

The development of museum education in England

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Museums, Libraries and Archives Council



National Agency and 9 Regional Agencies
Major modernisation and transformation programmes
Delivery infrastructure:

- 4,000 libraries
- 2,000 museums
- 1,500 archives

Strategic aims of the MLA Partnership

1. To increase and sustain participation
2. To put museums, libraries and archives at the heart of national, regional and local life
3. To establish a world class and sustainable sector
4. To lead strategy and policy development

Renaissance in the Regions



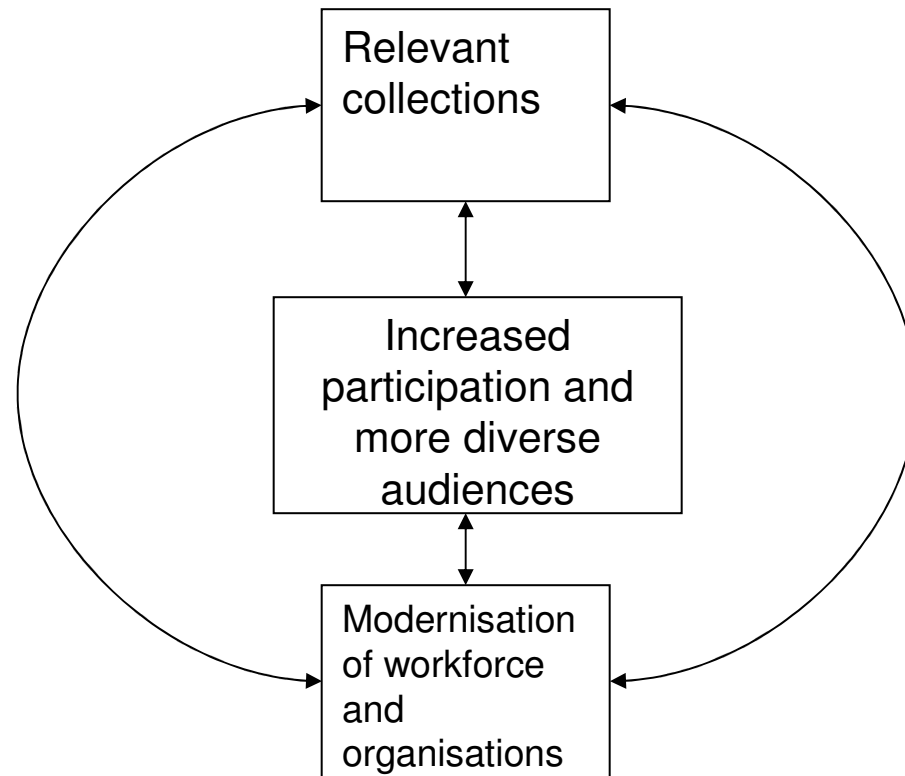
- Transforming and modernising England's Regional Museums
- Arresting decades of decline and under investment
- Enabling museums to respond to needs of communities
- Framework of innovative partnerships
- Funding from central government

Making the case for investment

- Secretary of State interested in culture
- Advocacy and lobbying by whole sector
- Detailed analysis of need
- Evidence of what investment would deliver
- Clear links between museums and government priorities national and regional



Renaissance Priorities



Hub Museums



- 43 Museums in 9 Hubs
- 3 Phase 1 Hubs full funding from 2005/6
- 6 Phase 2 Hubs 60% of funding from 2007/8
- By 2007/8 – investment of 40 million per year

New framework for partnership

- Hub Museums
- Regional Agencies
- Museums with designated collections
- Partnerships with National Museums funded by DCMS
- Museum development Fund – small and medium sized museums
- Specialist Subject networks



Targets 2006-8

- 2% increase in visitors
- 350,000 new visitors from social class C2DE and BME from 03/04 baseline
- 25% increase in number of schools using Hub museums



Results to date

- 5% increase in visits to regional museums - over 13 million people.
- 9.7 m invested in collections care and development
- 55% increase in the number of visits and contacts with schools
- 19% increase in the number of schools visiting museums.
- 32% of visits made by schools in the 20% most deprived wards in the country
- Early research suggests that children who use museums to support their learning have higher SAT scores and course work scores
- 137% increase in the number of visits to Hub museum web sites
- Scholarship and research supported by the creation of 188 new curatorial posts, 36 subject specialist networks and Collections Link
- 1,446 accredited museums have access to advice and support at a cost of 85p per museum per year through the Museum Development Fund
- 58 people from BME backgrounds will have had training to support them in becoming the museum leaders of the future

Children and young people

- Priority Audience
- National data set (Taking Part): those taken to museums as a child have significantly higher recent attendance rates than those not taken (53% and 29% respectively).
- Aims are:
 - Comprehensive service to schools
 - Innovative learning experiences
 - Identifying and targeting non visiting schools
 - Measuring impact



Support for museum education



- Recognised as core function of museums
- Included in minimum standards scheme from 2004
- Funding from the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to prioritise work with schools
- Priority for the Renaissance in the Regions programme

Contribution of museums to learning

- 2,500 museums
- Content rich
- Skilled staff
- Safe venues
- New approaches to learning
- Evidence of impact



What do we mean by learning

Learning is a process of active engagement with experience. It is what people do when they want to make sense of the world. It may involve the development or deepening of skills, knowledge, understanding, awareness value ideas and feelings, or an increase in the capacity to reflect. Effective learning leads to change, development and the desire to learn more.

