

Easy Read



Disabled people and the arts

**A report about how to make the arts
more popular with disabled people**

This document was written by **Richie Turner and Associates**. It is an easy read version of **'Widening Engagement Report (Full).'**

October 2021

How to use this document



This is an easy read document. But you may still need support to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what all the words in blue mean on **page 22**.



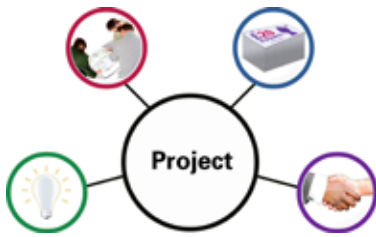
This document was made into easy read by **Easy Read Wales** using **Photosymbols**. To tell us what you think about this easy read version, please [click here](#).

Contents

Page

Introduction.....	4
About us.....	5
What we did.....	8
How we did it.....	9
What we found.....	10
What should happen next.....	17
Ideas to make things better.....	18
Hard words.....	22

Introduction



The **Arts Council of Wales** and the **National Museum of Wales** are doing a big project.

They want to make the Welsh arts more popular. Especially with **diverse** groups of people.



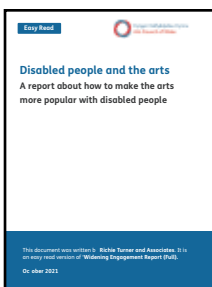
Diverse means we are not all the same. For example, people come from different backgrounds, make different choices or are good at different things.



The Welsh arts are not popular with some **diverse** groups. For example, with disabled people.



The **Arts Council of Wales** and the **National Museum of Wales** want to find out why. They asked us to help them.



This document is about what we found out.

About us



We are **Richie Turner and Associates**. There are 5 of us.



We are good at talking to **diverse** groups. Because we understand their needs.



Richie Turner was the main person running this project. He read and wrote up all the information.



Mary Allen talked to people who were **non-verbal communicators**.



Non-verbal communicators are people who don't use speech. For example, they might give you information using symbols. Or using special equipment.



Mary is an expert in working with people who are **non-verbal communicators**.



Trevor Palmer talked to disabled people and people with a learning disability.



Trevor is a disabled person. So he understands what it is like to be a disabled person.



Jonny Costen talked to the **Deaf people and people with hearing loss**.



Deaf

Jonny is **Deaf**. So he understands what it is like to be a Deaf and have a hearing loss.



English is not Jonny's first language. But he speaks it.



Lyndy Cooke made sure everyone did a good job on the project.

What we did



Deaf

We talked to disabled people. This includes people who are **Deaf and have a hearing loss**, disabled, people with learning disability, **neurodiverse** people living in Wales.



Neurodiverse people are people whose minds work in different ways.



We asked disabled people what stopped them from attending arts and cultural events.



We asked them for ideas on how to make the Welsh arts more **inclusive**.



Inclusive means everyone can take part, and everyone has a fair chance.

How we did it



Because of the pandemic, we could only talk to people on the phone. Or on video calls.



We didn't get to talk to as many people as we wanted.



But we still interviewed 93 people. And we did online surveys with 56 people.

Our surveys were with:

- disabled people
- disability organisations
- families and carers of disabled people.



We talked to people in Welsh, English and using British Sign Language.

What we found

Going to events can be hard



- A lot of events are not **accessible**.

Accessible means it is easy to go somewhere. And to get around. It also means something is easy to understand.



- Making bookings can be hard. And **accessible** information is hard to find.



- It is hard to find out if an event is **accessible**.



- A lot of venues are not **inclusive**. For example, they do not use British Sign Language.



- Staff do not understand disabled peoples' needs.

Disabled people have bad experiences

Bad experiences at events put people off going again. For example:



- Wording in museums being too hard to read.



- Not being able to see the British Sign Language interpreter. Or read the captions.



- Hearing loops not working.



- Buildings not being **accessible** for wheelchair users. Especially for bigger wheelchairs.



- Venues being too busy and noisy.



- Turning up and finding an event isn't **accessible**. Even when it was supposed to be.

