



Interim Report: Key Findings, January 2010

The SDC initiative met with a **high level of demand** (106 applications from potential hosts, compared to 144 for the Find Your Talent pathfinders that embraced all art forms).

The programme presents a number of **challenges**. Investment in YDE is tiny compared to similar aspirations in other areas. YDE funding of £5.5 million for 2008/11 is 1.5%¹ of that for music and 0.7%² of that for sport (see appendix). It is derived from a complex package of partners. The budget for the SDC programme is £400,000 over two years. Expectations are high locally and nationally, there are gaps in public understanding of what dance *is* as well as what dance can *do*, and an under-developed infrastructure on which to build.

There is **wide support** for the initiative and the work of the SDCs in the pilot areas from hosts, schools and teachers, demonstrated by take up of initiatives and feedback from teachers.

Initiatives are being developed in response to collective and local **priorities based on evidence**.

Dance in Schools

The Youth Sport Trust Audit of Dance in English Schools and the audits carried out by SDCs of the schools in their areas show that:

- Nearly all (90%) secondary schools provide dance in the curriculum
- Half of schools (53%) provide dance for all year 7 students; a third of schools (35%) sustain dance provision throughout Key Stage 3
- Spaces used for dance are inadequate; less than half (40%) have sprung floors and a quarter (25%) are rated as poor
- The majority of those teaching dance are white (97%) and female (88%); half of schools (48%) offer dance to girls only
- There are few specialists in the workforce; few teachers (10%) have a dance degree and qualified teacher status
- Two-thirds of schools (62%) offer opportunities for young people to perform; less than half of schools (40%) offer opportunities for young people to see performances

¹ Music Manifesto funding of £332 million and Youth Music ACE / DCMS funding £31 million totals £363 million over 2008/11.

² PESSYP funding of £755 million over 2008/11.

Collective priorities

Through delivering CPD and the non-specialist training programme, networking, advocacy and partnerships, the SDC pilot aims to develop provision and quality at Key Stage 3; improve the gender balance of teachers and students; build the confidence and skills of the workforce; increase opportunities for young people to perform and see performances; and increase attainment.

Achievement

Five SDCs have been in post for two terms, three for one term; two work full-time, one four days a week and five half-time. They have established their role in their area and delivered:

- 164 CPD sessions, involving 169 schools and 244 teacher contacts of which 173 (71%) have been non-specialists
- 93 (57%) of the sessions have involved young people; 854 young people have participated in these sessions
- 26 non-specialist training modules; 70 non-specialist teachers have committed to this year-long training programme

Indications of **change** are emerging. Teachers are growing in confidence and skills and becoming champions for dance development. Some schools are looking at moving dance to arts departments to facilitate mixed-gender teaching and new initiatives to engage boys are starting. Partnerships with professional dance organisations are developing; together with YDE national programmes these will provide inspirational activities, progression and a more cohesive dance offer for young people.

Conclusions

YDE has been exemplary in planning, introducing and implementing a programme for which there is evident demand and which is proving effective. Early indications are that:

- The SDC model is widely applicable and can work anywhere
- The strategic role of local authorities makes them the most effective hosts
- The programme is demonstrating value and promises much for relatively little money
- None of the SDCs will have realised the full potential of their posts by the end of the pilot programme

Planning for the future needs to start now. Existing posts should be sustained, and their potential to accelerate progress for new SDCs explored. Roll-out should be strategic and phased. The ideal position would be to have a full-time SDC in every local authority. Extending the SDC remit beyond Key Stage 3 offers potential to build regional SDC teams embracing a range of specialisms and to ensure that every young person has access to high quality dance throughout their school career. The national role of YDE has proved valuable and should be retained.

“Every teacher should have access to an SDC on a permanent basis.”

SDC Host, senior manager

Appendix: Comparable investment

The following table shows the relative investment per school-aged child³, and YDE funding as a percentage of comparable initiatives.

The table shows that YDE receives funding equivalent to 58 pence per school aged child, compared to the £79.47 per child invested in sport and £38.21 per child invested in music⁴.

Agency	Funding 2008/11	Investment per child	YDE funding as %
Youth Dance England	5,500,000	.58	
PESSYP	755,000,000	£79.47	0.73%
Music Manifesto (Includes funding for Standards Fund, Equipment, Sing Up, CPD, In Harmony)	332,000,000	£34.95	1.66%
Youth Music ⁵	31,000,000	£3.26	17.74%
Total Music	363,000,000	£38.21	1.52%

The £5.5 million invested in YDE for 2008/11 is for the delivery of the whole of its national brief including the national network of Youth Dance Strategy Managers (YDSMs) in every region, sub-regional hubs, national programmes for young people, national conferences and resources for practitioners, and the School Dance Coordinators pilot programme.

Despite the lower level of investment, expectations are as high as for comparable initiatives. A number of host organisations are participating in several initiatives and expressed concern about the comparable funding at local level. Given that both music and sport have developed infrastructures, more is being expected for less from YDE.

³ Based on total of 9.5 million school-aged children and young people

⁴ Sources Music Manifesto press release and Youth Sport Trust / Sport England Information Bulletin number 1

⁵ Arts Council England funding of £10 million a year and DCMS funding of £1 million for Music Mentors