



i~chair+

People Around Here - Creative initiatives with young people 2014





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Over the past year, People Around Here have been working with three groups of disengaged young people to compile a collective work of art that speaks of a positive future.

All the young people involved in this project are either at risk of, or have already disengaged from education or employment. Young people from a St Teilos High School, Young offenders from Cardiff Youth Offending Service and HMP & YOI Parc, and young people with NEET status in Ely and Caerau have all contributed work to the exhibition.

The aim of i~chair is to promote confidence, positive ambition, communication, group work and problem solving skills; all vital ingredients for constructing a positive future for yourself. How we do this centres around a way of working and a belief in the restorative power of the creative process.

We would like to thank all the funders who have made the constituent projects possible: Arts Council Wales (Momentum, Creative interventions with NEETs), Children in Need (Media Matters, Cardiff Youth Offending Service, HMP YOI Parc), Communities First ECLP (St Teilo's After School Art Club).



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Dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, mae People Around Here wedi bod yn gweithio gyda thri grŵp o bobl ifanc i lunio celfwaith sy'n sôn am ddyfodol cadarnhaol. Mae holl bobl ifanc y project hwn naill ai mewn perygl o beidio â bod mewn addysg neu swydd, neu elsoes yn y sefyllfa honno. Mae pobl ifanc o Ysgol Uwchradd Caerdydd, troseddwyr ifanc o Wasanaeth Troseddau Ieuencid Caerdydd a Charchardal EM a Sefydliad Troseddwyr Ifanc Parc, a phobl ifanc nad ydynt mewn gwalth, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant yn Nhrelái a Chaerau, oll wedi cyfrannu at yr arddangosfa.

Dates: 26th June until 19th July 2014
Opening Times: Monday - Saturday 10am-4pm









Dyddiadau: 26 Mehefin tan 19 Gorffennaf 2014
Amser agor: Dydd Llun-Dydd Sadwrn 10am - 4pm

Temporary Exhibition 2
The Cardiff Story
The Old Library
The Hayes
Cardiff
CF10 1BH

Arddangosfa Dros Dro 2
Stori Caerdydd
Yr Hen Lyfrgell
Yr Aes
Caerdydd
CF10 1BH

For further information on the work People Around Here deliver, please email: admin@peoplearoundhere.com

I gael rhagor o wybodaeth am waith People Around Here, e-bostiwch: admin@peoplearoundhere.com



I can, I have and I will do again

All art involves a creative journey. Starting with nothing but an empty space, imagination is called upon and hands are put to work. Problems are solved to bridge the gap between imagination and reality; fears of failure are overcome with a confidence boosting after-effect. Others are invited to share their skill, promoting group work and the ability to not only recognise the need for help, but also ask for help. The creative journey essentially creates a positive memory that can help you say “I can”, “I have” and “I will do again”.

All the projects have used the creative process to aide young people through the concepts of ‘hope’, ‘positive futures’ and ‘community’.

This exhibition is a celebration of all the hard work, creativity and positive engagement of the young people we have worked with.





Partnerships

The outcomes and outputs for the young participants in these initiatives are similar to those used in a current project with Cardiff Youth Offending Service. People Around Here has methodology in place for measuring outcomes, which we will be utilizing in this project with NEET young people. This includes self-reporting from the young people using outcomes stars and video diaries and regular observation by the youth worker and artists using an established monitoring template.

Throughout the Momentum project we worked with the Partnership Panel implementing the WG Youth Engagement strategy in Cardiff West. Each young participant was allocated a single practitioner tasked with supporting them throughout the life of this project and, crucially, beyond this project as the young person continues their journey from NEET to EET. This partnership was key in enabling us to effectively measure the outcomes for the young person, particularly the hard outcomes.

Skills

The Momentum project had two accreditations built into the program available to the young people to complete.

These included a wide range of media and creative art skills alongside all the complimentary soft skills of communication and engagement.

Agored Cymru
OCN: 30 second movie.

