



Toolkit and covenant for artists and arts organisations offering events and activities for care experienced children & young people

Attending an arts & cultural activity or event can be a challenging experience for care experienced children & young people (CECYP). Feelings of anxiety and low confidence, together with emotional regulation and social interaction issues, are more prevalent in those who have suffered from adverse childhood experiences, which means that their experience of arts and cultural activities is likely to be different from those of other children and young people.

Where arts & cultural activities are designed with CECYP in mind, they have the potential to be highly beneficial or even transformational. However, this means that artists and arts organisations working in the field will need to be highly attuned to the impact of their interaction with CECYP, and flexible to adapt their practice where needed.

This toolkit, and the ICE badge, are designed to recognise artists and arts organisations who are aware of these issues, have some experience in working with CECYP, and are able to offer high-quality activities and events which are suitable for them. In turn, key adults, Virtual Schools and other stakeholders, as well as the young people themselves, are able to decide about engagement with a level of assurance about the likelihood of a positive and safe experience.

The ICE Provider badge is not quality assured – it is not a 'kite mark' backed up by an inspection regime. It is a set of values and principles which can be signed up to in order to demonstrate that the artist or arts organisation embraces them and has taken steps to ensure positive and safe experiences for CECYP. Any artist or arts organisation can therefore make the covenant, but should be able to demonstrate:

- Some experience of working in this field
- An appropriate level of knowledge and skills, including having taken up relevant professional development
- Appropriate safeguarding clearance and knowledge (including DBS) and, where relevant, being able to provide a safe physical environment

ICE is a new initiative from Artslink, a programme of the West Midlands Consortium of Virtual Schools in partnership with co-investor Arts Connect. As such, it should be seen as work in progress, and will evolve over time.

Why should I sign up?

The potential impact of arts & cultural engagement for CYP in care is well documented. However, for key adults, Designated Teachers and Virtual Schools, knowing which artists and arts organisations to engage is often challenging, and Artslink is in a unique position to be able to connect them with high quality arts & cultural opportunities.

Through Artslink, artists and arts organisations carrying the ICE badge will be able to advertise their relevant offers directly to Virtual Schools, Designated Teachers and Key Adults, as well as potentially being engaged directly by Artslink for activities.

How does it work?

The artist or arts organisation writes to Artslink (see below), and, if approved, is provided with ICE branding materials to use as required on their own publicity, etc. Artslink will advertise relevant activities of the ICE Provider, mainly through digital platforms, to Virtual Schools, Designated Teachers and Key Adults, so that CECYP have the best possible chance of engaging with the activity.

What am I signing up to?

An ICE artist or arts organisation should be able to demonstrate a commitment to strongly positive outcomes for CECYP who engage with them. We have therefore developed an **ICE Framework** which maps the whole journey of contact from artist or arts organisation to the young person and their key adult. Whilst some of the meeting of outcomes may come from a combination of artist and other partners/staff, and some outcomes may not be applicable, we hope the framework will enable artists and arts organisations to ensure that they have considered all the specific additional elements of an artistic experience which might apply to a child or young person in care, and are therefore in a stronger position to offer suitably run events, or to work with a partner to achieve the outcomes.

The ICE Framework

Element of experience	Experiential Outcome (for young person/child in care and/or carer/SW/VS/ key adult)	How outcomes are met	Further Outcomes
Marketing	Feel clear and confident that it's an appealing and safe activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICE branding Noting partnerships, e.g. Virtual School Visuals and info on flyer/email 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look out for future similar activities from that provider
<p>N.B. notice periods for activities for CYP in care are necessarily significantly longer than those for CYP outside the care system. For this reason, Artslink recommends and requires that all arts & cultural activities have at least 8 weeks' notice.</p>			
Advance comms	Are clear about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where to go, where to meet When to meet When it ends Who will they meet/work with What the key adult involvement is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flyer info Follow-up confirmation info Know who to contact/where to go for more info 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are clearer about what arts activities are like, and know what to ask for in future if lacking

