

Getting in step in Arbroath



THE recently formed Showcase the Street project in Arbroath is a registered charity working to offer affordable and inclusive access to dance and vocal coaching, drama work, multi-media and animation skills and sound engineering to young people aged 10-25.

The voluntary group recently took over a three-year lease of the former Red Cross Hall in the town which will house a dance studio — already up and running — and a recording and media studio, due to be opening shortly.

The driving force behind Showcase the Street — although he gives the young people themselves the credit for its success — is Tayside Police Officer Fergus Storrier.

Fergus said, "Although I work as a police sergeant in Perth, I

run Showcase the Street on a voluntary basis as I stayed in Arbroath for 20 years before moving to Dundee.

"At present young people pay a set weekly fee of £2 to access two dance classes, a vocal class and media workshops.

"This allows young people from all backgrounds to work with us and, at present, we are working towards a show in the Webster Theatre in March next year.

"We also offer trips to watch

other events locally, take part in performances and also link into further education if required.

"We are always keen to offer new and exciting opportunities for our young people and, with that in mind, we thought it worth applying to the Make It Happen scheme to see if we could get help to offer something that is currently outwith our budget.

"We would like a run a ten-week course on street dance and hip hop that would work towards

an end performance in our own premises.

"The course would be led by a freelance dance coach, employed by the Space in Dundee, at a cost of £400 for the course.

"We would propose to run the course initially as a pilot scheme which, if successful, we would look to continue funding from more mainstream sources such as the Scottish Arts Council.

"This would allow up to 30 young people to learn a new skill and build on the experiences and fun they have with the project, without costing them or us any more money.

"Our project allows young people to gain new practical skills as well as developing confidence, self-esteem and many other life skills that can help them in the future."

MANY groups, schools, organisations and individuals have already made bids for their share of the £10,000 we have up for grabs to benefit communities in Dundee, Angus, Perthshire and Fife.

But it's not too late to get your application to us.

For example, it might be £40 to take children on an outing; or £2000 to decorate a pensioners' club. The money might cover the whole of the project cost or just part of it.

We want to know about your plans and projects to see if we can help **Make It Happen**. To enter, tell us how much you would need and on what you would spend it.

All entries must include a name, address and a daytime telephone number. The closing date is September 30 and a panel of judges will choose the deserving causes.

The organisers will then be invited to a special award ceremony later this year. All entrants must agree to take part in any publicity.

Suggestions should be submitted by post to: Make It Happen, Evening Telegraph, 80 Kingsway East, Dundee DD4 8SL; or by email to:

makeithappen@eveningtelegraph.co.uk

You can also visit our website at:

www.eveningtelegraph.co.uk

and click on the Make It Happen logo.

If you have any queries, or want to know if you could qualify for a share of the cash, you should phone 01382 575231 between 10am and 4pm, Monday to Friday; or email: makeithappen@eveningtelegraph.co.uk

Our Make It Happen award scheme is sponsored by Combined Insurance, which has five offices in the UK and offers accident and health care insurance to more than 600,000 policy-holders.

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