- Basic camera, sound and lighting skills
- Interview techniques and location shooting
- Being part of a production team
- Editing – soundtracks – narration
- Constructing scripts and dialogues
- Subjective and objective film reviewing
- Completing a handbook to evidence all the above alongside a DVD of their work





Bronze Art Award

Brick in wall –

- Creating a 2d/3d portrait in partnership with an artist - Looking at identity and everyday life

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- Construction of flat pack furniture - designing and imagining a positive representation of themselves in ten year time - Problem solving in three dimensions using a variety of reclaimed and raw materials - Creating a piece of art of a high enough standard to be displayed at an public exhibition

Skill share

- Sharing their learnt skills from their filming experience from the OCN film school with members of the public - Being assessed by the audience

Artist research

- Researching and sharing their thoughts on an artist who has captured their imagination.

Exhibition review

- Visiting and constructively critiquing a public art exhibition - Writing up a review for public display on a internet blog

Portfolio

- Capturing all of the above in an ongoing portfolio of work.





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The young people were invited to create something new, something positive, something ambitious from simple flat pack furniture. They each had a chair to personalise and travel the creative journey with as well as a table that they would work on as a group to articulate a message to the world.

The inspiration for their chairs came from the question:
Where will you be “sitting comfortably” in ten years time?

Using the creative process, the young people were encouraged to imagine their lives in 10 years; the places they would sit, the people they would like to be and the positions they’d like to hold. With limited resources and budgets but lots of creative problem solving the young people were able to activate their imagination, looking beyond the chair before them and imagining what could be.

As a group, the young people used the table to articulate a message of how they would achieve their imagined futures, what hope looks like and a comment of community.

The resulting work was displayed in the Cardiff Story in the city centre, June/July 2014.



The i~chair exhibition 2014

The exhibition of the young peoples work was opened by the Deputy Lord Mayor on June 25th 2014.

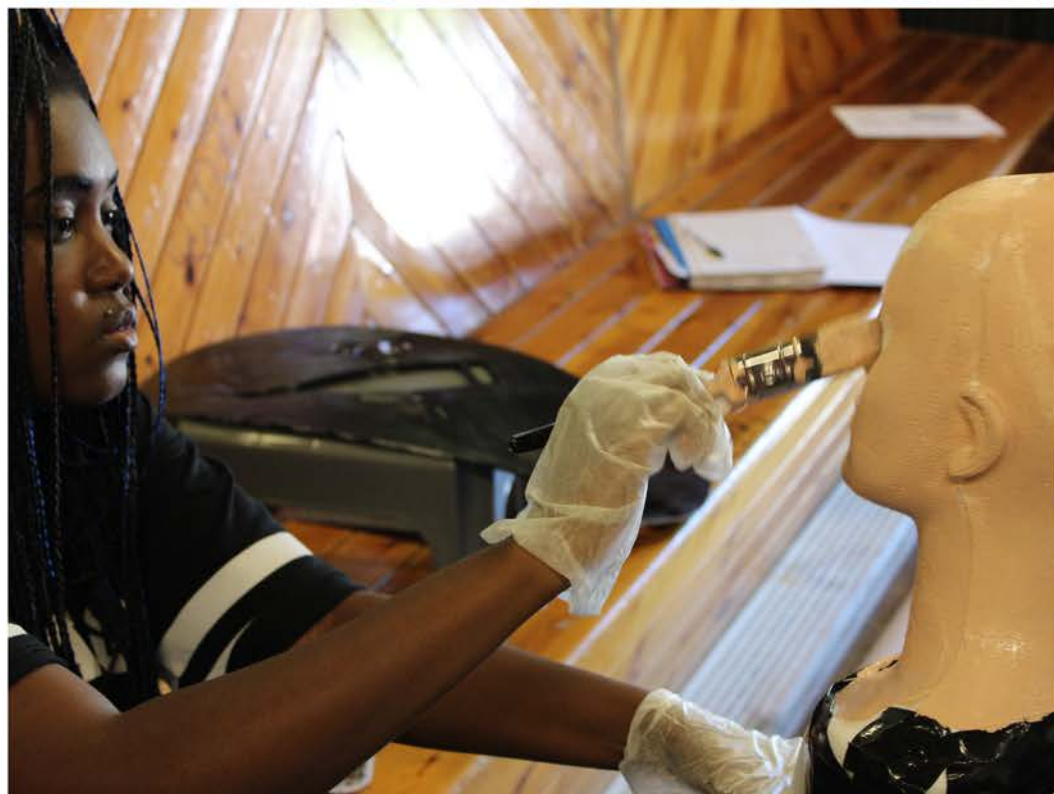
Extract from speech:

