



AGENDA

1. Introductions from staff and Network- what do you do, what are your priorities for the communities you work with- Natalie
2. Foundation courses Libby
3. Referral process- Sophia
4. Big Breaks- Libby
5. Staffing changes- Natalie
6. Post it note exercise- Natalie

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8. Networking and information sharing- Everyone

1. Introductions

2. Foundations courses

The Foundations courses are free one-hour weekly creative courses in Drama, Music and Dance Foundations, which run once a term for 10 weeks. They run in two age groups; 7-11 years and 12-18 years. The sessions use a variety of games and activities in a fun and friendly environment. The focus of the sessions is to help build confidence, increase self-esteem and raise aspirations.

The courses aim to give young people both the personal and practical skills to then progress onto the other classes that we have at The Garage, on the class programme. Each week, new skills are taught and explored creatively by the group, with a particular focus on building confidence and developing teamwork.

These courses would suit young people who are interested in performing arts, in particular Dance, Music or Drama. It is not essential for the young person to have a strong interest or any prior experience in the arts, as the courses are aimed at any young person who would benefit from working in a small group and supportive environment. The sessions run at the pace of the young people in each group.

Participants are accepted by a completed referral document and participant information form.

After the successful completion of the foundations courses the young person has the opportunity to get a place on our Big Breaks scheme, which entitles them to one year's free place here at The Garage, on our class program.

Course breakdown

Each foundations course begins with the same focus on communication, listening, teamwork and trust. As the weeks progress each course splinters off into its specific art form, however, the themes above continue to be the focus of each course and throughout the 10 weeks. This is with the aim of improving confidence, self-esteem and raising aspirations.

Start dates for Autumn Term courses is W/C 18th of September. Time and days to TBC due to staffing

3. Referral process

To make a referral please fill out a **referral document** as well as a **booking form**. We ask for details in relation to contact details and in-depth information on access support needs/special educational needs, etc. Once completed they can be sent to referrals@thegarage.org.uk. We will let you know when the young person has been accepted onto the course and will contact the family and offer a tour ahead of the course starting.

For advice on making a referral, please contact the Inclusion team, see contact details at the bottom of the pack.

4. Big Breaks update/Bursaries

Big Breaks is a funding scheme designed to support disadvantaged or vulnerable young people to take part in a full year of our regular, weekly activities - our creative classes.

There are no set criteria and awards are offered at our discretion, however we have found that young people who engage with us through the Foundations courses are better equipped to take the step onto the Big Breaks Scheme. Therefore, initial referrals will be welcomed to Foundations with a view to supporting these young people onto Big Breaks.

We do welcome all applications but please be aware that Big Breaks funded places are limited and should be used as an entry route for those young people to whom they would make the biggest impact. Referrals for Foundations leading on to Big Breaks Awards will be accepted on an ongoing basis for the next available course.

For young people unable to be granted a Big Breaks bursary, help could be available from these other local funders, who have shown great support for The Garage activities previously:

Joanna Scott Foundation

<http://www.foundationofjoannascott.org.uk/>

01603 632225

NORFOLK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

<https://www.norfolkfoundation.com/funding-support/>

01603 623958

The Garage also has a limited amount of 50% off bursaries that it can offer for those who are not eligible for the foundations route. These are awarded after the successful completion of a self-referral form.

For more info or to request a referral form please contact Gabby Meadows

T: 01603 283399

E: Gabby.meadows@thegarage.org.uk

5. Staffing Changes

6. Post it note exercise.

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9. Networking and information sharing

To discuss an existing referral or to query how to make a referral please contact.

Sophia Kelly or Libby Seymour

Youth Arts Workers

Sophia.kelly@thegarage.org.uk or Libby.seymour@thegarage.org.uk

Natalie Songer

Inclusion and Engagement Manager

Natalie.songer@thegarage.org.uk

For all the latest news, check our website www.thegarage.org.uk

**Please save the date for the next Referral Network meeting
Wednesday the 11th of November 2023, 10am-12pm.**