey, Tom Holland, Grace Collins, Ellie Morgan and Blaine Harding (Top 10)

Poem: **Today** – performed by Kya Andreou (Year 6), Freshwaters Academy (3rd place winner)

Poem: **Remember** – performed by Bethany Grey (Year 3), Cherry Tree Primary School (Top 10)

Music and Dance: **Ben Cobey** – performed by the Last Poppy Band and a soloist from The Boswells School

Poems: **August Bank Holiday, 1914** and **VAD Hospital, Saffron Walden, 1915**, written and performed by project poet, Luke Wright

Dance: **Bella Horrida Bella** – performed by Flux Dance Collective

The poetry of Luke Wright has been used to generate movement ideas and a workshop process based around his poem, August Bank Holiday Essex 1914. Gender roles and transition from pre-war to wartime society is reflected as the dancers perform movement reminiscent of these roles and ideals. The poem itself plays an integral role in this performance as the link between Wright's language and the dancers' movement unfurls. "The regulars demob down Mersea Road, while Reverend Yonge in Borham writes in black Bella horrida bella... smite, hell, ruin." (Extract from poem by Luke Wright)

Poem: **Poppies** – performed by Elizabeth Ware (Year 4), Holt Farm Junior School (Top 10)

Poem: **We'll Meet Again** – performed by Owen Barrett (Year 7), The Sweyne Park School (2nd place winner)

Heritage Lottery Fund – Karen Brookfield

INTERVAL

Introduction: Councillor John Spence, Cabinet Member for Finance, Essex County Council

Filmed poem: **Essex during WW1** – performed by Georgia Lockerby (Year 11), Philip Morant School and College (Top 10)

Dance: **Forever Gone** – performed by DNA Performing Arts College

Based on Unknown Warriors. Frank, a Royal Marine colonel killed in action at Gallipoli. This piece shows the story of an aged woman who reminisces over past years when her partner tells her he is going into action. The woman then receives a letter as she finds out he has been killed in action.

Poem: **My Dad's Gone** – performed by Luke Wright but written by Ronnie Chambers (Year 2), St Nicholas C of E School (Top 10)

Poem: **Zeppelin Attack, Braintree, 1916** – performed by Luke Wright

Music: **The South Primrose Hill Boys** – performed by the Last Poppy Band

Poem: TBC – performed by Anna Wilson (Year 8), The Sweyne Park School (Top 10)

Poem: **Harry Patch** – performed by Luke Wright but written by Lucy Wilkinson (Year 9) The Sweyne Park School (Top 10)

Music and Dance: **Three Sons** – performed by the Last Poppy Band and a trio from The Boswells School

Poem: **Colchester WW1** – performed by Douglas Tenniswood (Year 10), Philip Morant School and College (1st place winner)

Filmed dance: **Flowers Dance** – performed by an Elders group of dancers, through RE: Generation, a sheltered housing dance project

In this simple, yet powerful dance, each dancer picks up a carnation from a central point and returns to their seat. Those less able are handed a flower by another participant. Once everyone is seated three repeated movements are performed in unison as an introduction. The flowers are lowered into cupped hands with curved arms at the participants' lap and the main sequence begins. The dance remains seated

and is an exploration of the flower, eye contact, the relationship between the dancers, the prop and the music.

Poems: **Mrs Godley's War, 1917** and **The Kings Head, Market Street, Harwich, 1917** – performed by Luke Wright

Music: **Going Home** and **Poppies in the Rain** – performed by the Last Poppy Band

Feedback

Dear Gemma,

I just wanted to say a huge thank you for all your hard work in order to make last Wednesday a great success. I'm just sorry I didn't email sooner.

You, your choreographers and young dancers have all worked to create something unique and truly inspiring, and I do hope that you understand and feel part of something excellent. The Heritage Lottery Fund in particular I know have been very impressed at the quality and variety of work that this project has produced.

I was so pleased that you managed to get such a great variety of dances together, from Boswells School, Flux Dance Collective, DNA Performing Arts College and the RE: generation group (especially Francis).

Just from a personal point of view, I wanted to say thank you for being so easy to work with. I know I approached you at the 11th hour really, but your positive attitude and 'can do' approach made it really easy for you to take the stories, music and poetry from the project and allow them to inspire... Thank you! The dances were moving and created a beautiful atmosphere, making me quite emotional at times.

It has probably felt like I just sort out the money but it was always a dream that this project would work just as well as a creative project, and not just an exhibition. Exhibitions have their place and lots of people have commented on how good it is, but for real engagement with especially younger people I feel the dances were inspiring, something different and really evocative.

I'm running out of words to express my gratitude and I don't want to sound gushy but it really has been a joy to work with you.

We'll get you a copy of the film of the night but let me know if there's anything else you need with regards to the project.

Below are some comments I've had about the evening so far.

Kind regards and very best wishes to you all,

Sarah

Gemma

I'd like to just echo what Sarah has said and look forward to working with you again soon

Tony Morrison Eastern Roots c/o The Hermit, Shenfield Road, Brentwood. CM15 8AG

Dance Ignite Wednesday 13 July 2016 at The Gordon Craig Theatre, Hertfordshire

Dance Ignite brings together 100 performers to celebrate dance for and by people of all ages in Hertfordshire; shining the light on achievements in dance and inspiring people to get involved. *Dance Ignite* is a dance performance platform where the passion of dance is kindled - igniting dance opportunities for all with a spirit of fun, friendship and respect.

We took two pieces to represent the county in the evening
In total we had 19 dancers involved in the evening to an audience of approximately 200
We took Evolve Youth Dance Company from New Rickstones who performed Dance Rio and Flux Dance Collective with a new piece called 'Let Me'

Feedback to Flux Dance Collective:

[Sarah Kerenza Priestley](#) Found you on Facebook as I was absolutely blown away by your performance last night. Myself and the Watford Arts Development Officer (Laura Horn who was there with her New Connections group) couldn't stop talking about you! (I'm the Watford Museum Curator and Arts & Heritage Manager for Watford). We'd love to come to see you again!

[Flux Dance Collective](#) Hi Sarah! Wow, thank you for such lovely feedback! So pleased you enjoyed the performance. We hope to see you at a future performance, lots coming up in the Autumn. Thank you again for your kind words and support!

[Sarah Kerenza Priestley](#) Sounds like a great reason to cross the border from Herts into Essex! Everyone did well last night, and we were proud Watford was involved in four of the performances and films. It's a great time for dance in our small town, and we were so inspired and impressed by you we came away buzzing!

HOST @ DanceEast Tuesday 5 July 2016

Please see RE: Generation on pages: 2 – 11

Barking and Dagenham Primary and Secondary Dance Platforms FUSION 1 and FUSION 2.

The Dance Network Association sit on the Primary and Secondary Dance Networks in Barking and Dagenham. Our role is to highlight dance activity from across the borough and also across the County of Essex, and also to support teachers in working together by offering advice and supporting their end of year showcase.

In total 287 dancers performed to an audience of 388

Schools involved in the Fusion platforms were:

Primary Schools:

Beam, Richard Alibon, William Ford.

Secondary Schools involved:

Robert Clack, Dagenham Park, Sydney Russell, Jo Richardson.

Freelancers and other organisations:

Sharlene Carter, Leon Hazlewood who run the Youth Dance Companies in B&D

Primary STEPS the Royal Ballet School Programme

And guest artists Koby Turner and Mollie Miah.

Fusion 1 Monday 20 June 2016

School/Group	Group name	Boys	Girls	Name of piece	Lead	Choreographer	Mins	Music
The Royal Ballet School	Primary STEPS Level 3 (Years 5&6)	5	15	Safe & Sound	Pippa Cobbing	Natalie Krapf	4.4	Circus by Bonobo
The Royal Ballet School	Primary STEPS Level 2 (Years 4)	7	11	Blown Away	Pippa Cobbing	Natalie Krapf	2.39	Setto Bello by Rene Aubry
Dagenham Park C of E School	Elevate	5	17	In the Groove	Leon Hazlewood	Leon Hazlewood	4	Fela Kutt
Dagenham Park C of E School	Jump Ahead	5	17	I stand in the firelight	Leon Hazlewood	Leon Hazlewood	4	Forgive Me Longer - Games of Thrones
Dagenham Park C of E School	Elevate	3	3	Over You	Caroline Watkins	The Students	4	Over You - Ingrid Michaelson
Dagenham Park C of E School	Jump Ahead	5	20	Enjoyment	Leon Hazlewood	Leon Hazlewood		Fela Kutt
William Ford C of E Junior School	Primary	10	15	Together as One Makes Us Stronger	Lauren Law	Lauren Law	3.5	Stronger - Clean Bandit
Beam County Primary	Beam County Primary	6	10	Romeo & Juliet	Kerry Marcuccilli / Abbie Mason	Tomo Chiba	5min 20	A mix of songs
Jo Richardson	Secondary	20		Aftermath	Rebecca Simpson	Rebecca Simpson		
Jo Richardson	Secondary			Individuality vs Conformity	Rebecca Simpson	Rebecca Simpson		
Guest Artists	Secondary			3		Troubled Teens	Mollie and Koby	Mollie and Koby

School/Group	Group name	Boys	Girls	Name of piece	Lead	Choreographer	Mins	Music
JRCS 1	Dance Rio	23		Safe & Sound	Pippa Cobbing	Natalie Krapf	4.4	Circus by Bonobo
JRCS 2				Blown Away	Pippa Cobbing	Natalie Krapf	2.39	Setto Bello by Rene Aubry
JRCS 3	Upsurge 1			In the Groove	Leon Hazlewood	Leon Hazlewood	4	Fela Kutt
JRCS 4	Upsurge 2			I stand in the firelight	Leon Hazlewood	Leon Hazlewood	4	Forgive Me Longer - Games of

								Thrones
Robert Clack	Year 10 Btec Dancers	0	18	Over You	Caroline Watkins	The Students	4	Over You - Ingrid Michaelson
Robert Clack	Year 12 Btec Dancers	0	10	Enjoyment	Leon Hazlewood	Leon Hazlewood		Fela Kutt
Dagenham Park C of E School	Will get back to you!!!	0	6	Together as One Makes Us Stronger	Lauren Law	Lauren Law	3.5	Stronger - Clean Bandit
Dagenham Park C of E School	Dagenham Park C of E School	1	13	Romeo & Juliet	Kerry Marcuccilli / Abbie Mason	Tomo Chiba	5min 20	A mix of songs
Robert Clack	Optic Dance Company		20	Aftermath	Rebecca Simpson	Rebecca Simpson		
Junction Funk		4	10	Individuality vs Conformity	Rebecca Simpson	Rebecca Simpson		
Guest Artist	Mollie Miah		2	Troubled Teens	Mollie and Koby	Mollie and Koby		
Sydney Russell School	SRS Dance	1						
Junction Funk		Above	Above					
Sydney Russell School	SRS Dance	3						
Junction Funk		Above	Above					
Guest Artist	Koby Turner	Above with SRS						

Audience and Dancers Feedback:

Amazing, Awesome, Cool, Brilliant, Excellent, Super, Ok, good		
I think that it was amazing!		
Wonderful!!!		
Great performance! thank you!		
Excellent evening		
Excellent evening better than ever		
I think it was amazing and look forward to seeing more to come. A few was a bit boring but good		