'People Around Here' have been delivering community arts initiatives in Cardiff and beyond since July 2006. Through the i-chair process they use the arts as a vehicle to change lives and enable people to learn new skills resulting in the creation of beautiful artefacts from simple and recycled materials.'

























The Face of Cardiff

Cardiff is a diverse city with thousands of homes, made up of millions of bricks. Bricks don't work in isolation, they work with one another; to remove one, weakens the whole structure. We too, as human building blocks of this city, each have our own place and positive purpose.

The wall of bricks has been created by young people involved with the i~chair project, as an exploration of self-identity, value and personal truth – both current and future. The young people each had their portrait sketched by community artist Bill Taylor-Beales before crafting images to represent their own identities; what makes them 'them', things of importance, the roles they have and the people they love. We invited visitors to the exhibition to join with the young people and contribute their own 'brick'; What makes you, you?





Snap Shoot - Skill Share

The young people made 30 second films looking at themselves through everyday activities or things that “get them out of bed in the morning”. This gave them a great opportunity to explore their strengths and weaknesses while learning a whole range of media and personal skills.

Through the film production process, sharing their finished films and also passing on their skills to an audience of older members of the community at the end of the project, they developed and demonstrated improved self awareness – learning to present themselves positively and clearly on camera, in an interview situation and in public speaking.







Cameron
Walk On...



Harley
Local BMX...



Maddison-Jo
My Mum...



Callum
One Shot At A Time...



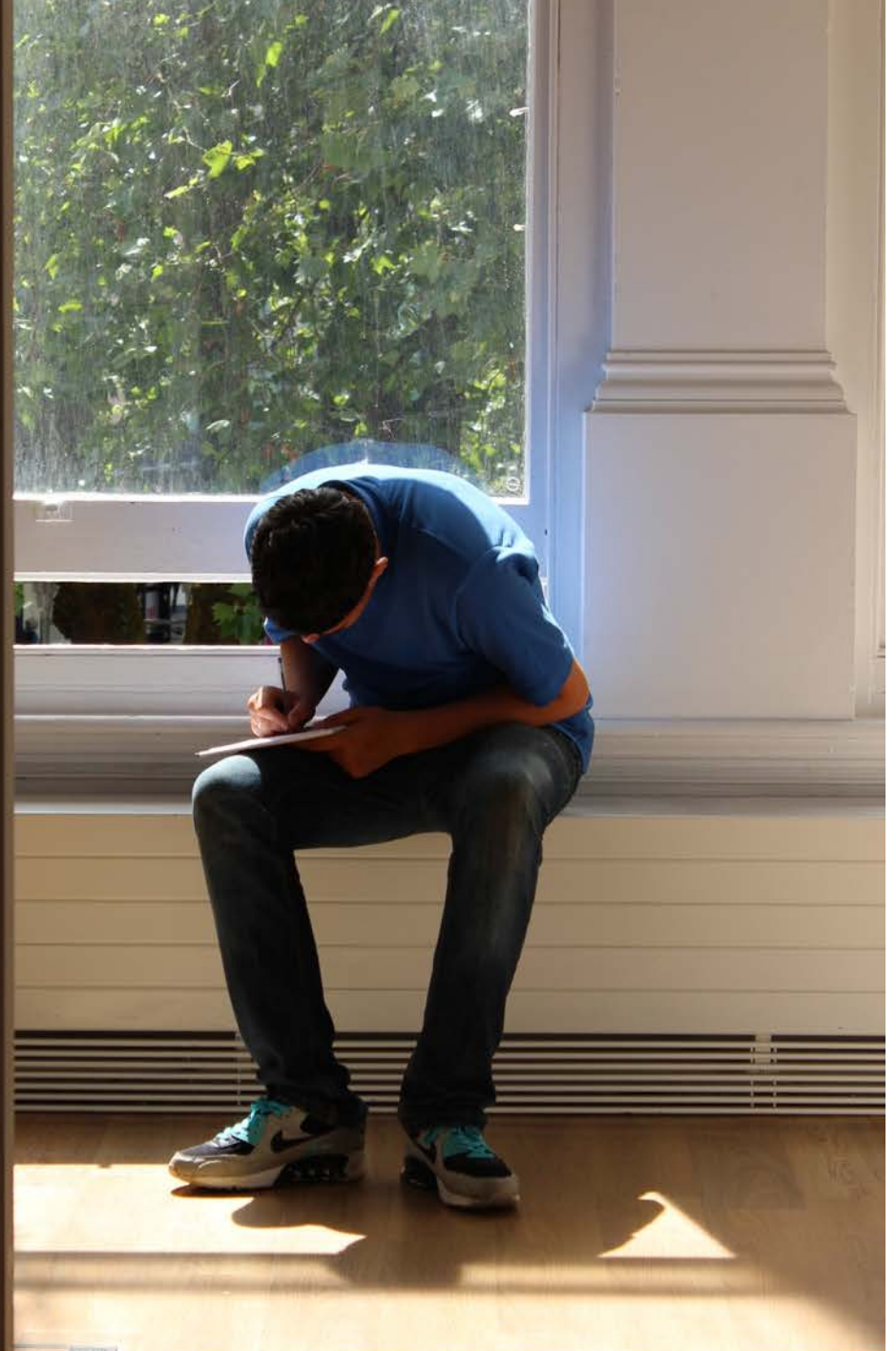
Cameron
Walk On...



