



# SOFT TOUCH ARTS ANNUAL REPORT

## April 2010 - March 2011



### 2011 - Soft Touch turns 25

As 2011 started, Soft Touch turned 25 and we began to plan celebrating our achievements.

We decided to try and find past project participants - one for each year the company has been operating - and contact them to see how involvement with Soft Touch in the past has impacted on their lives.

We put out a call in the local press and through partner organisations and slowly people started to get in touch. We set up interviews with each of the 25 people we tracked down and their stories can now be seen on our website and in a book which we have published called '25 People, 25 Years, 25 Stories'.

It has been wonderful to find out how involvement in our projects has made a difference to those 25 participants. Each one has a different story to tell and different things they have taken away from their experience with Soft Touch.

What has been evident from their stories is that the arts and creativity does have an impact on people's lives. This knowledge reinforces the value of our work and encourages us to continue developing creative projects and using the arts to engage and inspire people.

Copies of the book are available on request and a PDF version can be downloaded from our website, [www.soft-touch.org.uk](http://www.soft-touch.org.uk)

### Our vision for 2011 and beyond

Towards the end of the 2010-11 financial year we had some very positive funding news, a testament to the organisation's strong track record in delivery and our resilience in difficult economic times.

A successful result with our Arts Council National Portfolio funding gives us four years funding from April 2012 to deliver against the Arts Council's Great Art for Everyone priorities. Alongside this we secured five years funding from the Big Lottery Fund's Reaching Communities Programme for the BIG-UP New Parks creative community capacity building project which builds on our successful MASH-UP New Parks project.

Soft Touch is now looking at moving into a bigger and better building in the city centre and establishing a centre for excellence in the arts for young people. A city centre base will enable us to expand and improve our building-based work, making it much easier for young people living in the outerlying areas of Leicester to access our projects and activities.

It will also open up opportunities for statutory services to work in partnership to use the building to deliver services to young people creatively, such as youth work, health information, etc.

Look out for more details on this project over the coming months.

# FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT OUR WORK FOR 2010-2011

We worked with **1168** participants.

We ran **909** sessions over **24** projects and had **8231** attendances.

We hosted **12** school, university and college student placements.

## Some of our outcomes included:

- \*increasing participation in positive activities for disadvantaged young people
- \*raising educational attainment and improving school attendance
- \*moving young people into education, employment and volunteering
- \*reducing anti-social behaviour in specific neighbourhoods
- \*helping young people achieve accreditation
- \*development of creative skills
- \*contribution to the cultural life of the city
- \*improving community cohesion between young people in different areas of the city

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

Arts Council England, Leicester City Council, Department for Education (Youth Sector Development Fund), Leicester City Youth Offending Service, Connexions Leicester Shire, National Foundation for Youth Music, Big Lottery Fund, Leicestershire Constabulary JAG Fund, Beaumont Leys Ward Fund, Creative Partnerships, Babington Community Technology College, Woodcraft Folk, Trinity College, Heritage Lottery Fund, Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation, Mediabox, Sir Jonathan North School, Find Your Talent, Faiths in Action, Hand in Hand Centre, Moat Community College, Mellor Community Primary School, NHS Leicester City, East Midlands Participatory Arts Forum, International Community Arts Festival, Leicestershire Clubs for Young People, Midlands Co-operative Community Dividend, Leicester High School for Girls, Lutterworth High School, Leicestershire Libraries, Places for People, The Spark Children's Arts Festival, Leicester City Council Community Cohesion Fund, Business Link, Leicestershire County Council Aiming High for Disabled Young People Fund.

## SUMMARY OF SOFT TOUCH ACCOUNTS FOR PERIOD APRIL 2010 - MARCH 2011

	2011	2010
<b>TURNOVER</b>	<b>512,386</b>	<b>524,452</b>
Administrative expenses	(491,529)	(473,673)
Other operating income	-	1,913
<b>OPERATING PROFIT</b>	<b>20,857</b>	<b>52,692</b>
Other interest receivable and similar income	185	16
Interest payable and similar charges	(293)	(575)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	20,749	53,133
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	-	(389)
<b>PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>20,749</b>	<b>51,744</b>

During the above accounting period, Soft Touch received £77,105 revenue funding from Arts Council England (East Midlands) and £22,600 under a service level agreement from Leicester City Council. This core funding helped us develop business and generate further income of £412,681.

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