



Centre: John Hansard Gallery, University of Southampton

Context

John Hansard Gallery has worked in partnership with Wessex Youth Offending Team and Southampton Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme to deliver Arts Award.

Three members of staff have trained as Arts Award advisers to support young people taking Arts Award at all three levels.

Approach

Seven young people from Southampton and Portsmouth achieved their Bronze Arts Award through the Summer College whilst on Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (ISSP). The sessions were predominantly held on the University of Southampton's Highfield Campus and participants received welcome packs from the university's Aim Higher department.

Following this, the gallery went on to support one young man, Carl, through the Gold Arts Award as part of the Visual Roots accredited volunteer placement programme for hard to reach young people aged 16-25. Carl visited the gallery one day a week over six months while working towards his Gold Award.

The gallery hopes to support more young people through the Gold Arts Award as a progression route from the Summer Colleges, which are run for young people who have offended. The gallery is also considering how the Gold Arts Award can be supported through work-related learning and the Creative and Media Diploma consortia.

The John Hansard Gallery worked with a number of professional artists and forged links with departments of the university and the Southampton City Council Arts and Heritage department.

Impact and comments

Since achieving his Gold Award, Carl has worked with Arts Council England South East and has plans to complete an art foundation course.

'I feel privileged because of the number of art forms that were opened up to me. I am interested in looking for the truth and different perspectives, especially those that differ from mainstream media.'

Carl, Gold Arts Award participant

'Delivering Arts Award in a university has made a real difference to participants' perceptions of higher education. It shows them that they have as much of a right to participate in university as everyone else.'

Ronda Gowland, Arts Award adviser, John Hansard Gallery