

ENSURE EXCELLENT, ADAPTABLE, COLLABORATIVE AND ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC SERVICES

HOW ARE THEY DOING?

LIVE Borders: examples of impact during 2016/17

OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES WITH A FOCUS ON INCLUSION



WALLED GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

Live Borders works with Scottish Borders Council and Borders College to offer opportunities and accreditations to volunteers of all ages, backgrounds and states of wellbeing. Tom (not his real name) suffers from anxiety and stress and was persuaded by his support worker to join the walled garden volunteers at Wilton Lodge Park, Hawick, in Spring 2016. Initially he found it daunting and could only stay for an hour or two but then he discovered a love of gardening and became an enthusiastic volunteer, eventually obtaining an SVQ award in Volunteering Skills. He is now a valued member of the volunteering group and contributes to a wide range of tasks and activities in the garden every week.



ACTIVE COMMUNITIES – HEALTH DEVELOPMENT

NHS Borders Health Improvement Team and Live Borders worked together to offer a supported programme of physical activity at Live Borders sports facilities, supplemented by behavioural change and nutrition advice from trained professionals, to 9 Borders-based diabetes sufferers who were overweight and physically inactive. The programme ran for a 6-month period in 2017 at a cost of £90 per participant. By the 3-month halfway point, the participants had already lost weight; they felt healthier, confident and fitter, and had reduced their medication. The programme is still running but is set to be a great success, and could potentially benefit over 6,500 diabetes sufferers in Scottish Borders. Participants in the trial expressed anxiety about the end of the project and about the affordability of continuing their new regimes without its support.

OUTCOME 2: ENHANCED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES, TRAINING AND EXPERIENCES WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON REDUCING INEQUALITIES

WARHOHL TO WALKER: AMERICAN PRINTS FROM POP ART TO TODAY

Live Borders, the British Museum and other partners worked together between October 2016 and July 2017, to bring an internationally significant contemporary art exhibition showcasing modern American printmaking to Old Gala House in Galashiels. As a rural area, Scottish Borders offers limited opportunities for residents to experience artwork of this calibre, which would normally be shown in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle or even London. The event led to a 12.5% rise in visitor numbers to Old Gala House and was hailed as a success, by the visitors, including primary school pupils, who enjoyed a unique learning experience, and by the organisers who were able to demonstrate that Scottish Borders is capable of holding successful events of this nature.



KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING

Live Borders library services and other partners brought interactive learning resources to the older pupils of Howdenburn and Knowepark Primaries in 2015 and 2016 by using research and drama to explore the history of World War 1. The project was designed to address a gap in events aimed at children who are ready for more challenging learning but benefit from an interactive and immersive experience to stimulate their creative talents. The pupils developed their literacy and creative skills by researching background material and performing a musical play written by local playwright John



Nicol. Teachers, pupils, instructors and staff all reacted positively to the project, describing it as “moving” and “a great learning experience”. It is expected to continue in Autumn 2017 and 2018 in selected schools.

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OUTCOME 3: INCREASED ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO THE SCOTTISH BORDERS THROUGH HIGH QUALITY SPORT AND CULTURAL SERVICES AND EVENTS, AND SUPPORT TO CREATIVE MICRO-BUSINESSES AND ORGANISATIONS

CREATIVE ARTS BUSINESS NETWORK (CABN) <http://www.cabn.info/about-cabn.html> *creas*

CABN also helps the local economy by providing support to the creative arts sector, including business *creas*, in the Scottish Borders. Here are 2 examples of who CABN has helped during 2016/17



CREATIVE ARTS BUSINESS NETWORK (CABN) AND SARAH TAYLOR

CABN supports professional creative designers such as Sarah Taylor to create micro-businesses which have a positive impact on the wider creative community around them. Sarah combines traditional craft skills and digital technologies to create light-emitting woven designer products. She has received support from CABN over a number of years, including advice, mentoring, publicity and awards for her work, discounted access to product development facilities and research & development opportunities with potential business partners. Sarah's business is now flourishing and she credits CABN for enabling her to get on track.



