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# the story so far

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A brief overview of the work to date on Time to Shine, Scotland's National Youth Arts Strategy

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**Time to Shine is Scotland's first National Youth Arts Strategy. Published in 2013, it set out a ten year vision to help Scotland's children and young people to flourish and achieve in and through the arts and creativity. Along the way, and supported by a £5m budget, Time to Shine has funded a range of activity to give the strategy the best chance of success.**

During the Spring of 2015 we undertook research with many of those involved to get a picture of where Time to Shine is, what has been done and the different pieces of work that are still developing. This summary presents some of the key findings.

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## who we spoke to

This evaluation took place one year into the implementation of Time to Shine, providing a brief initial overview of the strategy to date. It involved research including six mini case studies of Time to Shine funded activity, a workshop with Youth Arts Voice Scotland members and interviews with representatives of Creative Scotland, the Scottish Government, youth arts organisations and the national youth arts companies.

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# the background

Prior to its launch in 2013, Time to Shine had been in development following research, consultation and testing since 2009. Throughout this period, there was a strong belief that the strategy had to put young people at its core, and that it must be delivered by, and with the full support of, those working in youth arts in Scotland.

Time to Shine therefore set out three clear themes with a remit to be as inclusive as possible. These themes were:

## Participation

creating more ways for young people to access the arts and keep them involved;

## Progression

helping to nurture creativity, talent, ambition and enthusiasm of the young people taking part; and

## Provision

develop the sector for youth arts, improving the infrastructure and quality of activity being offered.

Following its launch, Time to Shine developed a two year implementation programme (from April 2014-16) with funding to help it deliver against its 23 strategic objectives. A young person's advisory group – called Youth Arts Voice Scotland (YAVS) – was also set up to support Creative Scotland and provide direct feedback on the work being undertaken.

# key activities

In the first year of Time to Shine, a range of activities were funded, including:

- **Regional and national arts activity** – including the establishment of nine Youth Arts Hubs, two targeted projects, new funding to four national youth arts companies, and plans for a national children and young people’s arts conference in 2016;
- **Supporting and engaging young people** – including setting up YAVS, a new small grants fund called Nurturing Talent to directly support young people, plans for a youth arts ambassador scheme and the development of an online national youth arts events calendar;
- **Under-represented groups** – including bespoke support to the Youth Arts Hubs around early years, and action research looking at issues surrounding early years, barriers to involvement and complex situations;
- **Youth employment and careers** – including a programme of creative internships in partnership with the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO); and
- **Art form specific work** – including a programme of support for digital arts, literature and film.

The main initial focus of the £5 million implementation programme was the creation of the regional Youth Arts Hubs. The purpose of this fund was to support a lead organisation in coordinating improved collaboration between local, regional and national youth arts providers and other youth service providers. Together they would act as a Hub for regional youth arts delivery. Hubs were not imagined to be physical spaces per se but rather a focal point for a multi art form partnership approach to innovative models of regional youth arts development and provision.

At the time of this summary report (in May 2015) the key areas of work had focused on:

- establishing and supporting the network of Hubs across Scotland;
- establishing and supporting the development of YAVS and associated programmes managed by YAVS (such as the Nurturing Talent Fund); and
- beginning to foster links between the national youth arts companies and the Hubs.

However, much more activity was beginning to develop and report during April-May 2015. Overall, of the 23 strategic objectives within the strategy, work was underway on 20 of them.

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# Time to Shine's first year in numbers

During the first year of its implementation, a wide range of activities have taken place to ensure that those young people who would not normally engage with the arts can be involved, including working with partners, piloting targeted projects, addressing transport issues, providing free and low cost activities, researching barriers and raising awareness of diverse needs.

