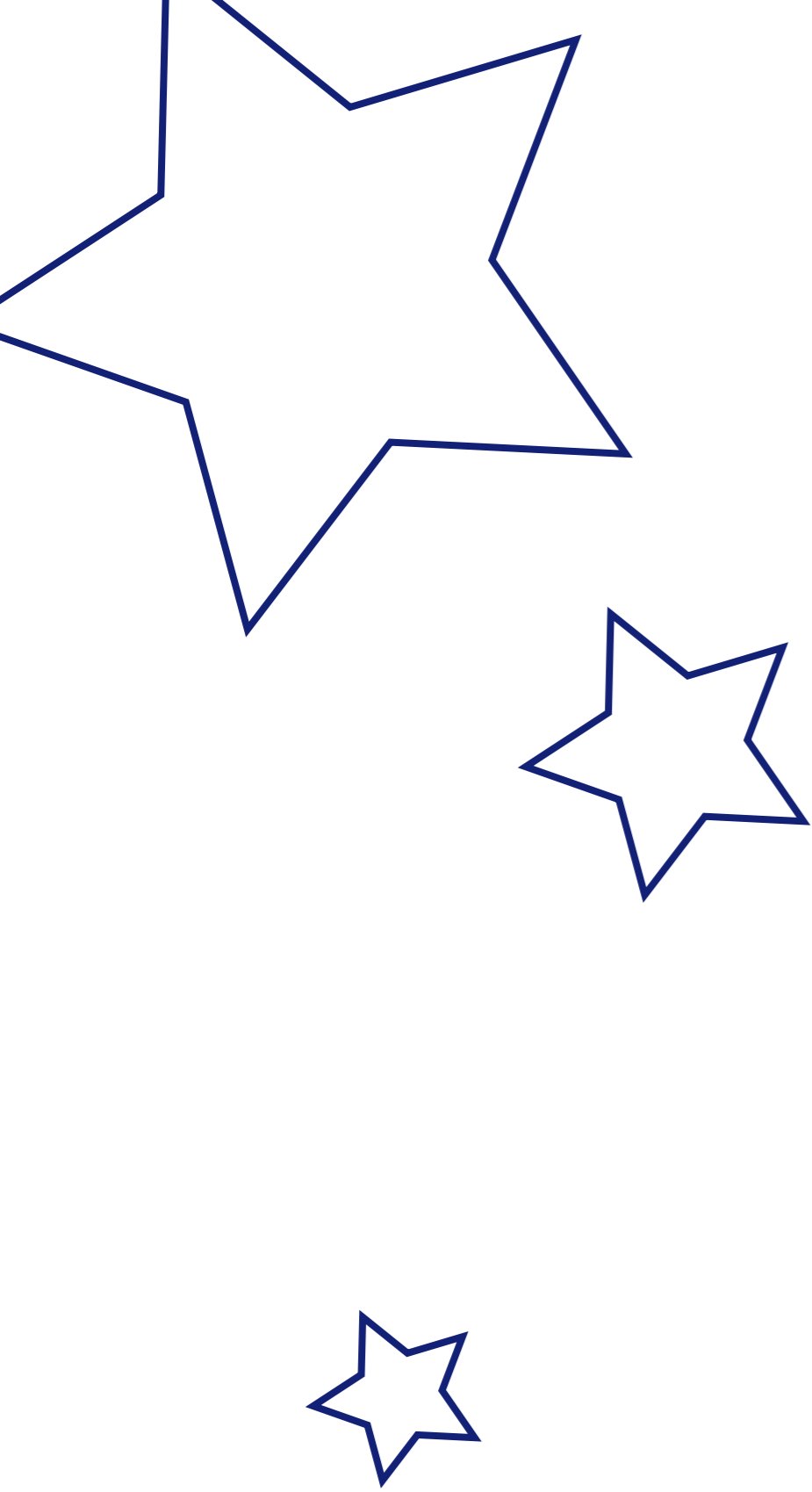




Moments of

Magic



Tameside Museum Service aims to be:

A dynamic, engaging and responsive Museum service that celebrates its community, collections, staff and sites ensuring a meaningful experience for all.