Events are planned badly

Disabled people told us that **accessible** events are not well planned.

For example:



- **Accessible** events are only put on at certain times. Like in the daytime. Or at weekends.



- That's no use for people who want or need to go at other times.



- For example, when there is support and transport available.



- Venues don't plan for groups with more than one disability. For example, British Sign Language and **autistic** friendly events are put on separately. So friends with different needs can't go together.



Autism is the short name for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). When people have autism we say they are **autistic**.

There are transport problems



Some people don't go to events because it's hard to get there.



Sometimes public transport doesn't go to the venue. Or it costs too much.



It is hard to get **accessible** transport. Like taxis.



Travelling to an event takes a lot of planning.



It's not worth going if the event is not fully **accessible**.



Venues should be honest about how **accessible** an event is. So people don't waste their time travelling there.

Events disabled people would enjoy



We asked disabled people what events they would like to attend.



Most people said they would like more online arts events.

But they also told us about other activities and events they would like. For example:



- dance
- theatre, musicals, and opera
- readings and poetry
- events that include Disabled People
- visual arts and classes
- films with subtitles.



What would make museums better



Museums are not as popular as arts events.

We asked people what would make them visit more museums. They said:

- if there were talks that included them
- if there were activities with their senses. Like smell, touch, seeing, hearing, and taste
- if there were online activities.



Lots of people said they would like anything so long as it's fully **accessible**.

What should happen next



The **Arts Council of Wales** and the **National Museum of Wales** have lots of work to do.



They need to build trust with disabled people. And prove they are **inclusive**.



They need to make the Welsh arts fully **accessible**. In every way.



The **Arts Council of Wales** and the **National Museum of Wales** should work closely with Deaf, people with hearing loss and disability organisations. And with disabled people.



By all working together they can make the Welsh arts more **inclusive** and **accessible**.

Ideas to make things better

Technology



We asked disabled people for ideas to make things better.



They said technology could make events more **accessible**.

For example:



- Have devices that include all **accessible** formats. For example, a tablet that has British Sign Language, scripts, and audio descriptions.



- Hearing loops need to be updated.



- Have links to **accessible** information on all websites and leaflets. Or have 1 website with all **accessible** events listed.



- Have a British Sign Language chat function on websites.

Better planning



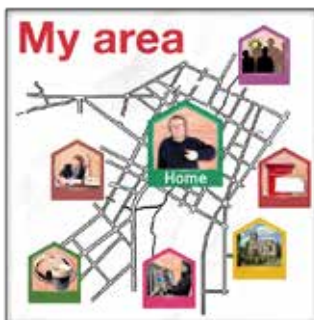
Disabled people said it would be good to have regular **accessible** events. For example, on the same day each month.



Then people would know when they were on. And people would feel sure that their needs would be met.



Venues should have all **accessible** events on at the same time. So that friends with different needs can go together.



There should be more **accessible** events locally. Because travelling to events is hard.

Staff training



Some staff are good at being **inclusive**. But some are not.



All staff need training on how to be more **inclusive**. And on how to support different needs.



Training should be done regularly. So people stay up to date. Training should be the same everywhere.



There should more disabled people working and volunteering in the arts.



Disabled people can teach staff how to be more **inclusive**.

Include disabled people in the arts



It would be good if disabled people were seen more in the arts. For example, in plays. Or in artwork.



Disabled people should get help to work in the arts.



Arts and culture training should be more **accessible** for disabled people.



Lots more people should be trained in British Sign Language. Including Welsh speakers.



British Sign Language should become the third language in Wales.

Hard words

Accessible

Accessible means it is easy to go somewhere. And to get around. It also means something is easy to understand.

Autism

Autism is the short name for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). When people have autism we say they are autistic.

Diverse

Diverse means we are not all the same. For example, people come from different backgrounds, make different choices or are good at different things.

Inclusive

Inclusive means everyone can take part, and everyone has a fair chance.

Neurodiverse

Neurodiverse people are people whose minds work in different ways.

Non-verbal communicators

Non-verbal communicators are people who don't use speech. For example, they might give you information using symbols. Or using special equipment.