Brilliant performances, amazing choreography, Wonderful how you kept so many kids under control LOL!		
Wow! What a second programme. Again the mix of ages works well! It was fab, worked really well. Excellent job (smiley face) Thoroughly enjoyed		
Extraordinary evening of Dance. Outstanding performances for these vibrant young people. The choreography inspired age mix worked perfectly. Thank you xx		
Great fun! Loved it! 10 out of 10		
I really enjoyed the combination of all ages. I loved it (heart)		
Superb show, well organised. ???-talented young people, very proud of the talent in B&D	Ms Mark	
Really good love the fusion of the different dance styles!		
Excellent well done		
It was an awesome performance well done to you all		
Excellent all round Very well organised!		
The show was very fantastic. I wish this to continue and God give the you all coordinator the strength		
Well Done! thank you to all organisers. More time should be spared for enhancing the quality of the performance		
It was really good brilliant performance from all of them		
This is the 2nd yr. watching, the standard was good last yr. but great this yr. - really good to see the younger kids		
It was amazing once again. Great job to all those who planned and organised the performance. Keep up the outstanding work!!!		
Very good and Thank you		
GR8		
Really good should be done more often and younger on should be more in number. Thanks		
This is fantastic I really enjoy it very much Thanks for everything		
I thought the performance was really beauty and upbeat. I loved everything about it.		
It was actually amazing. Presume the children talent will keep progressing Well Done!		
It was a really good show, maybe next time it would be nice to know the children names of who is dancing in which group		
it was fantastic more practice is needed		
it was fantastic, good, excellent, brilliant. I did like but LOVE IT. Coming next year for sure	Eb	

It was great for the children We really enjoyed the dance		
It was awesome		
break up dance was great Level 2 Dagenham and Barking perfect Romeo and Juliet entertaining		
I think that was WOW. Congratulations believe the next year will be more wow		
Fabulous energetic performance Astounding energy and enthusiasm	Ian	
Thank you for a lovely evening well done all x		
Keep on going really nice to see children enjoy the fun		
It was exciting and interesting to watch all the performances		
A fantastic mix of dance styles. Great to see such a love of dance in the borough. Thanks to all those involved for a thoroughly enjoyable evening		***
Loved it! Must do it again!		***
Great dancing to everybody who helped		
It has been a great evening with great performers!!! Thanks		***
Brilliant. The dancers where great x		
Absolutely fantastic Well Done everyone		
It was Great needs to be longer performance		
Fantastic evening, amazing performance can tell all teachers and performers worked hard		
It was amazing really love it. Royal ballet was well in place and Romeo Juliet great well done I enjoyed it Hope next year will be better but well done		
Thoroughly enjoyable and very creative show. Lots of variety. The opportunity to buy some photographic stills for posterity would be nice. But excellent pro dancers		
It was perfect very good I hope they continue to do it		
I think it as fantastic. I wish it could have lasted longer and my daughter could have been in more pieces (smiley face) Well done for all your hard work.		
Amazing work very impressed probably a bit more in terms of time!!Fantastic show I will support future shows		
Excellent performances good sound beautiful lighting		
I really enjoyed the performance keep the good work up. God bless you all Amen.		
It was a lovely evening with fabulous dancers Well Done!! It's my daughters last performance but I will definitely look forward to coming back even if she no longer dances		
Really enjoyable Though Beam were fantastic Look forward to next year!		

Very good and we did enjoy everything of it Thanks		
Primary and secondary mix worked well. Quality programme great artists added something extra v good		***
Really great mix of primary and secondary dance - vibrant, energetic and varied! Wonderful Evening	Elaine	
Absolutely fantastic performance from all the children involved. I loved the idea of infant/ junior and senior performing in one show		***
What a great show. The level 2 group fantastic primary step + Romeo + Juliet		
Brilliant performance for all the dance groups involved excellent well done!!		
Phenomenal!! Very impressed Great performances and fantastic teaching Thank you so much		
Great Really Good (Smiley face)		
Fantastic!!!		
Great Show Really enjoyed the show		
A fantastic evening so much talent in LBBBD thank you (Smiley face)		
It was a nice experience nice to see primary and secondary together (smiley face)		
I really enjoyed the experience so I don't think it gets better than this (I'd like to see what you can do next year)	Mimi	
Is the first time I have perform in a professional theatre! And is just WOW. the people are nice and friendly! (Smiley face Heart)		
Well over performing here since I was in year 4. Everyone is so nice and caring for every person. They are all great dance teachers	Jessica	
The was an amazing experience which I loved, I would love to do this again.		
I like performing in a professional theatre. People are nice. I like the shows effects over the stage		
Yet another fantastic show! They just get better and better!! I really enjoyed the diversity of primary and secondary mix. I think the younger children gained a valuable opportunity to view work and aspire to that of the more experienced.		
I think that this was an amazing opportunity and so fun to participate in 10/10 would do again.		
I think the performance was really good because it shoed different styles and type of dance		
Performing here was inspiring to see work from other schools also builds confidence		
It was cool to watch other dances I would like to eliminate the fact people laugh at what we are wearing. Not everyone was treated fairly. Can you add activity packs why w is waiting to dance or having lunch	Vicky	
Today was the best day ever!		
I think the dances are really good, my favourite dance group so far are the Romeo and Juliet and the second performance of Jump ahead.	Tayo	
I think it was really fun performing with my friends thank you!	Jessica	
I loved watching the other dancers I didn't feel comfortable doing the dance because people were laughing and our dance was not as good as everybody else	Bailey	
I thought it was enjoyable and fun. My favourite performance was the Romeo & Juliet. I had fun.		
I liked that we left school early. Also because we are performing to our parents.		

I think that this was an amazing experience and my favourite part was during the dress rehearsal.		
Today was amazing Didn't think it would be this hard to set out what we were going to do. It was super tining. OMG!	Zaidah	
I enjoyed the day so far and I enjoyed the dress rehearsal I enjoyed watching people dance example Beam school.		
I liked performing because it was fun and enjoyable		
I think dance is a way to express your emotions/ feelings and more positive teachers able to come.		
It was great watching others		
I enjoyed we have watched other dances		
I think that the dance is fantastic I've enjoyed watching other performances		
I thin so far it is fun and it is going well. I love our costumes and I can't wait until we do our show to the parents.	Eva	
Fantastic (Smiley Face) Everyone did their dance perfectly		
I enjoyed watching the dances and performing with my friends. I had a great time and it was the best performance ever!!!	Emma	
Okay (Straight Face) Good (Smiley Face) Bad (Sad Face) Could be better by being less strict. And the positive is the organisation! The reason for the negative is because we are doing a dance and that stressful and we don't need more stress from you/ teachers.	Zayaan	
I think it was fun but simeous (?) It was a bit difference from normal ballet. It felt great performing.		
Ok (Straight Face) It was good but need to be less strict could be more positive calmer!	Denza	
I enjoy ballet and I enjoyed the dances as it is an oppportunity that will not be given many times	Benny	***
I think the performance was really good and the way people in two or more than two groups changed was good.		
I really enjoy staying here I would like to come here everyday	Martyna	
I like the parts when I performance	Luna	
I loved watching everyone else's dances and all their amazing choreography behind them.	Sam	
I think this show was better than the one last year, all the dances are amazing and I wish I was in all of them		
I think that the fact we got an oppportunity to perform was amazing and life changing Thank you. I think we could get all the member of staff to watch first so we can gain our confidence		***
I think having to oppportunity to come here is amazing I think that at first the performance would have been terrible but now I think it is amazing. I would like our dance (Primary Steps 2) to be longer and have more hip-hop in it...		
I loved watching other people's dances and it made me work harder but there was 1 girl with white and blue braids and she stood out.		

Keeping Dance Alive, a mass choreography programme in legacy of the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games. Dance Rio in the lead up to the Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games.

September 2015 – July 2016

Summary

In the period September 2015 to July 2016 The Dance Network Association have worked supported by Active Essex (Essex County Council) and The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham to deliver Dance Rio. The project has reached approximately 3792 dancers which we have directly worked with we would expect schools have worked with an additional 1,504 (47 school's x 32 dancers in each class) totalling to 5296 participants on the project. We have also reached an audience number of approximately 7900 in Essex and Barking and Dagenham. Essex Schools and young people had the opportunity to engage with county projects and national events including Colchester Football Ground, Essex Cricket Ground, SpringBlast our annual community and education platform, AfPE conference a national conference for teachers of PE and Dance Ignite a Hertfordshire Platform. Whilst Barking and Dagenham dancers took part in a performance at the Jim Peters Stadium as part of the boroughs Quad Kids Schools Games and Fusion 2 an annual platform ran by the Primary and Secondary dance networks at the Broadway Theatre and were invited to join us for Essex Cricket and Colchester Football ground performances in Essex.

In total we have worked with 47 schools and community groups across Essex and Barking & Dagenham and saw over 5296 children take part in the programme.

Keeping Dance Alive (2012 - 2014) 'The brand'

Keeping Dance Alive was created in 2012 initiated by Active Essex.

Since 2012 I, Gemma Wright the Artistic Director of the Dance Network Association have worked in close relations with county partners Active Essex to initially support the programme in showcases in 2013 and 2014.

To in 2014 - 2015 being commissioned to deliver the mass choreography and performance programme.

In 2015 programme 'The Haka' we welcomed our neighbouring borough 'London Borough of Barking and Dagenham' School Sports Partnership to join us as the Keeping Dance Alive brand began to grow across counties.

Keeping Dance Alive (KDA) is an exciting **mass dance** project that enabled children and young people to learn choreography, and to perform it alongside other schools at high profile local and regional events.

The inspiration for the Keeping Dance Alive Project was the opening and closing ceremonies of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Here hundreds of children, young people and adults performed together.

The choreography for 2015/2016 programme was themed around the lead up to the Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games 2016.

The Choreography was created by Jennifer Irons supported by two lead dance artists Lisa Warnock and Lucy Blazheva and initially 20 dance captains who were involved in the creation phase, from Harlow College. Jennifer Irons also sourced music and worked alongside Dan Beats to blend our final track.

It was key for us as an organisation to create a mass-movement routine that was fully accessible for all groups who wished to take part i.e. reaching different age ranges and abilities.

Creation Phase September – December 2015

Jennifer Irons spent 3 days researching and developing overall structure and ideas for our programme.

She then spent 2 days in the theatre with Katie B and another support artist to start creating set material and structures to take along for creation with our lead dance artists.

Our lead dance artists Lucy Blazheva and Lisa Warnock both Essex based freelance teachers of dance were then set tasks by Jennifer Irons in order to finalise the piece's structure.

The team had decided that we would have two creative sections in order to give groups the opportunity to put their stamp on the choreography and therefore would motivate learners as they would own some of the material rather than it all being unison type steps.

This is where our dance captains came into play. In September we auditioned 33 young dancers aged 16 – 21 in full time education from DNA Studios and Harlow College and we chose 20 of the strongest students that would work with us on the programme for the following year.

Jennifer Irons spent a two days with the dance captains creating material for the creative tasks and the finale section and asking them to set the final choreography.

In November and December our resource pack was created by Jennifer Irons, 13 of our dance captains danced in the tutorial DVD version and Rachel Cherry filmed the work for us. we hoped at least 25 schools would sign up to take part in the programme.

For future amendments in the creation phase:

- DVD to be shot from behind the dancers so that the teacher sees the steps as the present person rather than a reflection.
- Chapters on the DVD so sections can be easily found.
- DVD to be made available on line – using Vimeo or YouTube – password protected
- Film the whole dance and add this to the end of the DVD
- Make sure the draft DVD is checked by whole team to spot spelling mistakes in titles and any mistakes in the dance as the bow on the DVD this time around was slightly out of time with the music.
- Ensure the Dance Captains have a good understanding of job role and talk about this explicitly in the audition so it's completely clear about expectations throughout the

programme and how many dates. Suggestion: to use more than one team of Captains one for creation, one for workshops and one for performances and mass rehearsals to put less pressure on the individual.

