

Conference Feedback and Evaluation



DESIGNING A CREATIVE APPROACH

A CONFERENCE ON USING CREATIVITY AS A BRIDGE BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY

THE SCOTTISH YOUTH THEATRE, BRUNSWICK STREET, GLASGOW.

THURSDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2008

Attendance: 72

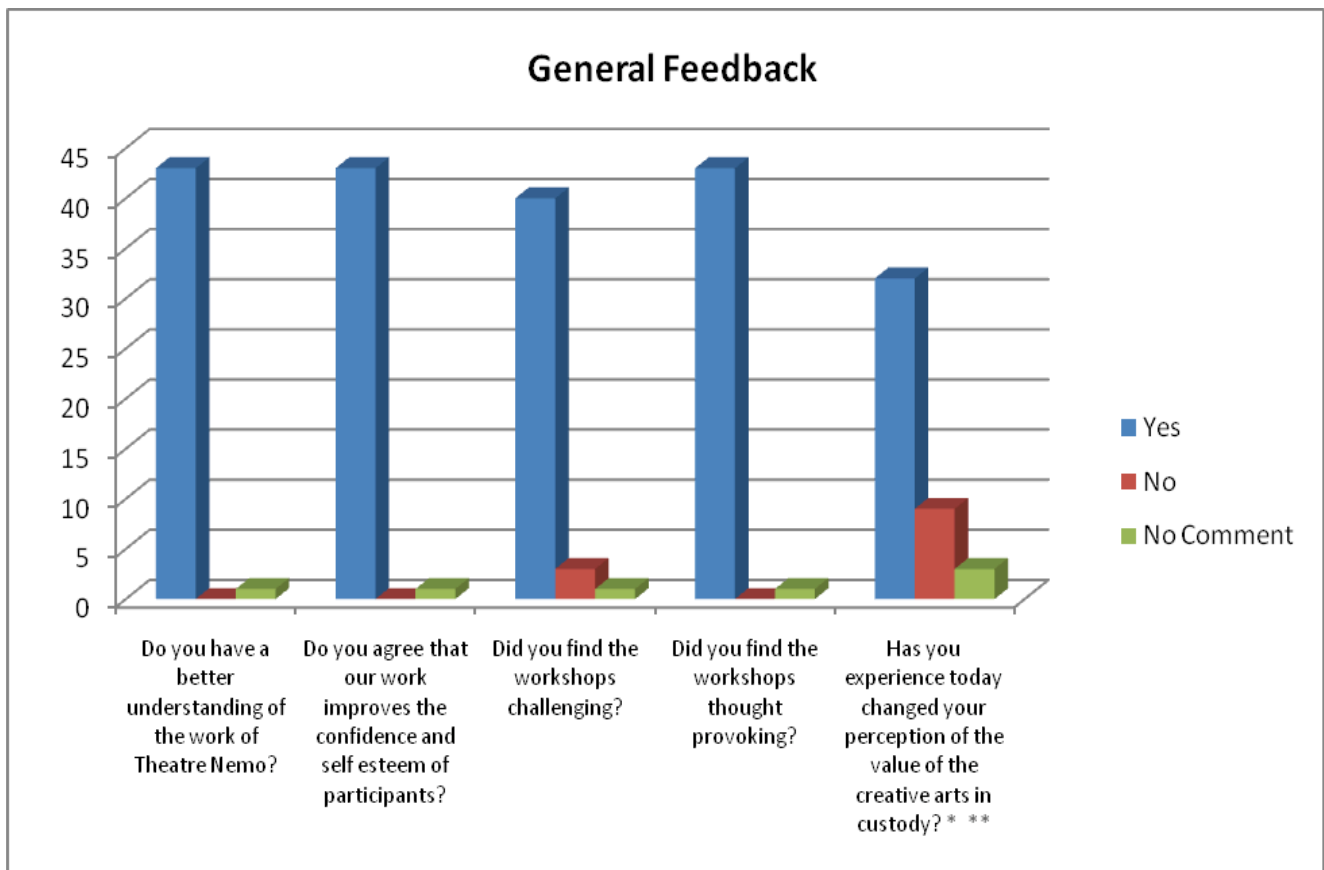
Feedback forms returned: 44

Updated 12/03/08

Compiled by Theatre NEMO 13/02/07 from feedback form distributed at the conference

Theatre NEMO, 128-130 Brigdegate, Glasgow G1 5HZ Tel: 0141 552 3198 Email: isabel@theatrenemo.org

www.theatrenemo.org



*of the 9 replies 8 added the comment that they already held this work in high regard

**of the 3 replies 2 added the comment that they already held this work in high regard

Comments...

