



ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

MOVING FORWARD

It's been a hectic but exciting year for Soft Touch. The purchase of new premises on New Walk is now well under way and we've started a campaign to raise funds to refurbish and transform the space. 50 New Walk was Leicester City Council's former workplace nursery and we have ambitious plans to open it as an arts and heritage centre for young people in spring 2014. We have also become a registered charity, which means we can try different ways of fundraising and finding supporters for our work. Of course we've always had charitable aims but the charity status will make it easier for the public to understand our work and the impact we make.



NEW PARTNERSHIPS

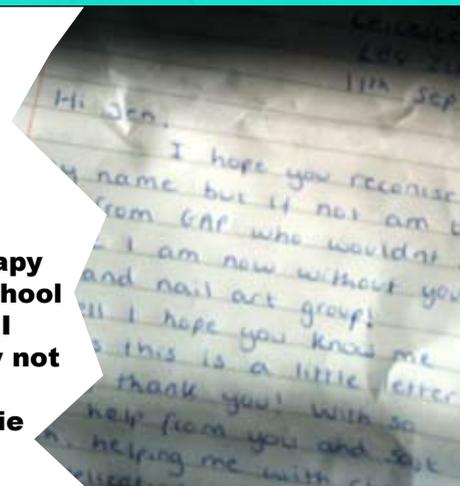
We've made some interesting new partnerships. Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service supported us to stage an ambitious street art event in New Parks. A 'sporting giant' built by local young people climbed their drill tower to the accompaniment of music and fireworks. Further joint working is planned and it's refreshing to work with an organisation who are willing to accommodate some of our more ambitious and 'off the wall' ideas because they see the value of the arts as a way to help engage the community they want to reach.

Western Fire Station Manager Andy Galway said: *"Soft Touch Arts is a brilliant organisation who like to bring exciting and different experiences to local communities. They told me that they've had their eye on our drill tower at Western and I was delighted to be a part of this community event which provided a great spectacle for local people."*



HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A LETTER FROM ROXIE - Hi Jen. I hope you recognise my name, if not am the girl from GAP who wouldn't be where I am without your help and nail art group! Well I hope you know me now as this is a little letter to say thank you! With so much help from you and Soft Touch, helping me with a Charity Link application and getting into college, finding the right course and believing I could do it, I did. I finished the level 2 Beauty Therapy course and gained my qualifications. My plan, when my daughter starts school full-time, is to look for a full-time job. I want to do high-end salon work as I got lots of praise at college and apparently I am good at what I do, so why not reach for the stars? I am sure one day I will run my own business. I often think how far I have come through the past 3 years - it's down to you! Roxie



FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT OUR WORK FOR 2010-2011

We worked with **1131** participants.
We ran **664** sessions through **27** projects which had **3484** attendances.

In April 2012 we introduced four company Key Performance Indicators to help us measure our impact:

- The number of NEET young people we engage and the number of these who progress to employment, education, training or other opportunities.
- The number of young people who engage with a positive, creative out of school activity for the first time and how many times they attend a Soft Touch project or activity.
- The number of young people who contribute to the cultural life of the city.
- The number of young people from the most vulnerable groups who participate in a Soft Touch project or activity.

Between April 2012 and March 2013 we will capture information to set a baseline. In subsequent years we will set targets to improve our performance. This will help us report on the impact of our work to funders, partners, sponsors and donors.

OUR WORK WAS FUNDED THROUGH GRANT FUNDING, FEES, COMMISSIONS AND DONATIONS FROM:

Arts Council England, Leicester City Council, Big Lottery Reaching Communities Programme, Leicestershire County Council, Home Office (Communities Against Guns, Gangs & Knife Crime), Heritage Lottery Fund, Connexions Leicester Shire, Youth Music, First Light, Fleckney Parish Council, Centre for Indian Classical Dance, Mellor Community Primary School, Leicester Youth Offending Service, Leicestershire Youth Offending Service, Rushey Mead School, Blaby Centre, Sir Jonathan North Community College, King Richard III Infant and Nursery School, Oadby Boys Club, Places for People, Beaumont Leys, New Parks & Spinney Hill Ward Funds, New Parks Community Panel, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, St Marks Youth Centre, Babington Community College, Creative Leicestershire, Compass Children's Services, Leicestershire Constabulary JAG Fund, One East Midlands, Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities Fund, Hand-in-Hand Centre, Leicestershire First Awards, Spark Children's Festival, Moat Community College.

SUMMARY OF SOFT TOUCH ACCOUNTS FOR PERIOD APRIL 2011 - MARCH 2012

	2012	2011
TURNOVER	£334,790	£512,386
Administrative expenses	(366,927)	(491,529)
OPERATING (LOSS)/PROFIT	32,137	20,857
Other interest receivable and similar income	445	185
Interest payable and similar charges	(33)	(293)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	(31,725)	20,749
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	(39)	-
PROFIT (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	(31,764)	20,749

During the above accounting period, Soft Touch received £73,729 revenue funding from Arts Council England and £22,600 under a service level agreement from Leicester City Council. This core funding helped us develop business and generate further income of £238,911.

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