- **MLA definition adapted from Campaign for Learning**

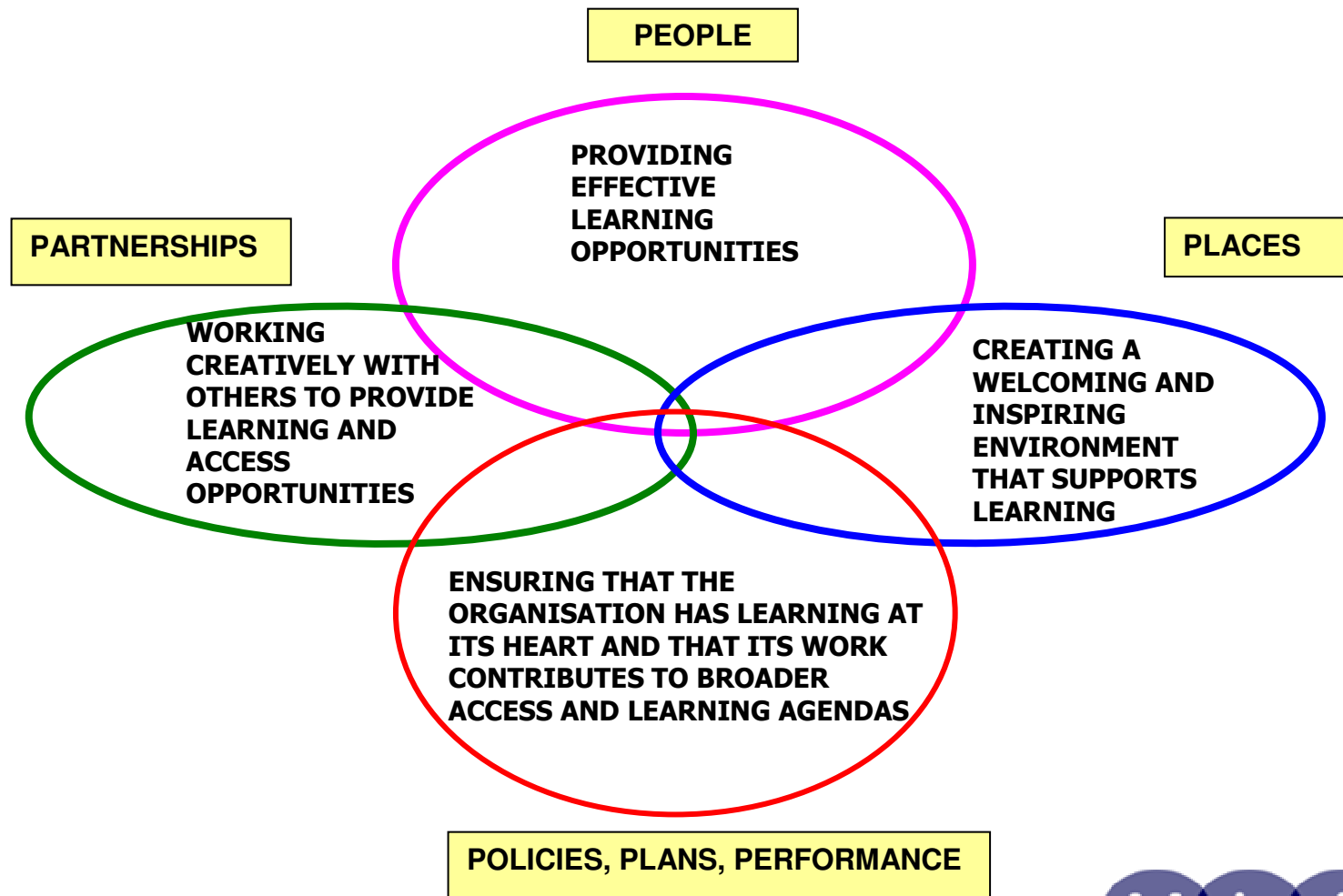


What sort of learning happens in museums?

- Social and collaborative learning
- Observation
- Discussion
- Problem solving
- Handling
- Creative experiences



INSPIRING LEARNING FOR ALL



Surveys of museum education provision 1994 and 2006

| | 1994 | 2006 |
|---------------------------------------|------|-------|
| Museums offering an education service | 51% | 86.4% |
| Museums with dedicated teaching space | 36% | 77.4% |



MUSEUMS LIBRARIES ARCHIVES
COUNCIL

Methodology: The Generic Learning Outcomes



Survey October 2003

- 22,000 children 900 teachers
- 94% of teachers attending a museum activity see it linking directly to the national curriculum
- Creativity, inspiration and enjoyment is the key outcome for 81% of teachers
- 94% of children aged 7-11 felt that had learnt new things
- 58% of children aged 11-14 think a museum visit makes school work more inspiring



Survey 2005

- 1,643 teachers 26,971 pupils
- 40% increase 2003 -05
- 80% visits made by primary, 10% by secondary
- 12% visits made by special schools – disproportionately high %
- High level of visits from schools located in 20% of the most deprived areas of the country



Survey 2005: Pupil's views of their learning

7 to 11 year olds

93% enjoyed their visit
90% learnt new things
80% could understand what they did
86% found museums exciting

11-14 year olds

86% enjoyed the visit
83% thought museums were a good place to learn in a different way from school
68% said museum makes school work more inspiring



What amazed me most on my visit was...

When I came in
I was confused



When I came out
I was full of ideas



What amazed me most on my visit was...

...the mines. We found out lots and ~~expeire~~ experienced the work of a miner. A miner would get 25 shillings per month. But he got paid of how much coal trucks they filled. The sweet shop also amazed Me because it was really realistic and really victorian. I got sherbet and that was gorgeous! YUM!!!! YUM!!!!
I also liked the tram.
See YA! daniel

Future issues

- Sustaining investment
- New emphasis on personalised learning
- Creating a universal cultural offer
- Democratisation of services



MLA Partnership

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