

Agenda Item No: 6

Report to: Museums Committee

Date of Meeting: 17 June 2013

Report Title: Access and Learning Policy

Report By: Cathy Walling
Museum Curator

Purpose of Report

to consider the draft review of the Museum's Access and Learning Policy

Recommendation(s)

1. to recommend the policy is adopted

Reasons for Recommendations

Introduction

1. This report considers the review of the 2008 Access and Learning Policy. The draft has been put on the HBC website and sent to individuals and organisations involved in the original consultation.
2. The aims of Hastings Museum & Art Gallery's Access & Learning Policy remain unchanged from the 2008-2012 policy, with the exception of the development of a dedicated education space on land adjacent to the Museum, which is unrealistic in the current financial climate. (Policy objective 3.4: To investigate the feasibility of developing dedicated learning spaces throughout the museum sites.)
3. In the revised objectives, the Museum seeks to consolidate its practice, emphasising the continued development of partner networks, within both the formal and informal learning sectors. This partnership working remains core to the learning programme delivery, but will no longer be itemised as policy objectives.
4. Many of the objectives are ongoing, with a particular commitment to refreshing the resources offered by the Museum for use both on and off site.
5. Two responses were received following the consultation. Both are printed in full below.

In response to the Hastings Museum and Art Gallery consultation on the Access and Learning Policy I would like to confirm that I endorse the objectives of the policy on behalf of the County Council. It fits well with the emerging Cultural Strategy for the county, delivering particularly on the first priority to "Create an environment where great cultural experiences are available to everyone to enhance their quality of life". We welcome HBC's continuing commitment to the Museum.

Sally Staples, Cultural Strategy Manager at East Sussex County Council

Lifelong learning and adult offer is positive but could it be extended to include resource packs aimed at adults, which could be done working in partnership with organisations such as Horizons, Hastings Trust and other adult community learning providers. Developing a programme of volunteering for adults could include supporting family access and events, artistic events and exhibitions, and targeting specific groups such as BME communities and older people - creating museum learning champions (see NIACE for learning champions). ESCC is supporting a pilot project with the Towner Gallery in Eastbourne using artefacts to work with adults with memory impairment (could be brain damage, Alzheimer's, etc), both in their building and in care homes in the community - might be an opportunity to share approaches and secure funding to develop this from the Adult Social Care budget, ESCC.

Laura Cecil, Horizons

6. An amendment has been made to 3.3.4 to stress the partnerships with adult education providers.

Wards Affected

None

Area(s) Affected

None

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Yes
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	Yes
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	No
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	Yes

Background Information

Appendix A - Museum Access and Learning Policy 2013 -2018
Appendix B - Chronology of Objectives

Officer to Contact

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