- Ensure that infant and nursery and SEND groups are offered the opportunity to workshop the set material before DVD is finalised to ensure it really is okay for all abilities, or create more than one version of the choreography and make this clear on the DVD.

Essex Launch: December 2015

In December we launched Dance Rio in Essex where approx. 800 of schools were contacted to join the programme, we needed to ensure that at least 20 schools signed up to the programme to make it financially viable. Essex schools paid in £250.00 each to take part. The following schools joined us for Dance Rio 21 (schools and community groups)

Number	School / Group name	Type
1	Alec Hunter	Secondary
2	Bromstone Primary School	Primary
3	Chase High School	Secondary
4	Colchester Academy	Secondary
5	Coppersale	Primary
5	Dance 21	Community SEND
6	Epping Forest District Council – Arts Team	Community
7	Epping St Johns	Secondary
8	Harlow College	College
9	Ivy Chimney's	Primary
10	JADA Theatre School	Community
11	Lyons Hall Primary School	Primary
12	New Rickstone's Academy/Supernovz and Evolve	Secondary
13	Newlands Spring Primary School Academy Trust	Primary
14	Ravens Academy	Primary
15	St Andrews Great Yeldham School	Primary
16	St Michael's C of E Primary School	Primary
17	The Colne Community School	Secondary
18	White Court Primary School	Primary
19	Woodham Walter Primary School	Primary
20	Woodlands School	Secondary
21	Youth Create	Community SEND

The following 11 schools enquired to take part but said they could not afford the costs of the programme – due to travel and t-shirts on top of £250.00 fee up front and therefore would not join us for the programme this year.

Ingatestone and Fryerning C of E (VA) Junior School, Hereward Primary, Eversley Primary School, Davenant, Moreton Primary, Whitmore Primary School, Ghyllgrove Junior School, Clacton Coastal Academy, Seevic College, Epping Upland Primary and Corringham Primary School.

18 Schools took part from Essex in 2014/15 so we increased our number of schools engaged in Dance Rio by **3 which is approx. 96 additional children.**

Barking and Dagenham Launch: December 2015

In December we launched Dance Rio in Barking and Dagenham where 24 teachers came together to find out about the programme from 16 schools. We also had 3 dance artists from the Borough attend:

1. Ana Kelly, Manor Junior;
2. Tanya Pearce, Becontree
3. Danielle Rayner; St Margaret'
4. Denis O'Malley, Valence
5. Claire Tibbles, Marsh Green
6. Emma Martinez, Parsloes
7. James Gray, John Perry
8. Emily Jeffs and Vicky Hewitt Eastbury Primary
9. Gemma Treacy and Charlene Clarke Henry Green
10. Estelle Wing, St Joseph's Barking
11. Bert Hoyte, Beam;
12. Wesley Charles, George Carey School
13. Tahmina Faruq, Gascoigne
14. Christine Smith, Warren Junior
15. Lauren Hills and Liane Porter Trinity;
16. Mabs Hilali, Manor Longbridge
17. Dance Artists: Sharlene Carter; Solataire Connolly; Ashaya Titus;
18. Programmers - Elaine; Bobbie

B&D's programme is fully funded by the School Sports Partnership and therefore schools do not need to buy into the programme. The following schools then signed up to join us for the project:

Number	School	Type of school
1	Becontree	Primary
2	Beam	Primary
3	Eastbury	Primary
4	Gascoigne	Primary
5	George Carey Primary School	Primary
6	Highlands	Primary Redbridge
7	Leys	Primary
8	Jo Richardson	Primary
9	John Perry	Primary
10	Marsh Green	Primary
11	Manor Junior	Primary
12	Pasloes	Primary
13	Richard Albion	Primary
14	St Joseph's Barking	Primary
15	St Joseph's Dagenham	Primary
16	St Peters Catholic School	Primary
17	St Margaret's C of E	Primary

18	Sydney Russell	Secondary
19	Warren	Primary
20	Trinity	Special School
21	William Ford	Primary

The following 4 schools initially joined us but pulled out after the teacher training day due to teacher injuries and teacher absences.

Henry Green Primary, St Vincent Primary, Dagenham Park Secondary and Rush Green Primary.

14 Schools took part in 2014/15 so we increased our number of schools engaged in Dance Rio by **7 which is approx. 224 additional children.**

Essex Teacher Training Day: Friday 22 January 2016

Our Essex teacher training day took place at Harlow College

Time: 10.00am arrival starting at 10.30am – 15.30pm

26 teachers attended (21 school teachers and 5 dance artists)

From the following schools and community groups:

School/ Group	Name
Epping Forest District Council	Vanessa Gayton
Epping Forest District Council	Marie Francis
PRIMARY Lyons Hall	Geraldine Smyth
PRIMARY Lyons Hall	Rachel Few
PRIMARY St Michael's C of E Primary School Group 1	Bobby Gargrave
PRIMARY St Michael's C of E Primary School Group 1	Ruth Mattin
PRIMARY St Michael's C of E Primary School Group 2	Gemma Hardy
PRIMARY St Michael's C of E Primary School Group 2	Kristie Peacham
Woodlands School	Anna Kean
Woodham Walter Primary School	Joanna Keeble
Woodham Walter Primary School	Sue Dodd (head teacher)
Woodham Walter Primary School	Julie Lee Ranson (deputy head)
PRIMARY St Andrews Great Yeldham School	Nicole Smith
White Court Primary School	Rianna Baker (Nee Wallis)
White Court Primary School	Emma Stimpson
Bromstone Primary School	Tara Wood
Bromstone Primary School	Tara Field
Chase High School	Natasha Heighway
Ravens Academy	Charlie Minter
Ravens Academy	Ricky Spiggs
Newlands Primary School	Michaela Caldecott

JADA Theatre School	Ali Graves
SECONDARY New Rickstone's Academy	Lisa Warnock
Supernovz and Evolve	
Ivy Chimneys	Sam Roberts
Epping St Johns	
Coppersale	
The Colne Community School	Sophie Gregory
Youth Create	Kelly Evans

During the training dates all schools received the following support material and funding to deliver the programme:

- DVD tutorial and CD of music
- Full written resource pack
- Access to a google drive to access repeat copies of all the paperwork and resources

This was our first time we had offered a teacher training day in Essex here are a few quite from what our teacher thought: (full details please see monitoring and evaluation) this is the feedback from the teachers:

Thank you for arranging and setting up another excellent project

Thank you, the dance looks fab, can wait to see it in action x

Really lovely teaching and easily learnt

It is very clear how much time and hard work you have dedicated to this project.

Congratulations and thank you. Really looking forward to all of it.

A really enjoyable and well-structured day. Thank you

Thank you! We are excited to teach the kids and take part

For future amendments:

- Teachers sat at the side of the room – must take part or at least dance seated so the choreography goes into their memories, unfair on other participants to feel like they are being watched/filmed.
- Space at Harlow College was lovely large space but very stuffy, and took a long time to go back and forth on breaks to the University for refreshments. Consider this differently next year.

Barking and Dagenham Teacher Training Day: Friday 5 February 2016

Our B&D teacher training day took place at Dagenham Park School

Time: 9.30am arrival starting at 10am – 15.30pm

Total of 36 teachers attended (34 school and 2 dance artists)

From the following schools

Number	School	Type of school
1	Becontree	Primary
2	Beam	Primary
3	Eastbury	Primary
4	Gascoigne	Primary
5	George Carey Primary School	Primary
6	Highlands	Primary Redbridge
7	Leys	Primary
8	Jo Richardson	Primary
9	John Perry	Primary
10	Marsh Green	Primary
11	Manor Junior	Primary
12	Pasloes	Primary
13	Richard Albion	Primary
14	St Joseph's Barking	Primary
15	St Joseph's Dagenham	Primary
16	St Peters Catholic School	Primary
17	St Margaret's C of E	Primary
18	Sydney Russell	Secondary
19	Warren	Primary
20	Trinity	Special School
21	William Ford	Primary

During the training dates all schools received the following support material and funding to deliver the programme:

- DVD tutorial and CD of music
- Full written resource pack
- Access to a google drive to access repeat copies of all the paperwork and resources

Here is some of the feedback from the teacher training date (full details please see monitoring and evaluation).

*Very well structured rehearsal, clear delivery of choreography and positive atmosphere
Yes, as a workshop that I am then going to teach. My experience was very enjoyable and stress less*

*Lucy is fantastic, really clean and clear and a very good teacher
Very well organised can see the time and effort that has been spent creating the piece -
thank you*

For future amendments:

- Teachers sat at the side of the room – must take part or at least dance seated so the choreography goes into their memories, unfair on other participants to feel like they are being watched/filmed.

Barking and Dagenham Teacher Training Twilight Refresher: Tuesday 22 March 2016

Our B&D refresher twilight took place at Dagenham Park School

Time: 15.45 arrival starting at 16.00pm – 17.30pm

Total of 9 teachers/deliverers attended.

Lucy Blazheva taught session.

From the following schools Maria, Stefan and Bobbie from Richard Alibon, Chris from Warren, Emma and Liam from Pasloes Primary and Lauren from William Ford. Elaine and I also took part in the evening.

For future amendments:

- Teachers didn't take this date as serious as the rest of the programme more people were down to attend that showed up. So this date either needs to be compulsory or have a financial commitment for not showing up on the day if signed up to attend.

Essex Workshops: January – April 2016

Essex schools had to make an additional payment to have 3 x 2 hour workshops in their schools.

Classes were be-spoke to the schools that paid into them and communication between the teacher and lead artists supported how these sessions were to be delivered.

Workshops took place in the following schools:

White Court Primary School (Lucy Blazheva and Vanessa Gayton)

Colchester Academy (Lisa Warnock)

Dance 21 (Lisa Warnock)

New Rickstones Academy (Lisa Warnock)

Seeing approx. 230 dancers across 24 hours.

Barking and Dagenham Workshops: February – June 2016

B&D were offered 3 x 1 hour workshops in their schools.

Classes were be-spoke to the schools that paid into them and communication between the teacher and lead artists supported how these sessions were to be delivered.

