



## **Future Creative**

### **Creative Gathering 12<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

#### **Welcome by Esme Chilton, Chief Executive**

“ Good evening everyone and welcome to the Future Creative Summer Gathering. I am delighted to see you all here – it’s a real pleasure to bring you all together under one roof - our artists, practitioners, teachers, colleagues and friends to share the great work we are all doing and celebrate the impact we are making and the positive effects we are having on the lives of the children, adults and communities we work with.

We have reached a major watershed moment in our work, as the highly successful Creative Partnerships programme, running across Kent and Medway for over 8 years, draws to a close. We can be proud to have been part of the biggest and most successful creative education programme the world has ever seen! Since 2002, the programme has worked intensively with over 2,700 schools across England, 90,000 teachers and over 1 million young people. New independent research from Pricewaterhouse Coopers says that our work is expected to generate nearly 4 billion pounds of net positive benefit for the UK economy.

Since Future Creative was established as a Social Enterprise company 3 years ago, we have been busy generating new work and making new connections:

Beth Harris and her team have been developing an exciting variety of creative learning programmes in schools far and wide. Schools and teachers have loved the difference the work our creative practitioners can make for children and young people, and they are now identifying their own budgets to continue to work with us next year and beyond. Our Explore programme team has been working extremely hard to establish long-term relationships with schools across Kent and the South East to sustain existing or establish new creative learning programmes.

Julie Larner and her team have been working hard to develop new work designed to engage and consult with people and communities in a positive way through art and cultural experiences – our Engage team has been busy establishing new partners in the public, community and cultural sectors and delivering diverse work such as Artists Professional Development in Shepway and West Kent, our Young Offenders projects in Medway, our

Community Cohesion programmes in North Kent and Earls Court, Cultural Olympics projects in Canterbury and Kentish Delights museums projects across the whole of Kent and Medway.

Rob Dembrey and his team have been establishing our work in the area of professional development and training, with the business and local authority sectors and Higher Education Institutions. We are in early talks with a number of universities and colleges to support Work Readiness programmes for students that develop creative skills for life and work. We have been invited to join a national committee working with the Department of Business Innovation and Skills to support 'Employee Engagement' in the business sector. Also, our Inspire programme team continues to work successfully delivering high-impact Early Years training programmes across the country.

As you can see, while the Creative Partnerships programme draws to a crescendo, we have been busy establishing work and partnerships in a diverse range of other markets. We are looking forward to the future with renewed enthusiasm and we want to invite each and every one of you to join us as we continue to grow and develop our creative programmes and services for the benefit of our stakeholders young and old. Please do speak to me or one of the Future Creative team during the rest of the evening to explore new collaborations or refresh existing ones. Thank you all for coming!

