

The Impact of Cultural and Citizenship Education on Social Cohesion

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Abstract

Panel

**The Impact of Cultural and Citizenship Education on Social
Cohesion: Chances – Challenges – Changes**

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Creativity, Culture and Education (CCE) is a new charity based in Newcastle, UK. It manages two national creative and cultural programmes for young people, Creative Partnerships and “Find Your Talent”. In this brief presentation I will give a quick overview of CCE’s work before focusing on a particular aspect related to the issue of social cohesion. Our belief is that the contribution education can make to broaden social cohesion is intrinsically linked to families. We hypothesise that more cohesive families – and we have a very broad definition of the family unit – help bring a broader stability to society. Our research suggests that what we term “family capital” has strong positive links to shared cultural activities. In short, families that make a habit of engaging in cultural and arts activities together build a store of collective capital which creates levels of resilience and understanding that in turn foster a range of wider social benefits.

We suggest these might include:

- Closer bonds and better relationships within the family;
- Wider support networks and connections to society;
- Improving a sense of belonging, both within the family and between the family and wider society.

I will point out findings from our research on this issue so far and give a sense of the policy implications as we see them from a UK perspective.