

Open Stage Drama & Creative Writing Project with The Moorings

Bexley Moorings Project is a registered charity working in London Borough of Bexley to provide effective support for vulnerable young people aged 8-17; who are experiencing a crisis or on-going problems, which can include material or emotional deprivation, physical, emotional or sexual abuse, social isolation, bullying, or the effects of dysfunctional family life. They may have a caring role within the family to a parent or sibling with disability or life illness.

Open Stage delivered four two-hour workshops over four weeks to the young people attending the Moorings Youth Project. This is aimed at those who have been identified by Schools, Social Services, G.P.s and the Police as being at risk or being marginalised from mainstream youth organisations and activities. Moorings strive to re-engage the young people and help them reconnect with conventional recreational pastimes.

The remit for Open Stage was to encourage the young people to express themselves more through drama and creative writing. Through a series of games and exercises and scripted work they were given the opportunity to build their confidence and communication skills in front of their peers and the adult volunteers within the group. It should be noted that volunteers were very pro-active in the workshops and this helped the young people immensely.

The levels of literacy amongst the group differed greatly however this was accounted for by giving each individual tasks that matched their capability. Some students thrived on the performance aspects of the workshops and others showed great promise with the creative writing tasks, many of the group excelled in both.

Such was the response to the four sessions; The Moorings youth workers involved are now seeking to secure funding for a longer-term project involving Open Stage.

We are very grateful to Coutts Bank for funding this project.

Comments from the participants at the Moorings Youth Club.



I loved the games – especially ‘Riding my pony.’

The warm up games were great – but writing about a clown was a nightmare!



Every week we have done something different and I have learned what a monologue is and was able to act one – that was cool.



I liked doing funny accents for ‘Noddy and Neddy’ – I was a Geordie!



The writing was hard but I managed it with some help and I'm glad I stayed.



I was shy at first and a bit scared but everyone else did it so I tried my best and enjoyed it!



I liked the acting – the writing was tough – the games were funny. I would love more writing and acting – I want to bring props and dress up!