Element of experience	Experiential Outcome (for young person/child in care and/or carer/SW/VS/ key adult)	How outcomes are met	Further Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What to bring, e.g. food, clothing etc • What the safeguarding elements are 		
Arrival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feel immediately welcome and expected • Secure and clear about what's happening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated staff to greet at the door and guide • Clear meeting/ sign-in point with information • Friendly and welcoming staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View provider and/or arts experiences in a positive way • More confident to attend in future
Transitions & Breaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refreshed • Physically comfortable • Have had stuff to do, (non- adult led?) • Clear about what's now & next 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breaks and transitions are prepared for by designated staff 	As above
Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feel safe • Secure & clear • Playful, curious, creative • Proud & acknowledged • Able to engage in critical reflection and make choices • (Carefully) challenged and stretched • Have engaged with quality (pedagogy, artistry, resources and materials) • Have felt connectivity (with people, material, process) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artist/s is/are suitably experienced and their pedagogical approach is appropriate and effective • Artist/s will have discussed approach in advance with partners/ commissioners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will have had a positive experience • Will have developed knowledge and/or skills • Will have felt a desire to do more • Will have experienced a lessening of feelings of anxiety, tension, low self-confidence, low self-esteem, etc.
Departure	<p>Have had:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good send-off • An opportunity to feedback • A sense of closure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate or take-away • What's next information, coms opt in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sense of joy/pride/fulfilment • A desire to do more
Follow Up	<p>Have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Been inspired, motivated and guided re: knowing possibilities • Built knowledge base • Felt confident to make choices • Gained independence to book and attend other events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signposting to other existing events, cultural entitlement offer, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more regular attender of arts activities, both CiC bespoke and 'mainstream'

Additional considerations

ICE Providers may wish also to consider the following when planning activities and events:

- What is the role of the key adult (i.e. carer, social worker, designated teacher, etc)? Are they invited to attend/join in? What's the reasoning behind it?
- Should/can non-care siblings or friends be invited to attend?
- What is the pricing, if any, and what's the reasoning behind it?
- Is there a way to link the engagement with Arts Award? E.g. if it's a regular activity.
- Is there a way to ensure that the engagement is linked to the child or young person's Personal Education Plan?
- What is the connection with, or involvement of, the Virtual School?
- Are there other partners who might be involved, to help publicise or host the event? E.g. foster carer associations
- Is the Health & Safety of the venue particularly suitable for CYP in care?
- What are the safeguarding considerations, and how will you ensure that they're met?

Terms & Conditions

- By signing up to ICE, artists/arts organisations are making a commitment to providing access to high-quality, appropriate, safe arts activities for CYP in care. Artslink and the ICE brand are not legal entities, and thus take no responsibility for a providers' work unless they contracted by Artslink.
- The West Midlands Virtual Schools Children in Care Foundation, on behalf of Artslink, will store ICE provider data purely for the purposes of achieving the above. It will not share provider data more widely without consent.
- ICE Provider names will be published on the Artslink website and on relevant Artslink sharing platforms. ICE Providers may also be mentioned (with prior consent) on social media.
- Artslink cannot guarantee levels of take-up of providers' published activities.
- Unless otherwise agreed, Artslink will only publish activities which give at least 8 weeks' notice.
- ICE Providers will be able to use the ICE branding, but will need to abide by its covenant. Artslink retains the right to remove ICE Provider status if it is not deemed to have been used appropriately.
- All delivering artists will be expected to have up to date CRB, and artists and organisations will be expected to ensure that appropriate risk assessments, chaperoning and licensing issues have all been addressed by the event host before delivery.
- Because ICE is not quality assured, we will recommend to key adults and Virtual Schools to check all safeguarding aspects with artists before contracting. Any issues, concerns or general feedback about the ICE Provider's work could be made by:
 - Writing feedback on any feedback or comments form provided (or asked for) at the activity/event
 - Speak to the organisers on the day
 - Sending an email directly to the organisers
 - Arrange to phone and speak to organisers
 - Additionally, alert Artslink, so that they have the option to raise directly with the organisers, or can keep an eye out for other, similar feedback

I'd like to sign up – what next?

If you are an artist or arts organisation wishing to sign up for ICE, please head to www.artslinkwm.org.uk/ice and follow the steps. Alternatively, please write to us, responding to the following questions:

1. What is your experience of working with CYP in care? Include any relevant professional development.
2. How do you think ICE will be of value to you/your organisation?
3. What overall measures do you have/will you put in place to achieve good outcomes as per the ICE Framework?

Please email Baz Chapman and Peppy Hills, Artslink Coordinators, at artslinkwm@gmail.com