The question:

Does anyone have any successful programmes that use youth engagement with the local community to reduce vandalism of a local heritage asset/ site?

The answers:

Hi Claire, just running a campaign with our local school to reduce broken glass on our beach at post-exam bonfires if you want to have a chat? Every year group is different – one size does not fit all.

Key thing on this is getting to understand the group dynamics of who is doing it and why the vandalism is happening – we are using nudge techniques and humour to change the attitude of the peers (of those who are actually doing it, always very few) from apathetic to actively deterring. Early days and it may yet backfire but the responses have been good so far.

Cheers,

Verity

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Ordsall Hall in Salford is a great example - from an isolated museum in the heart of one of the worst estates in Salford/Manchester to being a central community asset. This happened over time but its connection to local residents is what led to attracting HLF funding as well as major partnership funding and investment by the City Council for a recent redevelopment project. Caroline Storr led the development: ordsall.hall@scll.co.uk www. scll.co.uk/ordsallhall

Years ago the museum suffered from vandalism - on a weekly basis leaded windows were being broken, rubbish dumped in the grounds, original doors broken, car vandalism etc. Museum staff engaged with local young people, setting up Family days, activities for children to do and created opportunities to open up the museum. They put in a lot of their own time and ideas. Also the museum worked with Ordsall Community Arts who ran youth projects, and it started to be valued and gradually built up a wide following to campaign for investment to restore it on a major scale. The fact that it became so rooted in the community of Ordsall was what helped to attract investment in the first instance from the city council . This happened over at least 10 years - not a quick fix! But the redevelopment is amazing and community involvement was a key part of it I think.

I was interested to read the article you refer to and would like to let you know that I work as part of the education team for Seized! , based inside the Merseyside Maritime Museum. We have worked closely for a number of years with the Princes Trust, Merseyside Police and other organisations that work with NEET groups and have been providing education and learning opportunities for these groups for a number of years.

We have found that these young people have often had a very poor start in life and face extreme hardship and very emotional and difficult choices in their lives. They have often never set foot inside a museum and are sometimes sceptical about the experience but as we treat them with respect, lay down ground rules and allow them the opportunity to voice their opinions and thoughts the majority of the young people will let down their guard and open up and definitely leave having had a positive experience.

Our museum focusses on the work of the UK border Force and so we have access to a large collection of objects that people have tried to smuggle in or out of the UK and we use these handling objects to engage the young people and let them relax into being in a museum environment. We are then able to facilitate our other sessions such as our drugs awareness or weapons awareness sessions with the young people.

If you would like to know more about our work with NEET groups then please do get in touch.

Thanks for the question

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http://www.townereastbourne.org.uk/learning/online-resources/perspectives-toolkit/

Hi Mary

The Towner in Eastbourne have worked over many years with their local youth offending team. Here’s a link to a resource pack they made with support from Artswork the SE Bridge Org.

Catherine

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I previously worked for the National Trust, and we formed a partnership with Princes Trust and a local Rural Skills Centre at our property in Dorset. The project worked with 12 young people not in education or training and aged 16-25.

The partnership worked well as we had plenty of expertise on hand and shared ideas to solve any challenges that arose. In another previous role I worked with the Access and Engagement Officer in a local authority museum, visiting the local open prison and engaging young offenders in an open art exhibition, where local people can submit pieces for display. We encouraged a number of young offenders take part and some fantastic quality artwork was produced. Those who were shortly due to leave prison were able to visit the museum to see their work on display. Unfortunately I am unable to get any of the evaluation info as it is all packaged up in the loft with much of my previous project work (recent house move), however it gives an idea of a couple of projects I feel worked well at the time.

Currently my projects have been based around event organisation and World War One Centenary activities, but I am becoming involved with a drama group, and forces families groups for young people locally and so it would be good to hear of current work in this area.

The Galleries of Justice in Nottingham have links with NCCL (http://www.nccl.org.uk/) and I think they did some work with young offenders. May be worth contacting them.