Our commitment in the next five years:

- Provide activities and facilities which are relevant to our local area
- Reflect the creativity & heritage of Tameside people
- Create a fun and welcoming environment
- Maintain high standard venue and excellent customer service

Tameside's Museums and Galleries – about you, for you



Moments of Magic[☆]

Museums and Galleries at the heart of Tameside's Community

We have long recognised that museums are in the 'life-changing' business. Getting up in the morning and going to work is an opportunity to create 'moments of magic' in our visitors' lives.

The concept of the dusty museum has long gone. For staff in Tameside a busy, noisy day in our museums is a good day. Our central purpose is to provide local residents with access to their heritage and visual art – it is to stimulate, to listen, to teach, to excite and to inspire. Mostly we want visitors to feel welcome, comfortable and positive.

The work we do is not just about exhibitions, it is about touching people's lives. We participate in the wider work of Tameside Council and we are central to learning, building communities and contributing to the health and wellbeing of residents.

We know museums and galleries can be a powerful, creative force and this publication, celebrating recent projects and ongoing commitments, shows how. It demonstrates the impact that museums have and how we energise and inspire our community.

Emma Varnam
Head of Museums and Galleries, Tameside MBC

Cllr. Jackie Lane
Project Head of Heritage & Tourism



Knitting Together ★ Tameside

“I knit on my knitting machine now, that saved my life. My husband died 20 years ago, and I didn’t know what to do with myself after his death, so I got a knitting machine and started going to knitting clubs and courses across the country. It kept me going and saved my life.”

Hilda Allcott, 82

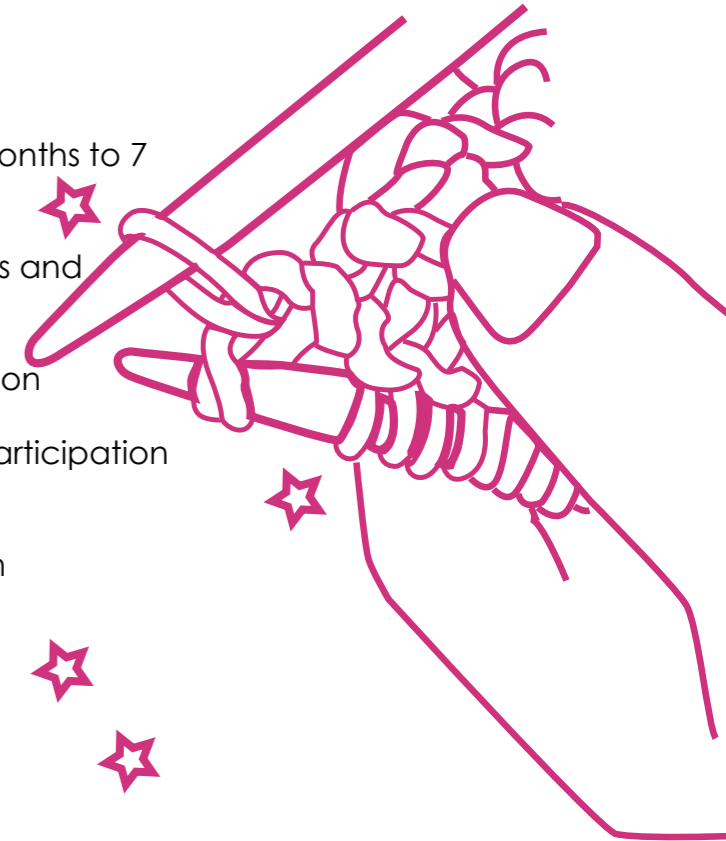
4 April – 27 May 2006
Central Art Gallery, Ashton - under - Lyne
Funded by the Arts Council

Knitting Together Tameside' brought together communities from across the borough to create a dynamic knitted artwork about the history of Tameside's nine towns. Over a 100 people were involved in the project, aged between 3 and upto 90 years of age. Each participant knitted 40 centimetre long pieces, incorporating stitches to represent their ages. The pieces were sewn together and the end result was a sprawling multicoloured work of art that mimicked the canals running through the borough.