18 of our schools opted for additional workshops out of the 21 schools involved these took place in the following school seeing approx. 1220 dancers

School	Number of Children	Dates of workshops	Time	Deliverer	Dance Captain?
Becontree	24	22 April	15.15 – 16.15	Lucy Blazheva	
Beam	24	15 April	1 hour	Lucy Blazheva	
	24	29 April	12.30 - 13.30		Izzy and Serena
Eastbury	29	22 March	1 hour	Lucy Blazheva	
	29	25 April	13.30 - 14.30		
Gascoigne	28	04 May	10.00 – 11.00	Lucy Blazheva	
	28	06 May	10.00 – 11.00		Izzy and Serena
	28	12 May	10.00 – 11.00		Alex and Heather
	28	26 May	1 hour		
George Carey Primary School	23	18 March	1 hour	Lucy Blazheva	
	25	15 April	1 hour		
	24	13 May	12.30 – 13.30		Maisie and Allannah
Leys Primary	16	18 March	1 hour	Lucy Blazheva	
	16	15 April	2 hours		
	15	22 April	10.00 – 12.00		
	16	6 June	1 hour		
John Perry	30	25 April	15.15 – 16.15	Lucy Blazheva	
	30	16 May	15.15 – 16.15		
	30	23 May	15.15 – 16.15		
Marsh Green	30	21 March	1 hour	Lucy Blazheva	
	30	25 April	10.00 – 11.00		
Manor Junior	30	26 April	1 hour	Serena Trower	Alex and Heather
	30	04 May	13.15 – 14.15	Lucy Blazheva	
	30	10 May	13.15 – 14.00	Alex Fentiman	
Pasloes	23	21 March	1 hour	Lucy Blazheva	
	19	24 March	1 hour		

	30	25 April	11.15 - 12.15		
Richard Albion	20	22 April	14.00 – 15.00	Lucy Blazheva	
	20	06 May	14.00 – 15.00		Izzy and Serena
	20	13 May	14.00 – 15.00		Maisie and Allannah
St Joseph's Barking	28	22 March	1 hour	Lucy Blazheva	
	28	24 March	1 hour		
	27	21 April	9.30 – 10.30		Lauren and Jade
	28	05 May	13.30 – 14.30		Grace and Georgia
St Joseph's Dagenham	28	06 May	1 hour	Lucy Blazheva	
	28	13 May	15.15 – 16.15		Maisie and Allannah
	28	16 May	1 hour		
St Peters Catholic School	22	14 April	1 hour	Lucy Blazheva	Lauren and Jade
	26	21 April	12.30 – 14.30		
St Margaret's C of E	30	6 June	1 hour		
Sydney Russell	16	28 April	2 hours	Lucy Blazheva	
	16	29 April	10.00 - 11.00		Izzy and Serena
	16	7 June	1 hour		
Warren	30	05 May	15.00 – 16.00	Lucy Blazheva	
	30	16 May	1 hour		Grace and Georgia
	30	23 May	1 hour		
Trinity	15	24 March	1 hour	Lucy Blazheva	
	15	28 April	1 hour		
	15	12 May	11.30 – 12.30		Alex and Heather
	15	26 May	1 hour		
TOTALS	1220 children		53 hours 45 minutes		

For future amendments:

- Bookings for workshops to be done directly through the lead artists as changes in workshops and communication with schools became quite complicated.
- Schools to be contacted by phone and written confirmation in the post to confirm workshops in writing and if they cancel without notice there will be a financial penalty.

- Forms came back very late from our B&D schools – so a prize offered for first forms back in.

Mass Rehearsals

Before our mass rehearsal took place we had a team day on Monday 11 April 2016 which involved both lead artists Lucy and Lisa, Jennifer Irons lead the session and our 17 Harlow College Dance Captains.

Jen here spoke about entrance and exits at the performances and that we needed to go through this as a priority at the mass rehearsals, and also offered support and advice on how to handle any queries when we came to the performances and what to expect.

During the Mass rehearsal dates schools received their T-shirts

If an Essex School these were charged at £7.00 per student

For Barking and Dagenham Schools the t-shirt costs were included in their funding to pay for 32 t-shirts per school.

Colchester Football Ground

Took place at The Weston Homes Community Stadium, United Way, Colchester, Essex.
CO4 5UP

Date: Friday 18 April 2016

Time: 10.00am arrival starting at 10.30am – 14.00pm

275 Dancers and 31 teachers attended

From the following schools and community groups:

School/ Group	Number of Staff	Number of Children
St Michael's C of E Primary	4	27
Woodlands School	2	11
Woodham Walter Primary School	6	40
St Andrews Great Yeldham School	2	23
Chase High School	2	11
Ravens Academy	5	24
JADA Theatre School	2	5
New Rickstone's Academy	2	15
Colchester Academy	1	10
Coppersale/Epping St Johns/Ivy Chimneys	1	0
Harlow College		15
St Peter's Catholic School	1	24
The Colne Community School	2	31
Youth Create	2	19

Summary of the day:

Great day unfortunately we were unable to get access to the pitch due to rain but the dancers could go through to the stands to see where they were performing.

We rehearsed on a raised path just outside the stadium which worked well, however this could be moved into the carpark or to the AstroTurf area of the football ground for safety if we cannot gain access to the pitch.

Great as our first mass rehearsal in Essex, very pleased with the whole day overall.





For future amendments:

- Day too long could just do 2 hours or so.
- Day to start later due to traffic across Colchester.
- Make sure dance captains are reminded of their role.
- Make sure lead artist do not feel like spare parts, make sure they are leading the team. Work all this out pre rehearsals.
- KDA Colchester Feedback:

Feedback following the performance:

Emails:

Today was such a fantastic day. I hope the students are aware as to just how brilliant they looked and the crowd seemed to receive them very well.

Wishing you a really good rest of your weekend and look forward to catching up soon.

Lucy Blazheva

Many thanks for your excellent work again on Saturday.

Gemma, please pass on my thanks to your staff and especially to your young Dance Captains. They were outstanding and made for a very professional look to the organisation and the performance. This was the biggest and best performance of Keeping Dance Alive to date.

This bodes really well for our performance at the national AfPE Conference. Recognition at this level is an outstanding achievement and a reflection of the innovative and high quality

approach alongside the excellent outcomes. Still have the 300 evaluations from Saturday to process!

Kind regards
Brian

Dear Gemma

Hope you are well - wanted to say a HUGE thanks for Saturday - what a brilliant day and how amazing was everything and everybody! WELL DONE

Please pass on our thanks to Jen and the team - we would be grateful if you could let us have an address for GRACE as we have a card to send to her from the children.

Bobbie

Hi Gemma,

The performance was fantastic!! So much fun. Thank you.

Joanna Keeble – Woodham Walter Primary School

Texts:

Lucy Blazheva: Fantastic!! It was brilliant. I'm loving this project, having so much fun working with such a fantastic team and such wonderful children.

Thank you for today, we had a great time and your team were fantastic xx

Nic Smith – St Andrews, Great Yeldham

Amazing company, amazing idea, amazing you. Thanks for everything you have done to make this work and for accommodating me with the tickets. My kids have loved being part of this and will be pros at the Jim Peters event. Can't wait for the next one

Anastacia (St Peters B&D)

That was the best one yet. Hope they are ready for next year!

Matt Hudson Colchester Football Ground

Thanks Gemma! We had a great day! N well done you!!!! X

Joey Parsad – JADA Theatre School

Congratulations Gem. Really. Really. Well Done xo

Jen Irons Choreographer

Thanks Gem we all had lots of fun. Thank you for all your hard work. Xxx

Sam Roberts – 4 schools

Thank you so much for the opportunity, it has been a great experience

Sophie Gregory The Colne

Essex Cricket Ground

Took place at Essex County Cricket Club, The Essex County Ground, New Writtle Street, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0PG 10.00 – 12.00 and Central Park 12.00 – 13.30

Date: Wednesday 4 May 2016

Time: 10.00am arrival starting at 10.30am – 14.00pm

250 Dancers and 21 teachers attended

From the following schools and community groups:

School/ Group	Number of Staff	Number of Children
Colchester Academy	1	10
Chase High School and Woodlands	2	24
Coppersale/ Epping St Johns and Ivy Chimneys	1	25
Harlow College		13
JADA Theatre School	2	8
Lyons Hall Primary School	2	19
Marsh Green Primary School	3	29
New Rickstone's Academy/Supernovz and Evolve	2	17
Newlands Spring Primary School Academy Trust	1	30
White Court Primary School	2	19
Woodham Walter Primary School	3	40
Youth Create	2	16
St Andrews Great Yeldham School	5	23

Summary of the day:

We had access to the grounds for a couple of hours and due to a later game starting at lunch we then walked over to central park.

Rehearsal went very well.

For future amendments:

- Day too long could just do 2 hours or so.
- Day to start later due to traffic across Chelmsford.
- Do not go over to the park finish in the afternoon have agreement with Cricket to stay on the grounds and then leave after that.
- Very hot make sure have spare water on hot days and sun cream/hats.
- Better music system, very hard to hear. Speak to cricket see if we can play off their system



Jim Peters Stadium

Took place at Barking Sports house and Gym, Mayesbrook Park Lodge Avenue RM8 2JR

10.00 – 12.00 and Jim Peters Stadium 13.00 – 14.30

Date: Thursday 19 May 2016

Time: 10.00am arrival starting at 10.30am – 14.00pm

495 Dancers and 46 teachers attended

From the following schools:

School/ Group	Number of Staff	Number of Children
Beam County Primary	3	24
Becontree	1	25
Eastbury Primary School	2	18
Gascoigne Primary School	2	30
George Carey Primary School	2	24
Highlands	3	28
Jo Richardson Community School	2	26
John Perry	2	33
Leys Primary School	1	23
Manor Junior School	1	30
Marsh Green Primary School	3	27
Pasloes Primary School	2	32
Richard Alibon Primary School	2	28
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Barking	2	24
St Margaret's C of E School	2	20
St Peter's Catholic School	2	24
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Dagenham.	3	20
Sydney Russell School	3	12
Warren Junior School	2	28
William Ford C of E Junior School	2	29
Dance Captains Harlow College		15

Summary of the day:

For future amendments:

- Louder sound system, could we use the same PA as we do for the performance?
- Better entrance and don't leave to work out at the end of the day as missed out our promenade around the athletics track.
- Teach entrance and exits at the teacher training day so dancers get used to what they should be doing when it comes to performance.



Performances

SpringBlast Monday 21 March 2016

The SpringBlast is an annual performance platform specifically for schools, colleges and community dance groups across the county. The platform provides an opportunity for local people to showcase their work to a wider audience in a professional environment.

Took place at Civic Theatre Fairfield Rd, Chelmsford CM1 1JG

Time: 19.30 – 21.30

From the following schools:

As our debut performance we invited Dance 21 (as they were unable to commit to the sporting performance dates) accompanied by Harlow College dance captains.

17 'Harlow College' and 23 'Dance 21' Dancers = 40 dancers total

Audience: 281

Starting at 1 hour 13 minutes <https://vimeo.com/167962691>



Colchester Football Ground 23 April 2016 3.50pm

Took place at The Weston Homes Community Stadium, United Way, Colchester, Essex.
CO4 5UP

Date: Saturday 23 April 2016

Time: 13.00 arrival performing at 15.50pm

272 Dancers and 32 teachers attended

Approximate audience 4500

Full Video: <https://vimeo.com/179153520>

From the following schools and community groups:

School/ Group	Number of Staff	Number of Children
St Michael's C of E Primary	4	26
Woodlands School	2	12
Woodham Walter Primary School	6	40
St Andrews Great Yeldham School	2	22
Chase High School	2	11
Ravens Academy	5	25
JADA Theatre School	2	8
New Rickstone's Academy	2	15
Colchester Academy	1	10
Coppersale/Epping St Johns/Ivy Chimneys	1	16
Harlow College		15
St Peter's Catholic School	1	23
The Colne Community School	2	30
Youth Create	2	19

For future amendments:

- Ensure that the stewards have been informed and briefed about our dancers so that they know to expect us.
- Enter the football ground an hour earlier at 13.00pm (not 14.00) as not enough time.



Essex Cricket Ground 12 May 2016 8.00pm

Took place at Essex County Cricket Club, The Essex County Ground, New Writtle Street, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0PG

Date: Thursday 12 May 2016

Time: 17.00 arrival performing at 20.10pm

273 Dancers and 26 teachers attended

Approximate audience 2000

Full Video: <https://vimeo.com/179153519>

From the following schools and community groups:

School/ Group	Number of Staff	Number of Children
Colchester Academy	1	10
Chase High School and Woodlands	2	24
Coppersale/ Epping St Johns and Ivy Chimneys	1	25
Harlow College		13
JADA Theatre School	2	8
Lyons Hall Primary School	2	19
Marsh Green Primary School	3	29
New Rickstone's Academy/Supernovz and Evolve	2	17
Newlands Spring Primary School Academy Trust	1	30
White Court Primary School	2	19
Woodham Walter Primary School	3	40
Youth Create	2	16
St Andrews Great Yeldham School	5	23



For future amendments:

- Do not walk over to central park for pre rehearsal, takes up too much time and children do not get chance to have a break or food. Suggest schools to arrive at 6.00pm in future and be seated straight away before fans arrive.
- Walkie talkies or mobiles, as dance captains were not in place and front commission was not danced as the music had begun. Children responded well stayed calm in place and started on the full Rio track.

