

FOD Digital Inclusion Collaboration project- Project Pilot Expression of Interest

Pilot Project Name: Forest of Dean Community Choir

Please complete the below document to provide background details to support your EOI.

No	Question
1	<p><u>Values</u></p> <p>Please tell us how the proposed pilot project aligns with the project's values?</p> <p><u>Project Values</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Collaboration● Co-production● Lived Experience● Inclusivity● Accessibility
<p>Your answer:</p> <p>This project is a collaboration between two well established charities in the Forest of Dean to use digital tools to improve accessibility for people living with a disability to be more easily included in creative activities that have been shown to positively impact wellbeing for participants (Arts Council England, Creative Case for Wellbeing, 2022).</p> <p>Currently, users at Forest Sensory Services that have visual impairments do not feel confident in accessing creative activities at Artspace Cinderford. Crossing the threshold into a new space can be daunting for many people, but particularly when it is more difficult to visually navigate a new place, the barriers to entry are daunting.</p> <p>By using digital technology, we can overcome these barriers - by enabling users to access a creative activity that they have already expressed an interest in participating in. The approach of facilitating the sessions at Forest Sensory Services whilst the choir session is happening in Artspace should also allow the group at FSS to work at their own pace, and also be able to feedback to the Artspace group about the pieces that the choir works on.</p> <p>This aligns with Artspace's ethos of making creative activities that include everyone, and we hope will forge a link between Artspace and Forest Sensory Services that will allow people with visual impairment access to a wider range of creative activities in which they can participate.</p>	
2	<p><u>Innovation</u></p> <p>Please describe how the proposed pilot project displays innovation that benefits the individual / target audience, resulting in increased digital inclusion?</p>
<p>Your answer:</p>	

The target audience are visually impaired service users at Forest Sensory Services, who as well as facing barriers to digital inclusion because of their geographic location, are also poorly served by many digital technologies.

Attempting this kind of live link up / hybrid digital class is not something that Artspace have attempted before, but if it is successful, it would potentially open up many ore of our courses to learners that are unable to access our building. We do continue to offer online courses, having established these over the pandemic, but they have only proved popular with specific visual artforms. Most learners prefer face-to-face courses, particularly in the performing arts, so this is a way of broadening access to those classes whilst also keeping the in-person delivery for most learners.

Coproduction and Reach of Pilot Project

Describe how the project design and or delivery of the project will involve people with “lived Experience”?

How does the project reach (or could potentially reach) target audiences?

(target ‘lived experience’ audience)

3

- Learning Disabilities/ Additional Needs
- Physical Disabilities
- Sensory Disabilities
- Mental Health/ Wellbeing
- Children & Young People that may experience any of the above

Your answer:

The project will specifically work with a target audience that have sensory disabilities. It is likely that, as people with disabilities have significantly impacted health outcomes, that they could identify as having other disabilities and wellbeing needs. Though these needs are not the intended target of the project, Artspace’s inclusive approach to creative workshops means we have a wealth of experience working with learners with all kinds of disabilities and additional needs.

The choir was initially set up as a project to improve wellbeing for participants by involvement in participatory arts, and co creation of artistic performances, with the facilitation of the choir leader, Lisa Jekinson. Despite forming recently in March 2023, it has already been a great success, with public performances at Coleford Music Festival and Artspace’s July Homegrown Showcase - the success of which has encouraged Artspace to turn the showcase into an annual event, and to expand it to having a spring and summer performance at The Wesley Arts Centre in Cinderford.

Artspace has an institutional target for working with facilitators with protected characteristics and a target of 40% of our practitioners should identify as having a disability or protected characteristic, and we are currently on target to meet this for 2023-24. The decision as to which facilitator that we would use to work on this specific project would depend on the suitability and experience of the candidate, but Artspace values and champions lived experience amongst our staff.

Please use the table below to indicate your intended reach.

NB potential access numbers below are based on extrapolated Artspace outreach data, and estimated for a 1 year period - the hybrid approach and kit we would hope to use for many years after the initial project.

<u>Lived Experience Group</u>	Co-design involvement	Access to project	Potential Access after pilot
Learning Disabilities/ Additional Needs			180
Physical Disabilities			150
Sensory Disabilities	2	10	10
Mental Health/ Wellbeing	2	20	125
Children & Young People			150

Ability to deliver within the project timelines

**4 Does the project have the ability to be delivered within the 6-month project timeline?
Are there contingencies plans in place in the event of project delays?**

N.B. This section will be scored in conjunction with the detail provided in the EOI Project Charter.

Your answer:

Yes, assuming the project will begin in October '23, the choir will be working towards a performance in March '24 at the Wesley Arts Centre. Whilst this timeline does rely on some identified assumptions and risks, a delay to the start of the project would still allow us to run the suggested 12 weekly sessions but working towards a different performance in July '24 instead

Success Measures

Does the pilot project have bespoke systems and processes in place to capture success measures of the project for future evaluation?

5 Barnwood Evaluation measures

- How your project has **benefited** disabled people and people with mental health conditions.
- How disabled people and people with mental health conditions have been **involved** in the planning, delivery and/or evaluation of your project.

- How you have made your projects **accessible** to a wide range of people.
- How you have considered the **sustainability** of your project beyond the life of the funding.

Numeria Data

- How many disabled people and people with mental health conditions were involved in co-producing the work (e.g. involved in designing, planning and/or delivering the work)
- How many disabled people and people with mental health conditions took part in/accessed the activities or services you delivered (e.g. the number of people who attended workshops you delivered or accessed a service you provided)

Please describe the specific measures you will put in place.

Your answer:

Artspace have extensively used the Short-Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (SWEMWBS) when working on projects that are intended to benefit overall wellbeing of participants, and would likely use this, or an adjusted version of this, to provide a statistical picture of the overall wellbeing of participants before and after participation in the project.

The specifics of how the project will work between FSS and Artspace will be worked out in collaboration between the two organisations, and will involve consultation with FSS users to ensure that the approach is suitable for them, accessible, and to increase their buy-in in participating in the project.

We will also monitor the protected characteristics of participants and project staff to be able to give a numerical picture of who was involved in the project both from a delivery and audience perspective.

By collaborating directly with our partner organisation Forest Sensory Services, we are confident that the project will be suitably accessible for the target audience. We acknowledge that this audience is not a particularly large one, so in a sense our project is not likely to be accessed by a large number of people, but in taking the approach we are, it will significantly improve the accessibility to our existing choir.