

CC(3) AC 14

Communities and Culture Committee

Inquiry into the „accessibility of arts and cultural activities in Wales

Submission from Cofis Bach

Cofis Bach is a project that provides the children and young people of Peblig ward, Caernarfon, with opportunities to participate in the arts for free. The residents of Peblig ward are among the 10 per cent most deprived in Wales (source: Index of Multiple Deprivation Wales 2008, Child Index.)

Cofis Bach is a wonderful asset for the area in question. Children and young people enjoy expressing themselves creatively and are eager to do so. Among those taking part are children who have a striking natural gift as well as a huge amount of potential.

On the whole, we recognize that there is a shortage of opportunities in this ward, either to access the diverse range of possibilities that the arts can offer or to access artistic experiences.

While *Cofis Bach* offers some opportunities, building on that work would involve widening experiences and opportunities. Furthermore, there needs to be specific provision for older young people as well as structured programmes to follow up work undertaken in *Cofis Bach*. Honorary provision is also needed for the ward's adults. A strong and effective relationship has been established between Galeri, Ty Peblig (which provides community opportunities) and *Cofis Bach*, which would extend this important, beneficial relationship further. A formal inquiry into the relationship between the Peblig ward and the arts, as well as a detailed analysis of opportunities within the community, from the early years to older people would lead to conclusions that would identify where the greatest needs lie.

Thank you

Judith Humphreys (co-ordinator of *Cofis Bach*)