"Very interesting day and great to see so much diversity in attendees (especially so many representatives from the prison service who value the power of the arts in Prisons)."

"Can now see how this type of activity could enhance prisoner's skills within prison and head to a more positive outcome on release."

"A very thought provoking conference. The workshop I did this morning was so simple in construction but extremely challenging for participants. The many benefits that could be gleaned from this were obvious."

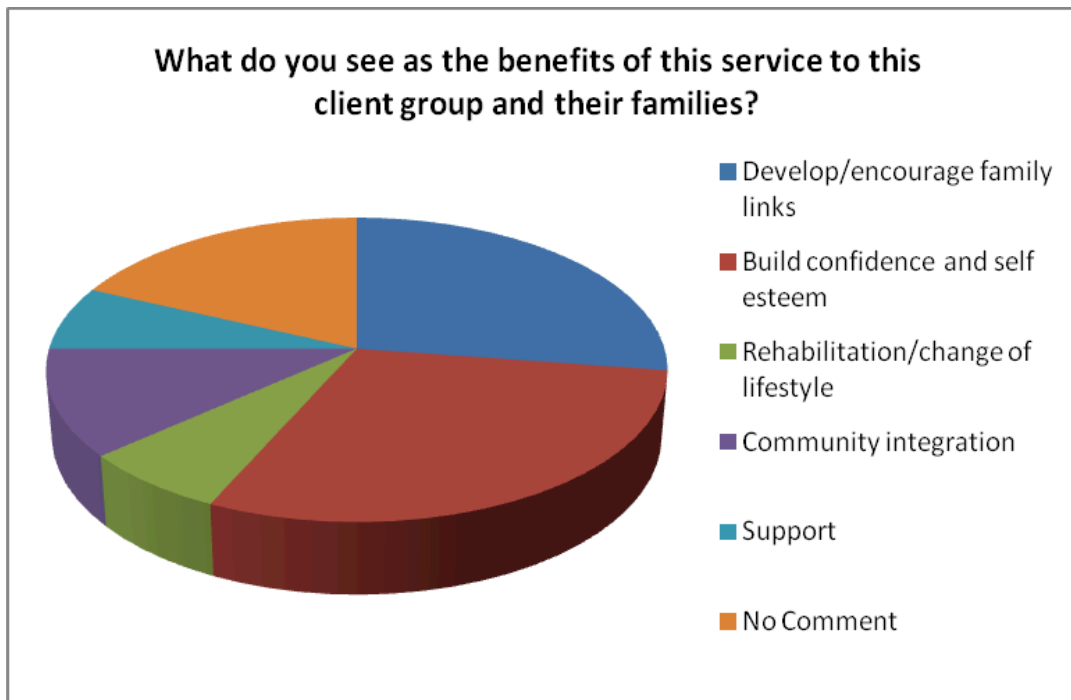
"This conference has been absolutely great! It's been imaginative in terms of finding out more about Theatre Nemo's work, and it's also been immensely enjoyable. Having the opportunity to participate in 2 workshops was an effective way of seeing Theatre Nemo's work in action and also demonstrating exactly why it's so valuable."

"The workshops were interesting and stimulating – you can see the opportunity for intervention leads to a change in mood, acceptance and enjoyment with fellow participants. How much more telling this must be when experienced inside a prison. The performances were revealing and let one experience the thoughts and emotions behind the facade of conformity and to feel the anguish and pain that people experience in prisons."

"I leave today with a new enthusiasm for the work Theatre Nemo do, particularly in Barlinnie where I work. I will do whatever I can to help them and try to work towards turning Barlinnie in a more caring therapeutic and successful place in helping people turn their lives around."

Question 1...

What do you see as the benefits of this service to this client group and their families?



Comments...

“Develop core and life skills. Raise self esteem and confidence. Highlight positive achievement and a family opportunity to praise individuals.”

“Community integration, development of learning skills and self awareness and how we impact on others.”

“Helping them to develop self worth, self belief and a purpose within the family and community in which they exist. A sense of belonging. An available ally – a listening ear. The offer of new horizons!”

“Providing skills to help lead to non-offending and more happy and productive lifestyles.”

“To build a continuous pathway of support in the community in a non threatening manner.”

“Involving families will enable them to gain an understanding of the problems that their loved ones have to deal with and provide relevant structured coping skills.”

