

SOFT TOUCH ARTS ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2009-MARCH 2010



MASH-UP

The year 2009 brought Soft Touch acknowledgement as an ambitious third sector organisation with the successful award of a large 18-month programme grant through the Youth Sector Development Fund.

The grant has allowed us to develop new models of delivering positive creative activities for young people, particularly focussed on reducing anti-social behaviour and raising aspiration and skills. The MASH-UP programme has worked with over 700 young people aged 13-19 in a 12-month period and facilitated personal development and progression to education and employment for some of the most disadvantaged young people in the city. The work has been centred around the New Parks estate and Soft Touch has developed a welcome presence in contributing to supporting the needs of young people living there.

"We thoroughly back what you're doing; we really think you've helped improve the attitudes and opinions of young people and given them something to do. From what I assess on a weekly basis, reporting of ASB and associated crime have gone down and we're having our best crime recording year for a long, long time on the New Parks estate. MASH-UP has definitely helped us to achieve this." Adam Wardle, Sergeant, New Parks Local Policing Unit

A particular success of this programme has been the development of our mobile music and creative activity studio. A Youth Opportunity Fund grant enabled us to purchase and convert a van into a state of the art solar powered studio. We take the mobile studio out onto the streets on Friday and Saturday nights and work with young people where they hang around and give them something positive and worthwhile to do.

As well as delivering activities to young people, our director team have undertaken a very high quality business development programme which paired us with a business advisor, Beck Dabscheck from Catch 22. This support has really improved the management and operation of the company, has set us in good stead to thrive in the current political climate and given us tools to become more sustainable in the future through widening our income generation opportunities.

A few words from our Chair

Given the difficult economic circumstances we are grappling with, it is a testament to the quality of work delivered by Soft Touch staff that we can report another year of solid achievement. The organisation's work is soundly conceived and skillfully executed and that's why people continue to buy our services and support our work. This year we have been fortunate to get some extremely useful business development support through the Youth Sector Development Fund. This has helped us make a number of organisational changes that we believe will help us respond to changing circumstances. As we approach our 25th anniversary we think we are now on a sounder footing that will enable us to continue to offer innovative ways of bringing the rewards of artistic expression to communities in Leicestershire.

Tim Burke

"Being part of MASH-UP Creative Mentors has helped me change my attitude towards life and learn new skills. I've made new friends and I can now share ideas and work with others. I feel more positive and happier with my life and I have something to get up for in the mornings. I want to carry on making music because it helps me to express myself and I'd like to go to college in the future to take my music skills further."

Duane Deacon, 24

Summary of Soft Touch Accounts for the period April 2009-March 2010

SOFT TOUCH ARTS LIMITED (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2010

	2010 £	2009 £
Turnover	524,452	373,103
Core project expenditure	(473,673)	(379,425)
Other operating income	1,913	1,870
Operating profit/(loss)	52,692	(4,452)
Other interest receivable and similar income	16	1,084
Interest payable and similar charges	(575)	(841)
Profit/(loss) on ordinary activities before taxation	52,133	(4,209)
Tax on profit/(loss) on ordinary activities	(389)	(599)
Profit/(loss) for the year	51,744	(4,808)

During the accounting period above, Soft Touch received £77,000 revenue funding from Arts Council England (East Midlands) and £22,000 under a service level agreement from Leicester City Council. This core funding helped us develop business and secure funding which generated income of £425,452.

During the period April 2009-March 2010 Soft Touch received grant funding, fees and commissions from the following:

Department for Children, Schools & Families (now Department for Education) - Youth Sector Development Fund; Babington Community Technology College; Fullhurst Community College; Mellor Primary School; Mediabox; Find Your Talent; NHS Leicester City; Leicester City Youth Offending Service; East Midlands Participatory Arts Forum; Connexions Leicester Shire; Big Lottery Fund; Arts Council Grants for the arts; Newry School; Independent Learning Centre; Blaby District Council; Paul Hamlyn Foundation; National Foundation for Youth Music; Faiths in Action; Northfields Adventure Playground; King Richard III School; Gulbenkian Foundation; Leicester YMCA; The Spark Children's Arts Festival; Sir Jonathan North Community College; Leicester City Council Children & Young People's Services; De Montfort Hall; Leicester City Council Youth Service; Turning Point Women's Centre; Barley Croft Primary School; Hand in Hand Centre; Lutterworth High School; Social Enterprise East Midlands; Business Link; Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland Community Foundation.

Soft Touch is committed to equal opportunities and good employment practice in all aspects of its work.



Soft Touch uses the arts to offer people with limited opportunities the chance to work together to effect positive change for themselves and their communities

**Soft Touch Arts Ltd, 120a Hartopp Road,
Leicester LE2 1WF. 0116 2702706
info@soft-touch.org.uk www.soft-touch.org.uk**



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**