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Approximately

**15,600**

children and young people have participated in Time to Shine activities

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The Youth Arts Hubs have involved over

**11,000**

children and young people

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The Youth Arts Hubs have delivered almost

**14,683**

hours of youth arts activity

**3,477**

hours of youth employment

**1,554**

hours of youth empowerment activity

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Over

**2,049**

young people have been involved in activity led by four national youth arts companies

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**66**

groups or individuals have been awarded support through the Nurturing Talent Fund

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**39**

creative internships through SCVO

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Time to Shine has involved over

**130**

partner organisations, including local and national youth arts organisations, local authorities and community planning partners, youth organisations, community and equality groups, colleges and universities, local artists and arts projects and organisations focusing on health, housing, sports, outdoor activities and festivals

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# strengths and weaknesses

Those we spoke to during this evaluation strongly felt that Time to Shine had raised the profile of youth arts at a national, regional and local level. Stakeholders were broadly very happy with the mission, vision and outcomes within the strategy, and its links with other national programmes and activities. There was also a strong perception that Time to Shine had been led by the sector and by young people. Youth empowerment and partnership working were highlighted as key strengths of Time to Shine.

Overall most stakeholders were happy with the initial stages of the Time to Shine implementation programme, particularly its focus on joint working at grassroots level and youth empowerment. However some highlighted weaknesses and areas for further development around:

- **Pace**

Some felt that Time to Shine was progressing slowly, and were keen to see a more immediate impact. Others felt that this was inevitable, due to the initial focus on grassroots work and youth empowerment.

- **Hubs**

There were concerns from a small number of stakeholders about the regional Hub-based approach. These included concerns that the Hubs were place-based rather than art form specific; that some art forms may be missed out; that national youth arts companies were not Hubs; that Hub partners may not have enough experience; and that existing strong regional activity may not be linked to Hubs in all places.

- **Partnership**

Joint working was recognised as a key strength. However, some felt partnerships needed to be further developed, including connections between national youth arts companies and Hubs, and between youth organisations and other arts organisations.

- **Priorities**

There were some tensions around the focus of Time to Shine on inclusion, with a minority seeking to place more focus on the development of talent, excellence and progression.

- **Sustainability**

Many stakeholders highlighted that while the Time to Shine programme was funded for two years, Time to Shine is a ten year strategy. There was a strong feeling that if funding stopped after the initial programme, there would be gaps around achievement of the more complex and longer term outcomes within the strategy.

# initial impact

This interim evaluation has focused mainly on process – the details of what has been delivered. However, outcomes from both the evidence available so far, and the six mini case studies conducted as part of this evaluation, suggest positive outcomes for young people, the youth arts sector and communities. These will be explored in more detail in the fuller evaluation to be undertaken in May 2016, but there is evidence that Time to Shine is contributing towards:

- **Access to arts**

Time to Shine activity is making arts more accessible and less intimidating. A number of case studies demonstrate that young people who have not previously taken part in art activities have now become involved.

- **Personal skills development**

Young people are developing their personal skills around confidence, joint working, sharing opinions, discipline and concentration, and understanding the different experiences, backgrounds and barriers of young people in Scotland.

- **Artistic skills development**

Young people are developing their artistic skills, through opportunities to develop their talent, share it with others, and experience performance and new art forms.

- **Health and wellbeing**

Time to Shine activity is also making a difference to young people's quality of life through supporting positive physical and mental health, providing opportunities to express and discuss personal issues through art, and making young people feel happier and more supported.

- **Jobs and employability**

Time to Shine has created over 250 new jobs, half of which are for under 25s. It has also supported progression of young people, through skills development within arts and more widely.

- **Empowerment**

Time to Shine has involved over 1,300 young people in empowerment, decision-making and evaluation activity, and over 150 new volunteering opportunities were created by May 2015.

- **Connections**

Time to Shine activity is building links between youth arts organisations, and with other sectors including those working with young people.

Many of those involved in this evaluation highlighted that the outcomes for young people were very immediate but that wider outcomes around development of the youth arts sector were expected to be clearer by the time of the next evaluation in May 2016.



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# timeline

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**2009**

The first research, planning and consultation on Time to Shine takes place

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**Nov 2013**

Time to Shine is launched

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**July 2014**

YAVS are recruited

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**Aug 2014**

2 year implementation programme begins  
9 youth arts hubs launched

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**Jan 2015**

Targeted projects launched

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**May 2015**

Interim evaluation of Time to Shine produced

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### **Who is responsible for Time to Shine, and where does the funding come from?**

Time to Shine is managed by Creative Scotland, and is supported by a budget of £5 million through the Young Scots Fund granted by the Scottish Government.

### **Contact Us**

If you have any queries or would like additional information on regional and national youth arts, contact [timetoshine@creativescotland.com](mailto:timetoshine@creativescotland.com)

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