“Increased confidence, self esteem, self worth. Gives both clients and families a renewed confidence and positivity about the future with each other.”

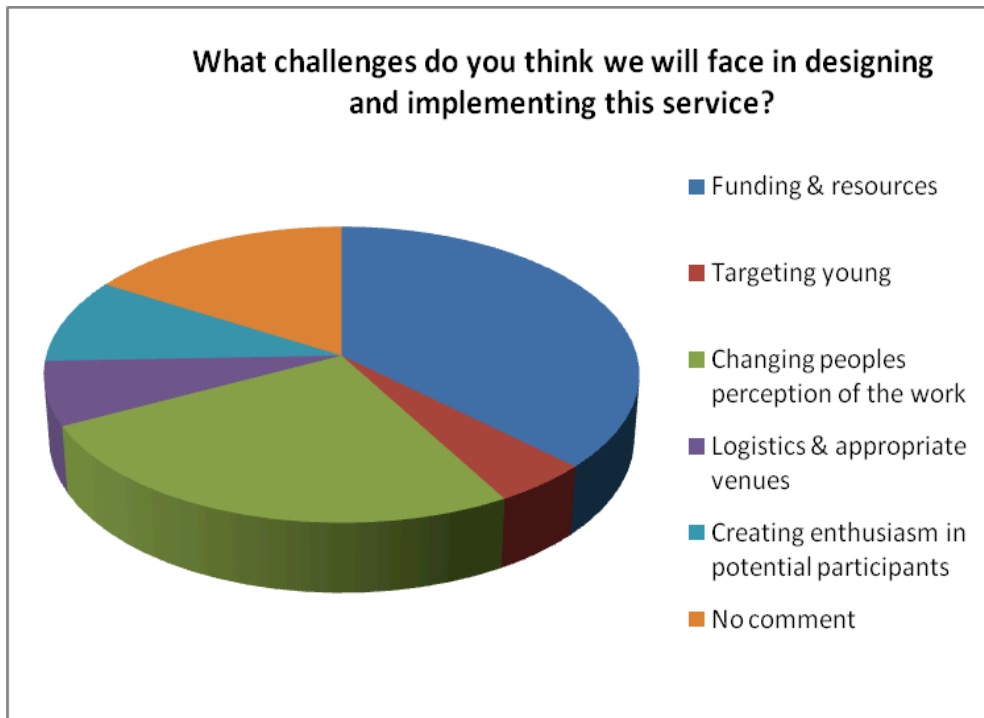
“Increasing self esteem of participants which may provide them with the skills to heal damaged family relationships.”

“Injecting positivity, raising esteem, raising confidence levels.”

“The feeling that they are being supported and that someone is on their side.”

Question 2...

What challenges do you think we will face in designing and implementing this service?



Comments...

"Financial as well as managing to get some prison staff to "buy into" the process of effectiveness of arts as a medium."

"Stigma, encouraging people to participate."

"Engaging with "customers". Passed off too easily as a gimmick – not for me. Young men/women will not easily see the benefits or think it's for them. Resources always!!!"

"Identifying where to do this. I think the Probation Service would be very helpful as they are in the prisoner's life once they leave prison."

"Gaining trust. Prejudices that people may harbour about the arts. Sustainability (funding!)."

"Usual ones – media, community perception, soft option."

"Apprehension – limiting beliefs. Stigma – judgemental comments from others at large. Bureaucratic narrow minded people in power?"

