



Strengthening BAME inclusion in arts & wellbeing services

Resources shared & key comments from the 2nd roundtable 17.06.20

Flourishing Lives are delighted to be working in partnership with the [Race Equality Foundation](#) and [HEAR Network](#) as we seek to advocate together for best practice in diversity and inclusion across the arts and wellbeing sectors.

Our programme aims to identify ways in which arts and wellbeing organisations can improve their inclusive practice to ensure that people from a Black, Asian, and minority ethnic background are genuinely engaged and directly involved in the development of their cultural programmes.

In June 2020 we convened our second roundtable, bringing together a group of approximately 40 representatives from arts and wellbeing organisations.

The aim of this conversation was to identify models of best practice in inclusion and co-production, and outline active steps that organisations can take to effect positive change in their inclusive practice.

Below are the collated resources and links shared during the discussion, along with comments shared in the group chat.

Resources and Support:

[The Cultural Learning Evidence Champion's Handbook](#)

This is a downloadable guide aiming to support people working in arts and cultural learning to evidence their work. The handbook covers 'some of the key knowledge and skills you'll need, as well as some things you can do right now' and can be accessed here:

<https://www.thersa.org/discover/publications-and-articles/reports/evidence-handbook>

[Connect with NPC](#)

NPC support charities (as well as other groups) to maximise their social impact. They provide support in a variety of ways including on *Impact measurement, evaluation and data* and this part of their website offers information on theory of change, defining impact and qualitative research to

name but some resources: <https://www.thinknpc.org/themes/measure-and-manage-impact/impact-measurement-evaluation-and-data/>

Connect with Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance

Their research and evaluation page contains more information on different evaluation methods such as WEMWBS, Creative and Credible and how to measure an impact on loneliness as well as insightful case studies, all of which can be accessed here:

<https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/resources/research-and-evaluation>

Follow the work being done in the 'World's largest study into the impact of arts on physical and mental health'

SHAPER – Scaling-up Health-Arts Programmes: Implementation and Effectiveness Research – is the name of the research project and is led by Professor Carmine Pariante, and Dr Daisy Fancourt alongside a multidisciplinary team of artists, scientists and clinicians brought together by research manager, Dr Tony Woods, and arts advisor, Nikki Crane. Find out more here:

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/worlds-largest-study-into-impact-of-arts-on-physical-and-mental-health>

Join the *Losing Control* network

Losing Control is a peer-led network of over 500 individuals from across sectors who want to share power more equally as a way of unleashing social change and support each other to implement ways of working that share power more equally, that are collaborative, grassroots-led and participatory. To find out more and sign up: <https://www.losingcontrol.org/>

The roundtable also provided space for people to share their thoughts and comments as the discussion was going on. Here are key comments and thoughts from across the session.

Comments:

Tony Wong: We [[Connect Hackney](#)] have a report coming out soon which touches on our Coproduction approach which this is part of, which I can share via Flourishing Lives to circulate.

Christine Shirley: language of [funding] applications. They often need to be more people-friendly.

Tony Wong: The National Lottery Community Fund have recently acknowledged that they have not been as inclusive as they needed to be to reach BAME orgs

William Nicholson: It's a very good question about evaluation - and also about how you build a business case of the effectiveness of prevention/tackling social and economic inequalities as a way to

reduce acute hospital/NHS care (eg bed days). The interesting thing is that there is enormous evidence about the benefits of prevention and social 'determinants' of health. There are a number of issues deep-rooted in the system that make this very challenging. A few eggs: 1. Prevention is not a priority of the system - almost 90% of NHS funding goes into Acute care... 2. Another issue is inequality in the funding system - if you are only funded £5-10k to do a project, it is impossible to evidence direct impact on the health system bed days. 3. Prevention/wellbeing is long-term (and again not possible to evidence short-term impact nor should we try). 4. Decision making/leadership - again if local communities aren't heard at board level or in decision making about funding/priorities then we are already massively on the back foot.

Damian Hebron ([Nesta](#)): This free national network is looking at some of these issues in funding and how funders can collaborate better with community organisations (eg changing language, participatory funding, etc) <https://www.losingcontrol.org/> It has lots of free resources (See above)

Damian Hebron: This issue of staffing and training is really important - events like this are really helpful.

Asmina ([Barnet Multi-Faith Forum](#)): I think funders really need to think about long term funding, because most of the time you are building relationships which does not happen in a few days/weeks - it is long term

Ravi Sharma : We need to fight more for our rights and protect cultural / traditional arts and promote local identities / music/ arts and costumes .

Asmina: I think it is important to challenge the statutory organisations, but unless one knows what they are doing it is difficult to do this - so maybe we need to think how we can do this.

Shelene (WellbeingSE15): Uncertainty forces change

Tony Wong: It's about co-production and not simply collaboration / co-delivery.

Christine Shirley: I think involving workers across sectors through Museum projects could realise energy and inspiration into Education, Hospitals, and other Institutions, and local community workers of all kinds and backgrounds. Bring diverse groups together to study and share. Lower level workers need to be included, they are more essential than those in power whose promises might not work.

William Nicholson: I think starting with offering the opportunity to listen, to learn, to explore how you could collaborate/coproduce and to see where it goes is a great starting point... Don't worry about it not working, focus on the opportunity :)

Charlene Sandy ([Cubitt Artists](#)): It is definitely about making sure that when organisations are working on specific projects that you are then not just ending it abruptly leaving participants with nothing. You need to look at ways of leaving a legacy and a way for these groups to carrying on with projects moving forward.

Christine Shirley: Use older members of all communities to raise standards in all areas - e.g.

different communities sharing the past in Schools and other community centres. Raise understanding of the knowledge of older people and their usefulness in sharing experiences, and adding to the store of shared community knowledge and understanding, give ideas of how things could change.