



Image: Paul Highnam

Artists:

Justin Fellows, Elizabeth-Jane Grosse, Sue Mayfield, Siobhan McElroy

Funders:

Bristol City Council

Collaborators:

Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust (AWP), University of the West of England

This participatory arts project for mental health service users at Callington Road Hospital, Bristol was a partnership project between AWP, Bristol City Council and Willis Newson. It involved artist residencies, the creation of permanent artworks, a showcase event and the development of a model to allow ongoing, sustainable arts activities. It received a Special Commendation for Contributions to the Field of Arts and Mental Health Practice from the Royal Society for Public Health in 2009.



Image: Paul Highnam

Residence artists – a poet, a musician and a visual artist – led a series of sequential workshops for adults and older adults within the hospital. Each residency built on the work of the previous artist. The project also included a fourth ‘reflective’ residency, lending an over-arching view of all the workshops involved. The final commissioned artworks included a booklet of poems, a CD and a series of vibrant collages now on permanent display. In addition an ‘exhibition in a box toolkit’ was created to support continued arts activities beyond the life of the project.



Image: Fiona Williams

An evaluation funded by AWP was carried out by researchers from the University of the West of England. This highlighted both the beneficial impact of participatory arts programmes and the need for support and training for those involved.

“...the whole project has completely boosted my confidence within my job and its pushed me to do certain things that felt quite difficult at times, but I’ve achieved them.”

AWP staff member involved in the project.