

Picture the Difference on Stage Evaluation

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Introduction

PtD on Stage is a National Lottery Community Fund funded programme delivered for two days a week for two years. PtD aimed to deliver four performances, however, this programme was adapted in 2020-21 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



Introduction

An online programme of activity complimented a face to face programme of arts, crafts, drama and music session. These were run alongside cookery and gardening activities.

2

What we wanted to find out

The evaluation aimed to understand the impact of PtD on Stage on its members, parents/carers, staff and the local community. We wanted to hear about what skills members developed and the personal impact of being part of PtD on Stage.



What we wanted to find out

We also wanted to understand the ways that PtD are working with other organisations and the local community.

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What we did

The evaluation used a mixed-methods approach, speaking with the staff, members and parents/cares of PtD. We also gained feedback from audiences of the pantomime and views of the organisations who hosted a performance.



What we did

We gained views through questionnaires, focus groups, interviews, observations of sessions and review of PtD's Facebook page. PtD members helped to develop the questions we asked and design the audience feedback questionnaire.

What we found out from the evaluation

1

PtD ethos

PtD has a strong ethos. This provides a positive learning environment, is participant led, co-produced, promotes and develops the talents of its members, provides opportunities and a safe environment for members to work in.



What you said

'we're taking people and enhancing what they have and also showing them new opportunities. And always with a positive view all the way through.' (Staff)

2

Supporting during Covid-19

PtD provided a responsive and adapted programme of online and face-to-face socially distanced activity, in line with government guidance. Staff provided support for members and parents/carers. This helped members stay connected, supported their mental wellbeing, feel valued and have purpose.



What you said

'The support that was offered... during lockdown has been really beneficial in helping [young person] to not feel lonely and isolated' (Parent/carer)

3

Supporting engagement

PtD provided a flexible and tailored approach. The activities were enjoyable and rewarding. PtD provided a safe, supportive and accepting environment and celebrated individual talents and group achievements.



What you said

'I think that's one of the things PtD can do, it's a safe environment that structures things for you to grow... And they all are growing in different ways due to their different needs and skills.' (Staff)

What we found out from the evaluation

4

Engaging with parents/carers

Parents/carers saw PtD as something their cared for person could 'call their own'. They felt there were opportunities for them to get involved if they would like to. They reported that communication with was appropriate and that they were happy to support with attending productions, donations etc.



What you said

'I stand back a bit, but I do encourage [young person] and I do encourage the other students to carry on and we do support them in everything. If they do a play we go and watch them, if they need props or they need certain things like art supplies or anything like that I will buy them and donate them.' (Parent/carer)

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Engaging with staff

Staff found working with PtD 'liberating' and rewarding. It provides opportunities for them to be creative and to develop existing and new skills. They feel part of the team and the decision making process. They find the work is meaningful and has an impact on themselves as well as those they work with.



What you said

'I think we all have an equal say in everything, we're very involved as a team and we cross over into each other's areas so that there is always a new perspective. I feel lucky in how much of a say I get to how things are run and how well things get communicated in comparison to other jobs I have had.' (Staff)

6

Addressing social engagement

The members reported having formed friendships, being open with each other and being able to express themselves. Everyone reported that PtD encourages members to collaborate on projects and work together as a team. Through PtD, members learn and develop social skills and confidence.



What you said

'It's creative because they are writing their own scripts and that involves collaboration, they've got to work in teams and co-operate with one another.' (Parent/carer)

What we found out from the evaluation

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Skills development

PtD members learn new and develop existing skills in theatre production: writing original scripts, acting, song writing, performing and set and costume design. New areas are being developed in video and music production. Members are gaining leadership skills through delivery of their own creative sessions.



Skills development

Members learn and develop life skills, e.g. dealing with conflict. This builds their social skills and confidence. PtD are supporting the development of skills in independence, self expression and planning. Other skills include cookery, gardening, digital technology. This will support member's employability in the future.

8

Addressing stereotypes

PtD's ethos is to break down barriers and stereotypes about those with additional needs and learning difficulties. It was noted PtD sought to reframe negative stereotypes about those with additional needs to a positive perspective. Messages within productions support this e.g. valuing and not judging others.



What you said

'[PtD] blast those myths out of the water and put the message out there that people need to take people as they are and for who they are and to value everybody' (Parent/carer)

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Impact on members

PtD has supported members in their sense of wellbeing, self-concept and connecting with others. Members enjoy being at PtD. They reported to have developed their creative and artistic skills and felt they were in a safe environment. This has also provided them with a desire to help others in similar situations.



What you said

'PtD has made me give my ideas to others in the group ...building my skills in other arts...making me smile... bring happiness and feeling comfortable.' (PtD member)

Future plans and conclusions

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Plans for the future

PtD aims to develop more productions, via different formats e.g. radio. They want to provide more opportunities for members to take on leadership roles and support employment opportunities. PtD want to expand their offer with the community e.g. through wider delivery of performances, or drop in cafe.



Plans for the future

Opportunities for potential income generation and future sustainability were discussed through: Enhancing PtD's offer to include foundation/ accredited education; Access to new funding sources e.g. Easy funding; Holiday clubs; Expanding membership; Creating micro-businesses for member's artwork; Introducing voluntary contributions.

2

Conclusions

PtD provides many positive benefits for its members especially in development of creative and artistic skills that are focused on individual interests and tailored to their diverse needs and strengths. All contributions are valued and celebrated. PtD provides a way to develop life and social skills and friendships for its members.



Conclusions

PtD provides a safe environment in which to address societal prejudices and for members to feel valued for themselves and their abilities. PtD have grown a community of likeminded individuals working towards a creative agenda. PtD supports member's wellbeing and health, quality of life, and their sense of self-concept.



Conclusions

PtD have a governance structure in place which includes the employment of staff, and the integration of volunteers into the services. Staff report feeling well-supported, receiving relevant supervision and training/development opportunities. Staff training is embedded in the organisation's structure.



Conclusions

Suggestions were made to access non-traditional methods of funding and for PtD to connect with other organisations to explore joint funding. Some participants suggested the saleability of PtD made items to aid future sustainability or that members might be willing to make voluntary contributions for attendance.