THE SOUTH OF SCOTLAND VISUAL ARTIST AND CRAFT MAKER AWARDS SCHEME

The scheme is led by Live Borders Creative Communities Team, in partnership with Dumfries & Galloway Council, and provides funding to support the professional and creative development of individual visual artists and craft makers across the South of Scotland. It provides a valuable opportunity for practitioners to undertake specific projects, and to develop and advance



their creative practice in ways that they may not otherwise have been able to do. It can be a crucial transition point – for both emerging and established artists. Awards of between £500 and £1,500 are available per artist.

Creative Scotland estimates that the programme has generated £162,652 of economic benefit for its £2,500 or reaps over 65 times the original investment across the South of Scotland.

OUTCOME 4: ENHANCED PARTNERSHIPS, PATHWAYS AND ACCESS TO A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES WITHIN FACILITIES AND COMMUNITIES (INCLUDING STRUCTURES FOR TALENT DEVELOPMENT)



SPIRIT OF BLACK BOB HERITAGE WALK

Live Borders museums service assisted the Black Bob Heritage Group to gain funding for an environmental art installation, drystone "stell" (small open-air meeting or performance space), walking route and visitor interpretation signs on the themes of D.C. Thomson's Borders-based fictional character "Black Bob The Dandy Wonderdog" and the history of hill sheep farming and shepherding in Selkirkshire.

The service assisted the group with professional advice, presentation skills and engagement with artists and the public. The project won a competitive judging process and was one of three finalists to win an award of £30k funding in 2017. It is now ready to move into the final interpretation phase and ensure local skills and stories are central to making the project plan a reality.



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OUTCOME 5: STRONGER COMMUNITIES THROUGH INVOLVEMENT IN SERVICE PLANNING, DELIVERY AND PARTICIPATION



GALA WATER HISTORY AND HERITAGE ASSOCIATION ARCHIVE AND REMINISCENCE GROUP

Live Borders donates three days of free let per week to GWAH to house their local history archive, formerly known as the Stow Parish Archive, in Stow Town Hall. The archive is well used, both by the local community and by visitors to the village. GWAH's "reminiscence group" encourages older people to contribute their memories to the archive, which adds to the richness of the resource and gives a voice to its contributors, helping to counter loneliness and memory loss. Live Borders normally uses its

public halls to generate income for the Trust but in this case has demonstrated its support for small communities as well as its charitable objectives.



OUTCOME 6: INCREASINGLY EFFECTIVE OPERATIONS AND CREATIVE APPROACHES TO INCOME MAXIMISATION ACROSS THE TRUST WHILST MAINTAINING APPROPRIATE QUALITY AND STANDARDS



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TRI FITNESS JUNIOR PASS FOR 11-16 YEAR OLDS

Live Borders discovered that, despite the success of its other sport and fitness programmes aimed at secondary school age children, take up of its Tri Fitness multigym facility in Galashiels by junior members was very low. It was felt that Live Borders' normal direct debit subscription-based membership scheme was acting as a barrier to junior members so a programme was started in June 2017 to offer a 30-day pass to junior members for a £25 payment with no subscription commitment. The results so far have shown a significant increase in junior members using the gym, bringing increased revenue to Live Borders and an increase in juniors being active during the summer holidays. Parents are also much happier with this arrangement, as it allows their children to keep busy and active during the school holidays without having to pay for it during term-time when they are less likely to use it.

SYNERGY BETWEEN LIVE BORDERS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND ARGUS COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGER

Since 2016, Live Borders Management Committee meetings have been attended by one of the Community Centre managers. This has improved understanding between managers and has led to improvements in the way the Argus centre in Selkirk is being run and marketed to the public. Room

charging structures are fairer, committee turnout has improved and the committee has a more focused sense of business, with more input as to how to market the Centre and raise revenue.

