**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Why am I being asked to take part in this project?**

There are currently over 1400 children and young people in the city of Edinburgh care system. Due to social and economic reasons, most have very little access to cultural provision.

The City of Edinburgh Council has a multi-agency Corporate Parenting Plan developed through consultation with their young people. Their priorities for 2015 and beyond include:

* Learning outcomes
* Employment
* Increased focus on health and well-being
* Inclusion and participation

In 2014, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society met with the council’s Children and Families department to discuss the different ways in which we could engage and work with the Edinburgh community.

They identified three priority areas where the Fringe Society, venues stakeholders and producers could support the work of the council.

These are:

1. Providing access to free and subsidised tickets for events throughout the month of August
2. Providing access to our professional development programme in Fringe Central in August
3. Creating routes to employment through work experience

Last year was the project’s first year and was a huge success, with 105 shows offering over 5000 tickets - worth approximately £50,000 - into the scheme. Most chose to offer tickets on days of typically low attendance but this allowed for many young people to attend a variety of different Fringe Festival performances which they might not have otherwise been able to.

**How do I take part?**

If your venue has passed these details onto you, they will also have sent a template for you to complete. We require all sections of the form to be populated with accurate data as this will form the basis of the information we share with the City of Edinburgh Council.

**How many performances do you want tickets for?**

We would like you to decide how many performances you would like to offer complimentary tickets for. There’s no minimum or maximum. We suggest that you talk to your venue directly about whether they have preferences on dates.

**How many tickets do you want?**

There is no minimum or maximum quantity of tickets required per performance. We suggest that they should be able to be booked in multiples of two, to ensure that anyone attending through this scheme can do so with a care giver or guest.

**How will this affect my box office pay out?**

If you are paying a flat rental fee and own all of your tickets that are on sale, tickets booked through this scheme at your venue will be processed at a cost of £0.00.

Many venues charge companies the printing cost of complimentary tickets.

If you have entered into a box office split with your venue, please discuss with the venue team how your complimentary tickets will be processed and what (if any) financial implications this will have against your agreement.

**My show isn’t suitable for children, can I still take part?**

Of the 1400 children and young people currently within the Council’s Corporate Parenting Service, there are several hundred young adults (14-18). Providing your venue is licensed to allow under 18 year olds into the spaces, then it is still worthwhile offering tickets.

**Will I be reimbursed for my tickets?**

For the 2015 season we are asking companies to donate complimentary tickets to this scheme and as such, the Fringe Society and City of Edinburgh Council will not cover the cost of tickets.

**What do I get out of participating?**

Supporting children and young people that traditionally do not attend cultural events will help develop future audiences for your company, your venue and the festival in general.

This offer can also be used to boost audience numbers on dates that traditionally have lower attendance. Ask your venue for advice on when these dates are.

**What allocation do the tickets come from?**

We are asking venues and companies to process ticket requests from their box office allocation. Different venues have different processes, though most are able to set up a password concession for claiming free tickets over the counter.

**How do I set up a password?**

Talk to your venue about their preferred method of processing these free tickets for looked after children and young people. They may provide a venue-wide password or ask you to provide one yourself. If that is the case, please bear in mind that many young people within the corporate parenting system would prefer that attention wasn’t drawn to them; so avoid passwords like *LOOKEDAFTER2015* or *CORPORATEPARENTS*. The password can be a random work which is memorable but not too easy to guess.

If you have any additional questions, please don’t hesitate to contact: participants@edfringe.com