



University of the
West of England



Developing evaluation resources for the arts and health sector

This ESRC funded project seeks to develop appropriate evaluation frameworks and methods to support best practice in the burgeoning field of arts and health. The project stems from a long-standing collaboration between arts and health consultants Willis Newson (WN), and Professor Daykin, the first Professor of Arts in Health. Developing evaluation methodologies is a critical priority for the emergent arts and health sector. A growing evidence base has identified health and wellbeing outcomes of visual arts and music. However, practitioners often find it difficult to negotiate the minefield of evaluation and keep up to date with developments in methodology.

Project questions

1. What frameworks and methodologies are currently applied in arts and health evaluation?
2. How can these frameworks and methodologies realistically be improved?
3. Can an overarching framework support best practice in arts and health evaluation?
4. What new tools and resources are needed to support arts and health evaluation?
5. How can practitioners be supported in developing creative approaches to evaluation?

Methodology

A Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) comprised of researchers, service users, practitioners, project managers and commissioners, will generate data and reflection in iterative cycles. Semi structured interviews will explore the experiences of experienced evaluators and stakeholders to inform the project outcomes.

Project outcomes

- A critical review and typology of current evaluation approaches
- Frameworks and tools for four methodological approaches
- CPD workshops for practitioners
- A project report, conference presentations and papers,
- A website featuring frameworks, guidance, resources and tools for evaluation.

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