Harley
Local BMX...







Constructive Criticism

The young people are asked to visit an exhibition and review it for an on line blog. This exposes them to a wider expression of art forms and begins the process of separating objective and subjective thought processes. They learn to focus their thoughts into a cohesive text that is suitable for wider public viewing.

Who's the Victim

Is a group exploration of identity and place within a world that has both the best (utopia) and the worst (dystopia) of everything. This process encouraged the young people at Cardiff Youth Offending Service to ask; What does the world look like to me? What is my place in it? How does that relate to other peoples worlds?

The interplay between self and others is evident in the view of the outer world, as expressed through the printed media, and inner world, as expressed by photographic images of areas of 'home' to the young people. The wording creating the edge of the figure is from song lyrics that the young people felt summed up the utopian/dystopian interplay, while the wording around the edge of the circle is a summary the 'One Way' workshop.

One Way explores life after attending the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme with Cardiff Youth Offending Service. Addressing choices and consequences, the group explore what a fictional character's life would look like in six months, one year, five years and 25 years if they continue to offend, and then how their life would look at these stages if they stopped offending.



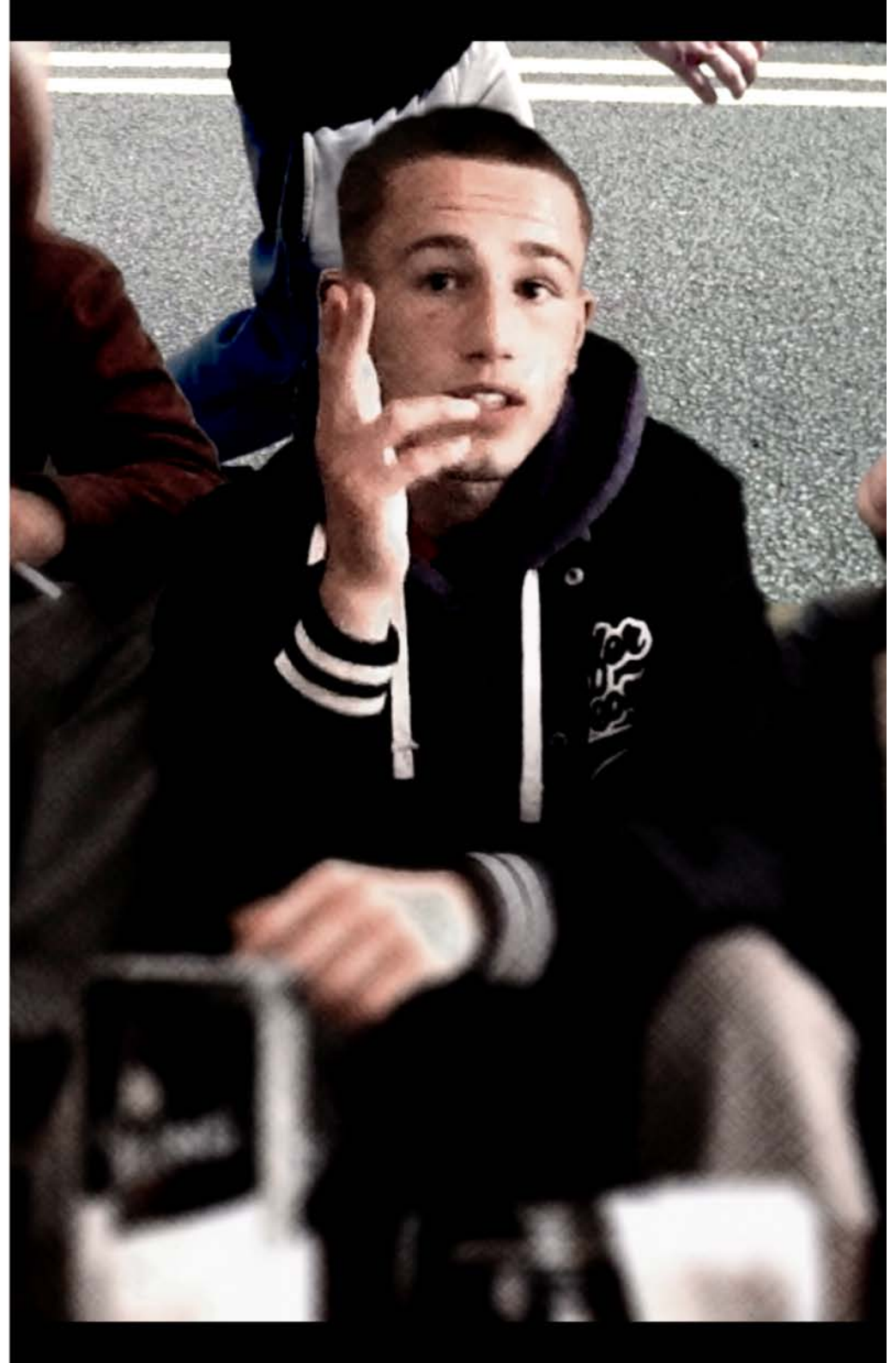


One Way

