

The 2008 event, the Mix, was the new name for the Burgess Park youth festival and the first time services for young people and cultural services had worked together throughout the planning, funding and delivery stages of the festival. A key goal was to increase youth engagement and participation in delivering the festival: two steering groups were established, one led by services for young people.

The event was jointly funded from services for young people and cultural services and additional, external funds were also raised. With any such event, the expectations of the steering groups had to be constrained by the available budget.

The request for a youth tent was made some way into the planning process and discussions took place on whether the youth tent activities could be amalgamated into those taking place in other tents. The young people were fully involved in these discussions and whilst agreeing to this compromise suggestion, they also used their initiative to raise additional funds to have a separate youth tent. This was a good example of event planning processes and experiences for those on the steering group. As planning for the event progressed, it was agreed to reinstate the idea of a separate young people's tent, with a set budget.

The evaluation of young people's participation in this event has not been completed but the work undertaken this year has provided a good base for the festival to develop in future years with young people's participation.

Laura McGinlay
Executive Assistant: Children's Services