

Contact details for respondent	
Name	
Job title	Head of Schools
Do you represent an organisation? (if so, name of organisation and type: e.g. voluntary, public body, private company).	The National Gallery - publicly funded
Postal address	Trafalgar Square, London , WC2N 5DN
Telephone number	020 7747 2536
Email	

	Which area of the review are you responding to? (please mark X)
Prevention strand	X
Review of disabled children	X
Strategy for youth services	X
Review of high cost, high harm families	

The National Gallery houses the nation's collection of western European paintings between 1250 and 1900. The Gallery was set up in the early 19th century in part as a community resource, and this remains central to its mission today. The Gallery provides a creative environment for communities to engage with art from the past as a means of enriching the present and providing inspiration for the future. A comprehensive programme for schools each year includes, for example, over 80,000 free interactive talks

to 3-18 year olds, training to over 3,500 teachers, one-week Cultural Placements for more than 100 student teachers and a nationwide highly successful scheme for primary schools called Take One Picture. The Gallery also believes that it has a role to play in combating social exclusion with more targeted groups. Over an extended period, but particularly in the past six years, the Gallery has piloted and embedded many creative partnerships (mainly visual arts programmes) with children, families, young people, Looked After Children (children and young people in care), schools, the homeless and wider communities. I have outlined several of these projects below that are relevant to your particular review areas:

Children and Young People's Review (prevention strand of review)

Teenage Mothers

Together with the Young Women's Support Group in Waltham Forest, the Gallery has developed an outreach project working with teenage mothers aged 12-17.

The project involves the young women taking part in a series of three sessions, one per term, led by freelance working artists and Gallery staff. The first session takes place at the local authority centre, with the second and third comprising of full-day workshops at the Gallery. Crèche workers from the local authority accompany the young mothers to assist with childcare.

The response from the young women who have taken part in the programme so far has been overwhelmingly positive, and informal feedback gained from both the young women and the local authority indicates that the sessions are highly valued.

Bullwood Hall Art Project

Following a successful pilot year in 2003-04, funding from the LankellyChase Foundation has enabled the National Gallery to work with young female offenders at Bullwood Hall HMP until it was redesignated earlier this year.

The programme was devised by Gallery staff and a team of two contemporary artists in conjunction with the art teacher at Bullwood. Artists lead workshops in the institution, using high quality digital prints of paintings from the nation's collection as a starting point for discussion and to encourage creative responses in a number of different mediums. The main objectives of the visits are to:

- * Develop creative skills and an enthusiasm for learning;
- * Enable prisoners to experience a sense of achievement, thus boosting self-esteem;
- * Develop communication skills;

- * Address issues of disadvantage;
- * Develop a sense of belonging to a community;
- * Motivate prisoners to learn more about their own culture and build an understanding and respect for other cultures.

Review of Disabled Children

Take Art

This project enables young people in hospital schools, who for reasons of illness cannot take part in school trips to the National Gallery, to have access to the nation's paintings. Initiated by the Gallery in 1999, the project has been extremely well received by both young people and hospital professionals. National Gallery Education staff visit sixteen hospital schools in the Greater London area, totaling 36 visits and working with 286 patients in 2005/6. This year the Gallery also teamed up with Oxfordshire NHS Trust for the first time, working across six different NHS hospitals.

Special Eyes

These free sessions can be booked throughout the year by schools with children with special needs. They are held by specially trained and experienced Gallery staff and start with an introductory session using multisensory objects which relate to a selected painting in the Gallery.

Strategy for Youth Services

Teenage workshops

The National Gallery's out-of-schools programme makes specific provision for young people aged 12-17 through the *Get Into Art!* Scheme. It offers a series of free two-day practical art courses for groups of 12-14 and 15-17 year olds during school holidays. Workshops are tailored to each specific age group and are suitable for all levels of experience.

Get Into Art! workshops are developed and delivered by a panel of contemporary artists who design focused and in-depth practical art projects which use the Gallery's permanent collection as a starting point, but also relate to their own practice and recent work. Young people are thereby introduced to the collection and encouraged to explore ways in which they could potentially use it as a resource for their own art work. *Get Into Art!* workshops also provide a unique opportunity for young people to work alongside a contemporary artist, see examples of their work and discuss their own ideas with them. Through the project young people also develop interpersonal skills and gain confidence by independently attending a course in the Gallery and meeting and socialising with other young people.

Line of Vision

Over the past three years, the National Gallery has pioneered Line of Vision, an initiative to use the collection to increase the confidence and educational aspirations of Looked After Children (children in long-term foster care). The project aims to boost the life chances of these young people using art as a starting point to improve their educational performance, both directly in the arts but also right across the curriculum.

Artist/mentors work closely with the young people to encourage active participation, to build their confidence and to improve communication and interaction skills. In addition to improving educational aspirations, the project is also aimed at stimulating personal development and fostering social inclusion.

Articulate

In 2003, with the introduction of the Literacy Strategy to secondary schools, the National Gallery launched a project to support teachers and students with the English Framework. The project has enabled so far 1360 secondary school children to directly take part in writing masterclasses at the National Gallery every year throughout their key stage 3. A key principle of the project is to include every child in the year group of 8 selected London schools. The schools were recommended by a specially set up focus group of LEA literacy advisers. All schools involved have below national average examination results, high percentages of children eligible for free school meals and a high percentage of ethnic minorities. One special school was also involved. Many of the children attended the Gallery for the first time.

The Gallery has succeeded in attracting high-profile writers including John Hegley, Jacqueline Wilson (the current Children's Laureate), Malorie Blackman, Kevin Brooks, Frank Cottrell Boyce, Brian Flynn (journalist for The Sun) and Sarah Phelps and Scarlet Johnson (the scriptwriter and actor from EastEnders) to run the masterclasses for the pupils.

Feedback from teachers, students and the writers has been excellent. For example, pupils from Elizabeth Garret Anderson School were very excited to have the opportunity to work with the UK's most borrowed author, Jacqueline Wilson. As a result of her masterclass at the Gallery, which the whole of Year 7 (150 students) attended, pupils and teachers continued working on ideas, focusing on Degas' 'Combing the Hair', during their English lessons. These can be seen on an innovative website with streamed masterclass videos and other resources where pupils and writers explore the nation's collection as a stimulus for literacy. <http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/education/articulate/index.html>

PLEASE NOTE: THE ABOVE MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED FROM THE INTERNET.

On entering the GSI, this email was scanned for viruses by the Government Secure Intranet (GSI) virus scanning service supplied exclusively by Cable & Wireless in partnership with MessageLabs.

In case of problems, please call your organisational IT Helpdesk.

The MessageLabs Anti Virus Service is the first managed service to achieve the CSIA Claims Tested Mark (CCTM Certificate Number 2006/04/0007), the UK Government quality mark initiative for information security products and services. For more information about this please visit www.cctmark.gov.uk

Velazquez

Opens 18 October 2006 - book now

<http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/exhibitions/velazquez/tickets.htm>

Open daily 10am to 6pm, Wednesdays and Saturdays until 9pm

Sign up for the latest news, offers and exclusive competitions from the National Gallery by clicking on this link

<http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/what/news/subscribe.htm>