Is an exploration of life after attending the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme with Cardiff Youth Offending Service. Addressing choices and consequences, the YP were encouraged to explore what a fictional character's life would look like in six months, one year, five years and 25 years if he continued to offend, and then how his life would look at these stages if he stopped offending.

This group chose to creatively express their thoughts using music and video. The young people wrote the lyrics, composed the music, produced the track, operated the filming equipment, acted in, and edited the 'One Way' music video.

[The written summary of these workshops can be found printed around the large circular 'Who's the Victim' piece.]





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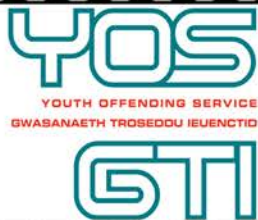
The instillation and Video

The citizens of Cardiff were invited to give their thoughts on 'hope', while sat at a table of i~chair creations. Captured on camera, the public responded creatively to the young people's installation, giving their own messages of hope to inspire the young people. The masks were created in Parc YOI using newspapers as source materials for the young people to react to.

The lyrics and music to the video were created in partnership with musician Bill Taylor-Beales and the young people at HMP & YOI Parc.







Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru
Arts Council of Wales



Gyda chelwogaeth/Supported by

Plant Mewn Angen
Children in Need





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To educate, enable and inspire communities through delivering
outstanding collaborative arts initiatives.