Jim Peters Stadium 16 June 2016 9.30am

Took place at Jim Peters Stadium

Date: Thursday 16 June 2016

Time: 8.00am arrival performing 9.30am

497 Dancers and 46 teachers attended

Approximate audience 1000

Full Video: <https://vimeo.com/179208268>

From the following schools:

School/ Group	Number of Staff	Number of Children
Beam County Primary	3	24
Becontree	1	25
Eastbury Primary School	2	18
Gascoigne Primary School	2	30
George Carey Primary School	2	24
Highlands	3	28
Jo Richardson Community School	2	26
John Perry	2	33
Leys Primary School	1	23
Manor Junior School	1	30
Marsh Green Primary School	3	29
Pasloes Primary School	2	32
Richard Alibon Primary School	2	28
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Barking	2	24
St Margaret's C of E School	2	20
St Peter's Catholic School	2	24
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Dagenham.	3	20
Sydney Russell School	3	12
Warren Junior School	2	28
William Ford C of E Junior School	2	29
Dance Captains Harlow College		15

For future amendments:

- Suggest to have the mass rehearsal like Essex event a week before the performance date as schools had forgotten what was expected on the day.
- Schools arriving late, just go ahead without them in future they will catch up as then made everything else late and the children did their dress run in front of an audience and missed out their parade around the track entrance.
- Team to stay to schedule no matter what, in team brief ensure everyone knows roles to keep to time.



AfPE Conference 06 July 2016

We were lucky enough to be invited to perform at the AfPE conference this year as our Dance Rio programme showed great 'British Values' for schools.

Full Video: <https://web.schoolvid.com/m/i/54H#/6641>

16 dancers from St Michaels School in Braintree and 8 dance captains from Harlow College

"Very proud of our student's performance, the children were very professional and responded to the audience's applause. Both age groups blended so well in a non-competitive environment. Very privileged."

Andrew Cumpstey Acting Head Teacher

"What a brilliant time we had and fantastic opportunity for the children.

Harlow College great role models and St Michaels aspire to be like them – lively!"

Ruth Mattin

"Really good" Anna Maria dancer from St Michaels

"Got to dance in front of people and a famous person" Poppy dancer from St Michaels

Dance Captains Feedback

"Children were fabulous to work with" Lauren

"Energy really good" Georgia

"Really interesting whole event" Mat

"Tour of the facilities of St Georges Park – great facilities to perform in" Alex

"Got on with the children really well" Izzy

"Really nice support and people saying how fantastic it was, someone said how they would have liked to see it as a school event" Grace



Dance Ignite in Hertfordshire 13 July 2016

Dance Ignite is an annual performance platform specifically for schools, colleges and community dance groups across the county of Hertfordshire and we were invited to join them to share Dance Rio.

For future amendments overall for the performances:

- Give out face paints on mass rehearsal dates so children come ready dressed and painted to the performances.
- Remove the need for rehearsal before the performance if the mass rehearsal is the week before as it was too long a day and not enough time to get settled at the grounds for the actual performances.
- Walkie talkies for the performances to help and support communication.
- Ensure schedules are kept to no matter what there is enough team to run and sign in school groups if they are late.
- B&D mass rehearsal needs to happen closer to performance date.

LEGACY OF THE PROJECT

- Offering opportunities for the dancers that took part to join the youth dance companies in both Essex and Barking and Dagenham, and also the Step into Dance provision which is free for the dancers to attend.
- Next year's project Bard to Bollywood for the year of culture. Lucy Blazheva and Lisa Warnock will take role of producers of the programme and Co-Choreograph with a team of artists from Essex and B&D.
- Resources to package to support future provision and provision of Keeping Dance Alive.
- Establish a new team of Dance Captains from Essex and Barking and Dagenham.

MONITORING /EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK

Barking and Dagenham partner's comments:

As a borough we were not involved in the Creation Phase, auditions and DC creation of Dance Rio – and that is absolutely fine as we didn't need to be. May be for next year though we could look at having some local dance captains if a school was interested.

Teaching delivery days and workshop: the teacher training day was wonderful with 42 teachers attending. Resources very good. A follow up refresher did not attract many teachers but for those who attended it was invaluable. It would be good to confirm the date of the refresher session at the initial teaching day. Quality Assurance Workshop was very good. Venue excellent as were Jen, Lucy and the Harlow Dance captains. Because of the location of the one electric socket!! when we rehearsed in the Jim, Peter's Stadium, the batteries had run out on the sound system. May need to bring a backup next year.

Wow – Jim Peter's Stadium with 500 + dancers was amazing! There was a bit of a delay performing due to our Quad Kids athletes arriving late plus an issue with getting all the dancers 'glittered'. As agreed, for next year we will give the glitter to the schools with the t-shirts at the Mass Rehearsal. Schools to pay for t-shirts and makeup next year.

General Administration – very good – much improved on last year. Very important to e-mail plus text lead teachers in schools, as getting responses on deadline is so difficult in a fair number of our schools for some reason. We have also agreed that, in future, schools will be informed from the outset, that failing to give a full 24 hours' notice to the dance tutor of a cancellation of the session will be charged to the school.

Elaine Burgess

Teachers Schools and Community Groups in Essex Feedback:

We asked all the teachers to complete a lengthy evaluation form following the performances to gain as much information as possible about the programme.

Is this the first time you have taken part in 'Keeping Dance Alive'? If no can you tell us a few details about how this may have differed for you compared to previous years?

- Yes
- Yes
- It was our 3rd time taking part. They have got better and better which is understandable as the experiences make you realise how and what works. Organisation fantastic.
- No – this year we only took part in SpringBlast Show at the Civic
- Yes
- Yes
- This was the first time we had taken part in KDA – we loved it!

1. Please tell us your thoughts on the structure of Dance Rio, i.e. Teacher Training, Workshops, Mass Rehearsals and performance. Did this work? What could we have done better?
 - I think there was often a lot of time waiting around and doing rehearsals that didn't help the actual performances, a lot of moving from one place to another which could have been cut back. Getting to events very early to only be needed for a short amount of time.
 - My involvement was in the Teacher Training and Workshops. I thought the Teacher Training day in January was really well put together and definitely essential so all teachers were working from the same page. It gave a good understanding of the concept behind the choreography and what was to be expected of the performers and at the same time allowing that freedom of expression within each group.
 - There was a feeling of support throughout the day which was particularly beneficial to those school teachers who aren't so confident in delivering choreography. In addition, providing workshops to support these teachers in their schools was a very good idea.
 - I delivered one workshop at White Court School as the Lead Artists were unavailable. I was really impressed with the two Dance Captains from Harlow College who assisted me and thoroughly enjoyed working with the two teachers and children.
 - All of this was well structured for schools. However, as someone who deals with after school clubs as a freelancer it was difficult for me to include my dancers in the rehearsals. With 3 different schools involved arrangements were too awkward for me to contend with as well getting permission from each school to take them out etc. It worked though as I attended the rehearsals myself (which I don't get paid for as I am a freelancer!) so could let the dancers know most of the details.
 - We did none of these apart from Civic which went very smoothly.
 - The teacher training day was well-structured. We got to practise the dance lots to be able to go away and teach it to our individual groups. Working with other teachers also helped with ideas for the creative sections.
 - The children benefitted from dancing on the grounds, and with the other schools, during the mass rehearsal. The morning worked well. We could have maybe had just half a day for the rehearsal as there was a lot of waiting around between practises.
 - The performance ran smoothly and getting the children into an order before running on really helped. The children really enjoyed the experience and it was great that the parents were able to watch for free.
 - I enjoyed the structure of the rehearsals and performance. I guess more detailed plans of coming onto the pitch and positions could be good.
 - This structure was very clear and built up well to the final performance. Having all the dates in advance was hugely helpful and contributed to our school absence committee agreeing for us to take part (as they could plan cover in advance)

2. Please tell us your constructive thoughts or comments on our deliverers of Dance Rio Jennifer Irons (Choreographer), Lucy Blazheva (Lead Artist B&D), Lisa Warnock (Lead Artist Essex) and our Dance Captains.
 - We found the lady with the mega phone and short hair really welcoming and kind to the students and us as staff but felt ignored by the others, I don't recall having anything to do with the others past the workshop to learn the routine.
 - Jennifer Irons is really inspirational. The way she has created the journey is such an interesting concept for the children to take on board and work with. Although I haven't had much chance to work with Lucy and Lisa, I know they are experts in their field and extremely approachable. Giving students the chance to take on responsibilities as Dance Captains is a real positive for their development as dance artists so the project is providing more than just performance opportunities for young people.
 - Don't know Lucy but everyone else very professional and organized and calm and motivating. Dance Captains were varied but that's students for you! Some were not very good at supporting their group and keeping them organised especially on rehearsal days. Our Melissa was fab though, lovely and friendly.
 - Lisa was very good and managed to go through and adapt 1st half of the dance with us. She was very approachable and built up a good rapport with our dancers. She was gentle but disciplined.
 - All were very enthusiastic and helpful. Our Dance Captain was friendly and gave clear instructions for the children to follow.
 - Lisa was fantastic – had high standards but was always supportive. Lauren (dance captain) was friendly, helpful and efficient.
 - The delivery of the choreography at the training session (and on the DVD) was very clear. It was difficult to hear Jennifer at the mass rehearsals so there might need to be a review on the sound system used to project her voice at the next event. We use an Ion Block rocker and you can buy a microphone that connects to it.

3. Please tell us your thoughts on the organisation of Dance Rio by the Dance Network Association. Is there anything we could have done better?
 - Planning out time so that the students are active all the time and not waiting around for long periods of time or being moved from one place to another.
 - Everything that I experienced was very well covered.
 - No, all good. Sorry not really constructive!!
 - From our point of view, we needed more time to rehearse the dance. Our dancers with Down Syndrome take longer to learn routines and have found it very difficult this year to get past the first section to any degree of expertise.
 - We feel that this particular dance was not suitable for our group. As the attendance at our rehearsals, classes thereafter Lisa's tuition and indeed the SpringBlast Show were not 100% we felt that we could not do justice to your dance routine. Also the blue and yellow scheme was continuously changing for our dancers due to varied attendance as mentioned above. This created some confusion overall for us.
 - No
 - Not really
 - It was really well organised and having access to the Google Drive was really useful to access backup copies of key documents.

4. Please tell us your thoughts on the resources you have been given. What would you like to see more of/less of?
- I thought these were really helpful
 - The pack is very informative, good to refer to at a glance and the DVD is clear and concise in the way it is presented. Jennifer's experience in mass choreography comes over in the way the teaching element is delivered. I don't think the moves and counts etc. could be any clearer. It was also handy to have the tutorial link in addition to the DVD.
 - Great resources, brilliantly broken down, clear and concise
 - Resources were excellent but again we actually needed them much more in advance to do our group justice and indeed the excellent choreography at your end.
 - The DVD was really helpful. So were the blue and yellow grids
 - Not sure what resources?
 - When filming the tutorial would it be possible to add a version filmed from the back so we can see the piece as the dancers would, other than that the DVD, booklet and resources were fantastic.
5. Please tell us your thoughts on the venues you have been too/ performed at?
- Football was a little stressful worrying about kids in that environment queuing with public trying to get through but the cricket was lovely
 - Venues seem to know what is expected which has been great knowing they are totally on board. Shame about one Colchester stewards who was a bit out of order in the way she spoke with some of us!
 - The Civic Theatre is a great venue but very cramped backstage which does not suit our special needs group. If there was an accident/emergency situation we are not sure how they would cope. Perhaps the Cramphorn Theatre could be opened up too?
 - The Cricket Ground had a great atmosphere and everyone that worked there were welcoming. Facilities were easily accessible.
 - Nice Venues, although would have been good to rehearse on the Col U pitch before the performance
 - Colchester United the venue was great and felt very professional. My only disappointment was the members of CFC Staff were wandering on the pitch with grounds keeping fork whilst the performance was taking place and partially obstructed parents view of the piece.

