

projectart works

5. Model of Working

Project Art Works have spent a considerable time engaged in research with people who have complex needs and those that support them. PAW will propose using the following outline structure of engagement as a starting point for individuals and organisations new to working with people with complex needs:

EVENT 1: AWARENESS

Awareness raising presentation and discussion around PAW methodologies, approaches to working with those with complex needs, terminology, connecting to the social care sector etc. This will be followed by a workshop with a number of people who have complex needs and those that support them. Those present for the presentation are invited to observe the workshop, and when ready or when confident to do so, participate in working closely with a person with complex needs, supported by PAW artists.

"I found the encounter profoundly moving on an existential level – throwing up questions about the nature of human existence, quality of life, and ultimately death – and the precarious state in which we come to be here at all." Staff member, Camden Art Centre, 2012

EVENT 2: ENCOUNTER

Encounter workshops over 2/3 days involving people who have complex needs and those that support them, and those who have been part of the Awareness process. These offer the opportunity to experience a fully immersive workshop environment, over several days, and be supported in working closely with an artist and participant in a meaningful creative collaboration.

"Trying to get over an experience in a couple of hours won't change [a] life entirely but can set them on the road to a new life. Can be a 'light bulb' moment for [support] staff. Having categorised people it opens our eyes [to the fact] that people can do things and can experience beauty." Support worker of participant – inclusive workshops, FACT, 2012

EVENT 3: LEGACY

Legacy projects may include: Continuing professional development – visits, placements with social care organisations, co-commissions, exhibitions, seminars, Peer Support Networks and other events.

TOOLS

Following an extensive consent process; interventions, encounters and workshops will be recorded by PAW artists, partner teams and participants through sound, photography, video and notation. This data will form the basis of a rich archive of very different kinds of work that reflect the specificity of people, location, organisation/s, structures and resources of collaborators and the social care sector in each region.

FEEDBACK

Each project stage/event will be recorded moment by moment as well as thorough debriefings/evaluations after Awareness and Encounter sessions and through structured written feedback sessions with staff, artists, individuals, support workers.