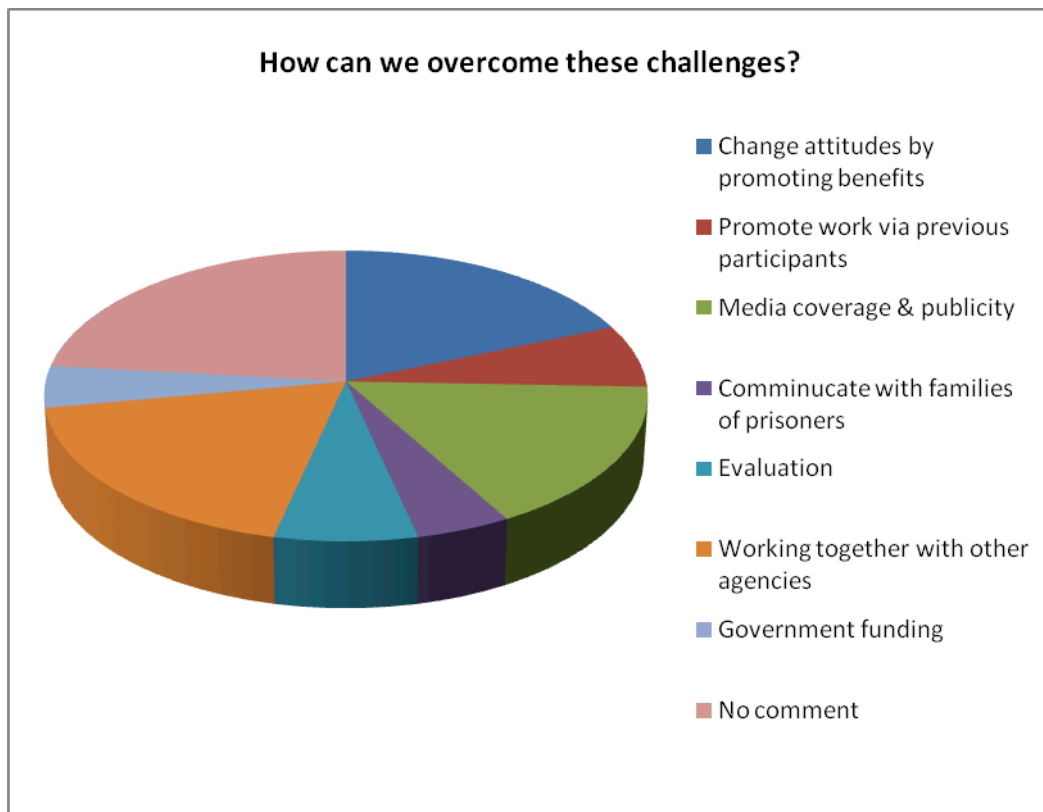
"Getting evidence that prisoners will attend in the community. Start to build up network in community."

"Must evaluate the benefits of the power of the arts."

"Getting/motivating clients. Fitting in with their real life and their daily routine and problems. Clients may feel they want nothing to do with the justice service."

Question 3...

How can we overcome these challenges?



Comments...

"Bring benefit of the arts to a wider public – change attitudes – justify spending on prison arts."

"Media, advertising appropriately, taster sessions with families and children at schools. Not clearly being linked with restrictive services – Social work, authorities etc. Use clients to promote the service with peers."

"Opening out theatre Nemo to as many as possible, having participants spread the word in terms of how they have benefited."

"Rigorous evaluation to establish the services effectiveness. Adhering to your person-central approach."

"I think by choosing prisoners who are willing to continue in the community. How to intervene before people go to prison so as to stop the whole process. This will mean a deeper community arrangement."

"To work in partnership and build a community. To raise awareness of Theatre Nemo and what it does."

"Media profiling, demonstrating value."

"Better inform people through media – education. Be included in government budgets. Keep doors open."

"Speak to the prisoners and their families and ask how they are feeling and what they want to gain from all of this."

"Getting policy makers on board, creative use of facilities in communities who tend to have facilities which are under used during the week. Life coaches provide a very effective bridge between prison and the community. "

"Partnership working. Use the CJA chief officers to promote this type of working."

Question 4...

4. How do you think your organisation will be able to support this initiative?

Comments...

"Promote it as a throughcare service. Use role-play and aspects of Theatre Nemo in rehabilitation programmes within the prison. These will no doubt be positive and can then be championed as part of this Theatre Group which can be accessed."

Clare Brennan, SPS

"We are hoping to get funding to get Theatre Nemo into Glenochil."

Heather Meacham, HMP Glenochil

"By providing support to those in prisons. Starting the process off in custody within a drive to keep in touch with those on release. Encourage participants."

David Abernethy, HMP Barlinnie

"Working with the group an inviting them to come along to community meetings to promote the group."

Geraldine Wilson, Routes out of Prison

"To provide via our reports a platform to publicise the benefits of the service."

John T. McCaig

"Assign a manager with responsibility."

John Robertson, SPS

"Raising awareness of the value of Theatre Nemo."

Marion Lavery, Social Worker, HMP Barlinnie

"Happy to raise awareness of Theatre Nemo's work to contacts. Include access to meaningful activities in SPS standard for health."

James Taylor, SPS

"Via Listeners support in the prisons."

Carol Brothwick, Samaritans

"SPS can expand or direct to other establishments."

Bill McKinlay, Barlinnie

"Via criminal justice social work supervision such as probation and parole programmes."

Robert Fyfe, Criminal Justice Social Work

"We can let our client know about Nemo and how it can help."

Allan McGinley, The Wise Group