OVERALL EXPERIENCE for questions 7 – 9

6. Please tell us what you feel the strengths of the project were?
- Getting opportunities to perform at venues that are unusual for students.
 - I haven't experienced all elements of the project as I am not part of the main Dance Rio events so I haven't seen first-hand the mass rehearsals or performances. Gemma Wright has kept me in the loop which is great and the video clip of one of the events looks fantastic.
 - I sense a great feeling of unity amongst the groups. It is a great experience for all performers involved.
 - Organisation and team work.

- Very good choreography for mainstream dancers. A great opportunity to bring together so many dancers of different ages and abilities.
- Great choreography and a clear vision. I liked how each school also had the opportunity to include an individual section. Great venues too!
- Great organisation, very positive and encouraging.
- Structure was very clear
- The Choreography was fun and appropriate for all ages and abilities
- It was great to work with schools and students of other ages
- The resources provided were excellent and made delivering the work in my school easy
- The music was fantastic
- The T-shirts and chequerboard format looked amazing in the final performance
- It was an opportunity for us to engage with our local community in Colchester in a way that we wouldn't have been able to access on our own.
- The football fans seemed supportive of the performance and treated the performers with respect.

7. Please tell us what you feel the weaknesses were and why?

- A lot of waiting around and moving about to rehearse. The students at times felt picked on by staff organising events as they noticed others not things and they were never told off but they were which made the experience negative at time for them.
- I can't think of any.
- Can't think of any right now.....
- The music veered on the un-inspirational side we felt. It was very slow going at the start and resembled country dancing with too much repetition. The next section was probably too contemporary for our group. The last section would have been more suitable due to the freestyle but we never really got there.
- Not really some students were confused by the t-shirt sizes
- Purely the sound quality at the mass rehearsals, perhaps the stadium could provide an external power source so that more powerful sound system can be used?

8. Did you have any difficulties in delivering this project? If so, please give details?

- Not so far. I am carrying on the legacy of Dance Rio in the Epping Forest District with Sam Roberts as my lead artist. Engaging schools in the first instance has been the only issue but it is more to do with their capacity to take it on due to other commitments than us delivering.
- Only as mentioned before, being totally committed from a freelance perspective.
- Yes, many. The first section had too complicated placings for our dancers as per reasons mentioned earlier.
- Second part was too technical – the mountain and the star worked well for us. The there was more repetition with a minor difference.
- There was a lot of waiting around between practises and this meant that the children started to get bored. They were keen to run through the routine more and generally dance more during the rehearsal day.
- None
- No. A few students withdrew due to illness of injury but as the format of the choreography was so well structured we were easily able to manage absences.

9. Have you created a specific dance club/group to engage with Dance Rio? Can you explain further?

- The groups involved in Dance Rio for the Loughton Community Day at Jessel Green on Sunday 17th July are Staples Road Primary School, Loughton (Year 4's); Hereward Primary School, Loughton (Year's 5 & 6) and Flash Dancers After School Dance Club from Ivy Chimneys School in Epping.
- Staples Road have made it easier for us by allowing rehearsals in the school day in place of PE lessons. All 3 classes participate and we have approx. 30 performing on the day. For Hereward we have had to set up an after school dance club and have approx. 10 performing on the day. Flash Dancers have had the experience of performing at the sporting events in Essex so are used to performing it already. There will be approx. 13 performing on the day.
- No just combined a couple of clubs.
- We created a club specifically for Dance Rio during a Wednesday lunchtime at school. This meant that all had the opportunity to take part if they wanted to as after school commitments didn't need to be missed.
- Yes, this was pushed out to students as a way of getting regular dance to the students
- Yes, I invited all of the year 9 students at our school that have been studying for their Level 1 Dance Leadership award and those who replied attended club once a week to learn and rehearse material.

10. IF YES to answer 10. Will you continue the dance club after this project has finished? If no, please can you explain?

- Hereward already have dance clubs 4 afternoons a week and Flash Dancers are a long standing after school club at Ivy Chimneys School. I will explore the Dance Club opportunity with Staples Road as they have been very responsive to the project and I have Active Assemblies being delivered there at the moment and have also delivered a CPD dance workshop for all of the teachers.
- No. Now it is the summer term, the children have athletics and football sessions that they can attend at lunchtime. They would also not see the purpose in practising for a dance that they have already performed. We are planning to start an after school dance club in September though.
- Yes, will continue next year with you.
- No the group have no returned to their normal studies but will have the opportunity to take part in year 9 Dance Club when our extracurricular activities start in September 2016. The group will have access to 3 hours per week of dance in curriculum time.

11. Is this your first experience of taking part in a mass dance programme, can you tell us a little about your personal experience of the project?

- It was our first time. At times we felt a little unwelcome and the kids at one point asked if they could go home as they felt they were being picked on. I know there was a lot kids and of course they need to be kept in line but when they saw others getting away with things and they were the ones being told off time and time again it was not fun for them. It was hard for me as the teacher to keep them motivated to want to carry on at times. I'm glad I did as they did enjoy performing.
- I helped create Make a Move in celebration of the 2012 London Olympics in partnership with ECC Cultural Olympiad and Walk the Plank with their Sparks Will Fly Project so it isn't the first time. As I am not part of the Essex Sporting Events programme, I don't have first-hand experience of it from start to finish but judging

from what I have seen and the parts I have experienced I think it is a very well devised, inspirational and fully engaging project that is making a big impact with schools. I like the fact it is reinvented every year under a different theme.

- Yes. I thought it was a great experience for the children and it really inspired them. I really enjoyed teaching the children the routine and it was great to see the end performance, knowing how much time we'd given up to learn it. It was definitely worth it!
- Very good – supportive from all staff
- Yes, it was great to work with other teachers who share our passion for dance. We would love to take part again.

12. Did you learn anything from this specific project as a dance/school teacher?

- I learned that the children can be extremely creative when it came to choreographing moves about their area and what they enjoy doing. It is interesting to see how some of the dancers are able to pick up the choreography as set and how some of it has to be simplified according to ability. I learned that it is important for the dancers to take ownership of the piece in order to maintain their interest and to always make it fun!
- New choreography ideas.
- More public performances for our students as a huge motivator
- Learning to set the choreography gave me the chance to try a new style of performance work as it was quite different to my personal style.

13. Did this project have any impact on any other learning at your school (whole school development) or community group? Please specify...

- Contact Paula Francis (pfrancis@staplesroad.essex.sch.uk) for feedback
- The project has raised the profile of Rio and the Olympics for the school.
- Not directly but I can see many of our students have gained confidence from the experience and I know they were grateful of the opportunity to perform in such a unique environment.

14. If you are in an education setting - Did you deliver any of the work during curriculum time?

- Staples Road Primary School – Wednesday 9.15 – 12 Noon during all Year 4 PE Lessons
- Broadened our extra-curricular provision and performing arts culture. They will perform in our Summer Showcase.

15. Would you like to take part in next year's programme 'Bard to Bollywood'?

- I would like to have some involvement in 'Bard to Bollywood' depending on our programme at Epping Forest District Museum. Vanessa Gayton
- Not sure to be honest. It all depends on how soon we would be able to get all the materials and start rehearsing. Our dance group probably needs 5 times the amount of time a mainstream dance school needs.
- Yes, Please! Michaela Caldecott
- Yes, Will Searle
- YES! Sophie Gregory

16. Would you be interested in taking part in the Dance Teachers Network events in the county to promote and support the development of dance in schools and community settings (optional CPD x 6 times per year and one annual conference per year)?

- Vanessa Gayton
- Sam Roberts
- Yes, Will Searle
- Yes, Sophie Gregory

APPENDIX

Additional Feedback throughout the programme

Essex Teacher Training Day Feedback

Q1. Do you feel confident to go back to school and deliver Dance Rio? Can you explain your thoughts?	
1	Yes, because "doing" it "watching" it and then discussing allows us to proceed
2	Not entirely, I will need to do some practice before teaching and will have the DVD set up as I teach. It is getting the timing accurate as well
3	Yes, really well explained
4	Yes - I have a clear plan of how to tackle it
5	Yes
6	Yes
7	I feel confident to teach one colour and think I can use the DVD to learn the other part
8	Yes
9	Yes, lots of support given with the resources given help teach the children.
10	Yes, with the DVD, 2 teachers 1 x yellow and 1 x blue
11	Yes, once I put it into perspective of 1 hour/week for 10 weeks EASY!
12	With all the resource packs yes
13	Yes, great work thanks you
14	Yes, it was very clearly taught and the backup resources are excellent
15	Yes, it was very well explained and taught
16	I need to have it set in my mind first with a lot of practise, can do, but I have wonderful support
17	It was a lot to take in but feel confident if I break it down all will be good.

Q2. Have you taken part in the Keeping Dance Alive Programme in the past? Does the teacher training day add value to your overall experience?	
1	Much more value, lots of materials to use in a variety of different ways
2	Yes, and Yes
3	x
4	No - I have really enjoyed today
5	Yes, last three
6	No
7	No I haven't taken part before
8	No

9	Yes - this is our third year. 1st time on a teacher training day and have enjoyed it
10	Yes! Good to have a clear understanding of the dance
11	N/A
12	This is the first time. I think the training day is invaluable :)
13	No
14	No, Yes very helpful day
15	No, Very helpful day. Lovely meeting everyone
16	Personally I haven't, but the schools have. Training day imperative!!
17	Yes

Q3. Does the group that you are working with or will be working with for Dance Rio have a good understanding and knowledge of dance? Please explain.	
1	Yes, dance in school, dance projects planned and sharing's
2	Yes, they are an afternoon club and most have been with me for a few years and have done KDA projects before
3	
4	Yes - they have 3 hours a week of dance in the curriculum time and we are studying towards L1 in dance leadership
5	Very new to dance but have a lot of rehearsal time before hand
6	N/A
7	Only through dance in the school curriculum. Some don't dance outside of school
8	
9	Mixed Ability
10	Mixed ability - fun after school club
11	A mixture, some come to the after school club to socialise and some are dancers
12	We are not sure who we are working with yet in the EF District
13	Yes, they all dance at least once a week - most 2 - 3
14	Very professional and high level of knowledge and ability
15	Yes, my group are from the elite player's development programme
16	Yes, well embedded in our school
17	I have only been delivering dance to this group for 1 year so they have limited knowledge

Q4. Does the group that you are working with or will be working with for Dance Rio have a good understanding and knowledge of dance? Please explain.	
1	No
2	No but it was good fun and nice to be a student for a change
3	Yes, it's been fantastic and the time gave into it is very clear and respected
4	No - I trained in dance at University and as a teacher
5	N/A
6	N/A

7	I liked the pace of the day and shooting ideas for the creative section
8	
9	Enjoyed the day, had fun learning the dance and good to speak to other teachers
10	Very well organised :)
11	I have felt very welcomed and am now very excited about teaching what I've learnt and for the performances
12	No
13	Yes, it was wonderful
14	No been on plenty. The studio was too hot but very enjoyable
15	No have been on many. Experience today was good. Studio was a little small and very hot.
16	Great to get (share) ideas. Bit daunting but good? To know everyone feels the same
17	

Any other comments?	
1	Thank you for arranging and setting up another excellent project
2	Thank you, the dance looks fab, can wait to see it in action x
3	Really lovely teaching and easily learnt
4	Thank you for inviting our school to take part!
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	Thank you! We are excited to teach the kids and take part
11	
12	A really enjoyable and well-structured day. Thank you
13	It is very clear how much time and hard work you have dedicated to this project. Congratulations and thank you. Really looking forward to all of it.
14	Thanks for a lovely day sorry we had to leave early
15	Thank you for a wonderful day
16	Thank you all!!!
17	

Barking and Dagenham Teacher Training Day Feedback

Q1. Do you feel confident to go back to school and deliver Dance Rio? Can you explain your thoughts?	
1	Yes, will have to use the DVD to help Recap
2	Yes, good to have 2 teachers for yellow and blue would struggle with only 1 teacher
3	Fairly
4	Yes, with the use of the resources
5	Yes, will rely on DVD heavily
6	To an extent. I am glad that I have brought someone with me to help teach the other part
7	Yes, to a degree. I have not really learnt the moves myself however with practice this would be different
8	Yes
9	Yes
10	Some areas are clear others can be backed up by watching the tutorial
11	A little nervous but hopeful
12	I feel confident
13	I do feel confident to make a start mostly confident about who to ask for help
14	Yes, DVD to back up the moves learnt
15	Yes, understand the choreography and what is expected from us and our dancers.
16	Yes, having worked through it, showed the creative ideas and all the support materials
17	Section 1, 3, 4, 5 will use the DVD to refresh section
18	Yes, resources very good.
19	No, but I felt like that about the Haka and that was fine in the end due to DVD refresher session and help of the dance artist
20	Yes, we feel very informed and cannot wait to teach
21	Yes, but will need to adapt moves to suit students

Q2. Have you taken part in the Keeping Dance Alive Programme in the past? Does the teacher training day add value to your overall experience?	
1	Yes
2	No
3	Yes
4	Not personally but my school has
5	No
6	No

7	No
8	Yes, the Haka
9	Yes, last year
10	Yes, the Haka
11	No
12	No
13	No
14	Yes
15	No
16	No
17	Yes
18	Yes
19	Yes
20	Yes
21	Yes

Q3. Who do you expect to be delivering Dance Rio too in your school: I.e. after school club created just for Dance Rio, School curriculum time to year 6 etc. Please give as much detail as possible	
1	School Curriculum Year 5
2	Lunch/Afternoon Year 4 - 6
3	All year groups 3 - 6 during PE Lessons
4	After school girls company years 7-9
5	Myself the PE Coordinator
6	Club, created just for dance riot - probably during lunch or curriculum time due to staffing
7	Lunch time staff
8	Morning club delivered by myself (PE Coordinator) and maybe during curriculum time on Friday afternoons
9	After school club
10	After school club to year 6 for children taking part in the performance
11	Curriculum time to year 5
12	School curriculum year 5
13	After school club on Weds. Some parts of the curriculum time year 4 and 5
14	Year 5/6 after school dance club
15	Year 4 class of 30
16	Year 4 class (one class) Class teacher and TA attended training today
17	Dance club delivered to dance club year 4-6

18	Delivering to curriculum year 5 - 6 and club year 5 and 6 performance
19	After school club year 6
20	Not confirmed yet before/after school
21	After school club

Q4. Does the group you are working with or will be working with for Dance Rio have a good understanding and knowledge of dance? Please explain?	
1	Yes
2	Yes, currently run a dance club already
3	Basic
4	Yes, many are G&T dance students
5	I'll be targeting children who are not in extracurricular clubs
6	The children have some knowledge of dance
7	We have not chosen the children yet
8	Yes
9	Yes, they are quite capable Year 5&6
10	little or no dance experience. Just show interest in learning and taking part
11	Not sure
12	Yes
13	Some children will be taken from the dance club and some it might be new
14	Yes, been in club for 2 years some already did Haka
15	Mixed range of understanding due to dance clubs (afterschool) and dance/gymnastics every Friday
16	Many have attended after school club. Have 3 half terms of dance each school year
17	yes, as many of the children took part in the haka
18	Some varied ability group
19	Reasonable, they have experienced traditional dance. A dance inspired by history, and the previous mass participation dance (haka)
20	Average, annual school productions and clubs usually teach dance
21	Limited knowledge, but experience of performing in front of an audience

Q5. Is this your first experience of a dance workshop, can you tell us a little about your experience of today?	
1	No
2	Yes, great fun
3	No
4	Very well structured rehearsal, clear delivery of choreography and positive atmosphere :)
5	I have done a dance workshop called Jekajo well taught, covering main structures
6	Yes, very enjoyable and exciting to take back to deliver to the children

7	Yes
8	It was good fun and enjoyable. Need more opportunities like this
9	No everything was well delivered and clear
10	
11	Yes, made to feel comfortable
12	First experience, lots of fun
13	No I have attended others. Brilliant dance teaching
14	No
15	Yes, as a workshop that I am then going to teach. My experience was very enjoyable and stress less
16	Have attended a long time ago. Today's was great teaching the routine needed.
17	
18	No
19	No
20	No
21	No

Any other Comments	
1	Thank you :)
2	Thank you
3	Thank you for informative and enjoyable day
4	Lucy is fantastic, really clean and clear and a very good teacher
5	Very well organised can see the time and effort that has been spent creating the piece - thank you

Dancers Feedback in Essex

Dancers Feedback in Barking and Dagenham –

This has been written out as the children wrote so spelling mistakes are included.

I like when we dance and I keep dance ALIVE to improve and concentrating every day.		
I think that the dance is really good because you are teaching people too express themselves	Fisayo	
I think the dance show is a good way to get children fit and strong, it also helps us be social		

I think it's good but I think you could improve like the music but apart from that its Awesome!!	Kayanne	
I think that it's fun and very enjoyable. I also that its hard but really fun	Annabel	
I don't want dance to go I want to garey [carry] on		
I like everything		
I love this I want it to go FOREVER		
I really love the dance because it is really exciting and fun. The music makes me want to get up and DANCE		
I liked how everyone wore the same colours and that everyone was in sync. I also liked how all the schools worked a whole team		
I think is awesome [awesome] because I like the dancing and the music and its makes me feel happy	Handi	
I think it is very good but I think it could be slower because some people like me find it kind of hard		
I think it is very good and wonderful because some children not like dance		
I really enjoyed dancing and thought it was really fun for all the kids		
It was really good. I loved it		
I really enjoyed dancing and I though it was a fantastic experience. Thank you for having me.		
I enjoyed dancing it was great fun WOW love it		
I think the whole dance was awesome. We all were co-operating with each other and had a fun time!	Zainab	
I enjoyed learning and performing the dance because it told a story		
It was extremely fun when we put the whole dance together with all the different schools, amazing idea.		
I really enjoyed the dance and it was fun.		
I thought it was very fun and exciting to do. I would like to do it again sometime		
I thought it was awesome and a fun exercise		
I thought it was good		
It was really fun learning and performing it.		
I think the it was very energetic and fun and I enjoyed learning and performing the dance.		

Loved it but I wish I could do hair and makeup other than that extremely creative	Gracela	
I think the dance was amazing		
I thought it was really creative and nice especially since I go dancing	Megan	
I loved performing Thank you		
I think that the whole thing (especially the dance moves) was great. I loved all the scenery and the actual seeing in the fresh air. The dance was the best.		
I enjoyed the experience (experience)		
I thought the dance was amazing. I never knew I would dance		
I love it. The moves were amazing. there are no problems		
I loved the dance I had so much fun Thanks		
I thought it was a lot of fun, and I really enjoyed it.	Hannah	
I think it was great but I wish we were way more colourful on our faces and headbands		
I thought the dance was really fun and I will not forget it. {heart} Rio		
It was amazing, I would definitely do it again	Indre	
really great and loved it!		
It was amazing I would definitely come back again	Aliyah	
It was amazing I would definitely do it again if I have another chance	Julia	
I really enjoyed it and it was really fun to dance for an audience	Molly	
This was amazing. I really enjoyed it.	Manahil	
I thought it was astonishing I loved it and I wish that we could do it again.	Ellie	
This was amazing and I'm sad its over	Leyla	
It was a lot of fun. It was so cool how everyone was performing together. I'm sad its over I want to do it again		
I think it was awesome! A great dance and fantastic for exercise! Really enjoyed doing this! Thank you.	Kelly	
I thought it was phenomenal! I was so inspired by atmosphere.		
I loved the dance it was AMAZEBALLS! It was a wonderful experience I will never forget it although it was so fun it felt like it was 5 seconds long. Thank you		

I thought that it was AMAZING! It was really fun and by the time I knew, it was over!		
Easy Peasy lemon Squeeze		
I loved it so much. It was 100% fantastic!!!!!!!		
It was very lovely. And everybody was into it.		
I thought the today was brilliant because we go to experience a fantastic day.		
It was fun, energetic and enjoyable. We would definitely do it again.		
I think it was fun	Kyla	
I enjoyed myself whilst dancing	Anita	
It was a lot of fun and a great day. It was exciting and it was really fun.		
The day was okay and fun but it went really quickly though, then I thought it would.		
I thought it was really short but it was fun		
Was very fun and exciting		
I think that the dance is energetic and lively. I just love it.	Alyssa	
I think Dance Rio helps people be more active	Charlie	****
I thin kits been hard work but fun learning the dance	Tayo	
It's been a great experience learning and performing with everyone. I really love the routine that has been put together.	Victory	
I love this dance because it's a great way for people to exercise will [while] having fun	Nadine	
Patience		
I loved today! Everyone was amazing and the audience was MEGA supportive!	Hollie and Audre	
I think you're an amazing dance teacher and that this dance is an amazing experience and I hope I do this again in secondary school	Lauryn	
I think that the dance was very interesting but the greats was too long and it caused me hay fever		
I think I learned a lot from the dance and it was fun. I think I can now do it in my sleep		***
I thought the the Rio Dance was an enhautingly good experience		
I felt like I was an expert but I want it to be longer		

I think it was fun		
I think it was fun		
I think the dance was fun energetic and I would like to do it again		
The dance was very energetic and I loved it although the screaming was very distracting		
Its goof and I like my places		
I think it is an energetic dance; the other schools screaming was distracting		
I think that it's a brilliant dance and I liked all of it		
I think that the dance was amazing and I would do it again		
It was fun. And I will like to come in		
I think it was fun and a great way to exercise. I would love to do this again	Eunice	
I think it was a very fun and exciting experience		
I enjoyed being part of the dance it was really fun. I would like to do it again.		
It was really great		
I enjoyed the dance because I liked doing it and had fun x		
I think that I enjoyed the dace was fun because there was a lot of space		
I like this dance for all the creativity a went into the chorography	Samual	
I think this was an amazing experience. I wish it was longer!!!	Tasha	
I think inspires many children to dance		***
I think it was a great opportunity and it gives a lot of exercise	Gabby	
I think this is a great experience I have enjoyed doing Rio		
This was an amazing experience but I wish it lasted longer!! I hope you could do Dagenham park	Sophie	
I think this is a great experience for other dancers	Mel	
I Think that dance shows how it was in a modon [modern] day and then how it is now. It was fun learning the dance	Victoria	
I thank that the dance is about different personalities like fancy/ posh and funky fun	Keziah	
It was awesome but Eastbury were mean!!!	Tariq	Follow-up***

This was amaynase [amazing] expariece [experience]		
I think that the dance is very good and energetic. I just love it		
I think that the Rio dance is amazing and it was taught by our amazing PE teacher Mr Gray	Favour	
I think the dance was a bit hard, but it was easy	Rozalla	
I like the dance and the exercise that we did		
I believe that it was great fun!		
It was very energetic and it was a good time!	Amani	
I really like the dance and its really fun		
I think it was a great dance, really fun/ there wasn't anything you could complain about it was organised well 10/10	Ibrahim	
I think the Rio Dance was good		
I think that the dance was great and I had so much fun. I'm very glad I could take part in this dance	Rihanna	
The dace was really fun and I enjoyed, I had lots of fun whilst performing		
I thought that the dance was very goof and enjoyable also it was lots of fun	Mya	
I think this is amaianse and I love it		
I had such a great time. It was a great experience I will never forget and I am very sad that its over		***
My Daughter said "I really enjoyed it and I wish I could do it for the rest of my life"! We really enjoyed watching it too and liked the fact that she was doing something active and fun, and working as a team. Please do it again next year!		***
I think that Rio Dance Club is fun and hard at the same time because when dancing I get confused so then I look at people next me	Zoe	
I think the performance was great although audience found hard to find their kids in the dance		
I think Rio was fun and I really liked dancing but Rio made me like dancing		***
I think the Rio dance was amazing and I would love to do it again! This was a great experience! Loved it.		
I think the Rio dance was awesome! It really inspired me (heart, heart)		***
I think it is an amazing dance		
I enjoyed it because I could dance freely and have some fun		***
I thought that the dance was amazing and I'd want to do it again.		
I thought that the dance was really attached to Rio. Thank you for letting us be in the front!	Moyo	
What I think about Rio dance is that it brings people together so they can have so much fun!		***
I think it was okay because it rained a bit but we had fun.		
I think it was awesome because we dance with other schools		

The dance was really good and the tops were really nice. I would do something like this again!	Ellie-Jo	
I think that Rio dance was amazing because all the kids enjoyed it and it was fun!		
I thought Rio dance was amazing! I loved all the experiences!	Crystal	
I think The Rio dance was amazing and I really liked everyone joining in with the dance. xx It really inspired me xx		
I thought it was great. I had so much fun and I want to do it again!		
I think that the Rio dance was an amazing experience. It really inspired me to dance to my fullest (heart)		
I thought that it was a great experience and I really enjoyed it. To be in the dance was amazing and I was wondering how cool it would look from a birds-eye view. thank you for organising this event.		
I think this was the best thing I've done so far. It was very energetic! very fun! I had so much fun. At the start I was worried that I wouldn't be able to do it and then it came out to be perfect. Thank you for letting us being in it!	Safan	
I loved it we had so much fun and we also had lots of exercise It was nice when we saw the athletics group	Aisha	
I really enjoyed doing the dance I wish I could do again and I think my parents and teachers enjoyed it	Aliza	
I think it was very god and fun and I liked my team captain.	Naima	
I think it was great and I think the audience do too	Tara	
The Rio dance was really fun because its different type of dance that I did. the Rio dance was a moment to remember and I will love to do it again	Saniya	***
I think it was enjoyable because we got to get together as a group and dance to represent Manor! Thanks!	Sophia	
I think I enjoyed it very much because I knew what the next step was. I think the audience where enjoyed because lots of people where laughing and smiling	Aryman	
I liked going to the mass dance because I got to work with everyone. At first it was hard but near the end I started to get it, but otherwise today was fun.	Tatenda	***
I think it was a good work out and it was really fun	Scarlett	***
I think today was a really enjoyable, fun and dancy-day. At first we were all confused but when we did the actual thing we were AMAZING!	Nimah	
I think that it was really fun today. I also think the people that were watching enjoyed it too.	Ruby	
I really enjoyed the dance. I think the audience enjoyed it as well. The practice around (?) didn't go so good because some of us got confused. But that's what practices are for. The performance went really good. I've had a lot of fun	Sama	
I enjoyed dancing in front of the audience and learning the moves	Sumrah	
I had a good time ad I got lots of exsimize (exercise) I think the crowd liked it because they were smiling	Suraya	
I think the dance was a moment to remember. I would definitely come back and do it again next time.	Zainah	
I think it was really enjoyable and fun because I got to meet everyone and dance. I really liked it	Zahra	
I thought it was amazing and fun experience. It got us loads of energy. though I found it difficult at some point but luckily I got the hang of it!	Humnd	
I think it was really fun and we should come often. it is great exercise and at the same time really fun. I'm looking forward to come again	Zara	
The dance was great I really liked it!		
I enjoyed the dance because I was really active and had fun. I think the audience enjoyed it too because they were all cheering and clapping	Diya	
I think it was fun I should visit often I enjoyed it!!!	Alisha	

I though today was awesome! I had so much fun with my friends. Thanks a lot for making my day and giving me a chance to shine	Nusrat	***
I enjoyed it because it was active. I think the audience enjoyed it as well and I found it fun	Anna	
I really enjoyed it at first I didn't like it at first but now I do	Heba	
I think it was fun. I enjoyed it I want to do it again	Tasmin	
I thought it was good exsursuse [exercise] and it was also fun at the same time it was really fun	Hannah	
I think it was awesome because to perform in front of people	Iba	

Commitment to nurture a workforce and facilitate placements for college students and graduates

We have worked with 51 students in 2015/16 which equates to around 3166 professional hours on 'work placement' to support their progression in the dance industry. Young professionals have worked through three different routes of interest:

1. Teaching and Creation
2. Events
3. Administration/Business

Teaching and Creation:

Students have required a DBS Check to deliver this work.

Youth Dance Provision/School delivery and elders programme.

We have two areas that can cover this a student can either go out with our lead dance artists and support youth dance provision or in school delivery dependent on what we have running at the time the work placement is offered. Much of activity is offered to schools during out of curriculum time and therefore the student will be required to observe, watch and deliver between the hours of 3 – 9pm to cover these spaces.

Activity is also spread across the county so students will need to be able to easily travel and would be more beneficial to a student that can drive.

One of our main work placements was with Emma Meek who supported our elders programme, please see RE: Generation for more details of Emma's post. Our other was the team of Dance Captains we worked with from Harlow College and DNA Studios on our *Keeping Dance Alive Programme*.

Students who have commit to Keeping Dance Alive have been on a long term work placement between September 2016 – July 2017 offering them the role of 'Dance Captain'. Each student has been required for approximately 96 hours but this has offered them a wide range of activity for their CV's and generally to work with a renowned choreographer and the county organisation for dance.

- Students have spent approx. two days (8 hours) to create a piece of mass choreography with choreographer (Sep – Dec)
- They have then been required for approx. 2 days (8 hours) filming the tutorial DVD (Oct -Dec)
- Students in January attending a training day with the team on 'how to deliver the mass rehearsals and performances and in school workshops'.
- In school delivery – various locations and workshops with the lead artist one dance captain per school (example this year there are 24 schools asking for workshops 24 x 3 hour workshops = 72 hours of delivery split between the captains)
- Mass rehearsals: Dance Captains in April – May were required to support and lead school groups during mass rehearsals (x 3 days).

- Performances: Dance Captains were required to support and lead school groups during the real performances (at major sporting venues and events) x 3 days in April – July that may require evening and weekend work.

Events

Throughout the year the Dance Network Association offers a range of performance platforms and events within the theatre.

For this we have provided work placements as front of house support, stage managers, sound and lighting engineers and so on, those that have an interest in production.

Our main event this year was SpringBlast where we had 17 students from Harlow College supporting as front of house team members.

Administration/Business

We also offer support by observing the work of the Artistic Director, could involve helping to design projects, attending and minute important meetings, working with budgets, face to face with clients, telephone calls, general database work, updating websites and social media etc.

Students could also offer support for the above projects in terms of marketing, taking photography's, filming and editing events and so on.

This is not an exhaustive list and can be discussed with the student on placement to fit their interests. We have not supported any work placements this year in this area.

Developing career pathways in Essex

We have been working with University Centre Colchester and One Dance UK's Fern Potter (director of development) to write the first dance degree for Essex.

Gemma Wright from the Dance Network Association has been in conversation with Andrew Allen from the University Centre Colchester for around 2 years regarding validating a degree for the county. Gemma identified that the one thing we have missing in the county from her time working here was a degree programme and a clear progression path for students from A Level or BTEC dance. Therefore, was keen to explore the validation of a new dance degree for the county.

The degree is currently written and awaiting approval from University Centre Colchester, we will go through panel validation in October 2016 for a start date of September 2017.

BA Hons the Business of Dance.

This course is designed to ensure exit routes for young dancers wishing to enter the dance industry, whether as a performer, teacher, a freelance dance artist, or setting up and running your own business. This course offers a practical and theoretical study of the dance sector and is one of the only one in the UK offering this breadth of study.

We find that many young people leave their degrees never finding a place in their specific market and are ill-equipped to apply what has been learned and studied over their three years of higher learning. This degree will ensure that as a young professional you are set up for life. Want to perform? Great! But what do you do when you return from touring? Our course has the answers and will show you how to teach, produce and deliver in the business of dance.

This will be Essex's first degree for dance. Our course is distinguished by how the degree not only focuses on the practical study and application of the art form, but also by how it prepares students with business skills so they may enter the industry and forge successful careers at any level.

Teachers in our county who deliver dance at colleges/GCSE/A Level and BTEC find that students are finding it harder and harder to find a career in dance once finishing school/college and University and agree that we should be preparing young people in the professional dance industry. A recent Dance Network Association survey conducted in 2016 researched whether teachers felt this type of degree was important to initiate. 100% said YES.

"I would love to see a degree course that supports and truly prepares young people for the profession. Classes in technique contemporary, ballet through to musical theatre etc. along with dance history, health, yoga/Pilates and an Alexander/Improvisatory class. Along with professional studies in teaching practice and methodologies, career pathways/sign-posting (including further educational studies required for that path). Choreographic projects enabling student choreographies and visiting artists, opening learning for scenography".

Teacher response - Research undertaken in 2016.

Bespoke programmes

The Dance Network Association are able to deliver bespoke programmes of work within schools.

This year we have delivered one project with Grafton Primary School in Barking and Dagenham which visited the whole school = 900 children and approx. 32 teaching staff.

We delivered workshops for their 'International Week' in African drumming and using our Dance Rio programme to deliver creative dance sessions based on African dance styles.

Date: Friday 1 July 2016 between 09.00 – 15.00

Venue: Grafton Primary School, Grafton Road, Dagenham, Essex, RM8 3EX

Time	Outside Space 1 (or wet weather plan two classrooms): African Music arranged by Essex Music Services x 2 artists	Outside Space 2 (or wet weather plan two classrooms): African Music arranged by Essex Music Services x 2 artists	Hall Space 1: Dance Rio – Batucada Lucy Blazheva and assistant	Hall Space 2: Dance Rio – Batucada Lisa Warnock and assistant
8.30 – 9.00	Arrive and Set up	Arrive and Set up	Arrive and Set up	
9.00 – 9.30	Set Up	Set Up	Nursery Group 1 (40 Children)	
9.30 – 10.30	Year 2 (60 Children)	Year 2 (60 Children)	Year 1 (60 children)	Year 1 (60 children)
10.30 – 11.30	Year 3 (60 children)	Year 3 (60 children)	Year 4 (60 children)	Year 4 (60 children)
11.30 – 12.30	Lunch ALL			
12.30 – 13.30	None	None	Reception 60 children	Reception 60 Children
13.30 – 14.30	Year 5 (60 children)	Year 5 (60 children)	Year 6 (60 children)	Year 6 (60 children)
14.30 – 15.00	Get out	Get out	Nursery Group 2 (40 Children)	

We have suggested to the school that they enter the children for the Discover Arts Awards, we are waiting to hear if they require support to do this.