'Knitting Together Tameside' brought people together to talk and knit. Some went away having learnt a new skill while others rediscovered forgotten skills that had been passed down from their mothers and grandmothers.

What we did:

- Engaged families with children aged 3 months to 7 years old with contemporary art
- Attracted new families to use the galleries and museums in Tameside
- Encouraged family learning and interaction
- Encouraged a sense of ownership and participation in the galleries' programme of exhibitions
- Encouraged fathers to play and have fun creating art with their children



★ Benefits to Participants and Wider Audiences

- Increased everyone's awareness of the variety in creative arts through meeting arts professionals
- Provided opportunities to share creative learning together
- Provided opportunities for people with an interest in crafts and creative activities to meet
- Increased the self esteem of the participants through co-operative work within a sociable environment
- Provided opportunities for developing a sense of community identity and broadened understanding





Dedicated to the One I Love

“To me a child would be basically going out with their friends and having a laugh and things. Going to funfairs and that, kicking a football on fields and not having to worry about anything if they did something wrong. Apart from that I wouldn't really know because I never had that chance.”

Ryan, 15

“I would like to introduce you to my son Richard all grown up, now 16 on the 2nd July 2007. A birthday I thought I would not get him to.”

Hazel, Richard's mother

30 June – 1 September 2007
Central Art Gallery, Ashton - under - Lyne
Funded by HLF, Young Roots Scheme

Dedicated to the One I Love was a photography project developed together with Tameside Young Carers and two documentary photographers. It provided 14 young carers with digital cameras and the know how to document their lives and present a very different image of teenagers' experiences in Tameside.

The project enabled the young people to have fun, to play, to learn new skills and take time out from their overwhelmingly busy schedules of managing school, caring for a family member and their life in general. The accompanying exhibition featured portraits by the documentary photographers alongside text from the participants and their own documentary photography of their lives.


Curated by Marie Knudsen



What we did:

- Engaged young people with contemporary photography
- Attracted new families to use the galleries and museums in Tameside
- Encouraged family learning and interaction
- Encouraged a sense of ownership and participation in the Galleries' programme of exhibitions
- Developed photography skills for the participants
- Developed the group's social skills
- Created awareness of Young Carers



Responsibility 
is what you do
It is important
because it sometimes
holds other people's
lives.

Jamie, 14

Cares for his younger brother



Benefits to Participants and Wider Audiences

- Enhanced self confidence amongst the participants
- Increased everyone's awareness of the variety of creative arts jobs through meeting arts professionals
- Actively and critically engaged everyone with documentary photography through participation
- Increased the self esteem of the participants through co-operative work within a sociable environment
- Created an accessible exhibition relevant to the people of Tameside
- Challenged negative assumptions about teenagers
- Broadened awareness of Young Carers





About the Past, In the Present, For the Future

“I liked making...I cant decide! They were both so great! There going to be like mini art and I cant wait for 100 years when the kids of the future can find out about our life. It surprised me so much that our artwork is going into a gallery”

Young participant

“my faviroute thing was... looking at the old objects and I like it because it inspired me to go look at this museum again!”

Young participant

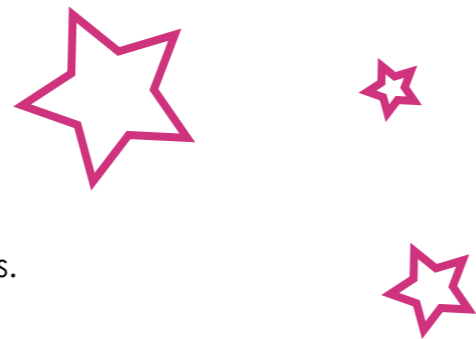
2 November 2007 – 19 January 2008
Central Library and Art Gallery, Ashton - Under - Lyne
Funded by the Children's Fund

Together with Tameside Libraries, the Museums and Galleries Service developed a series of workshops for primary school aged children in Tameside. During the project the children went to the museum stores to research and handle historical objects with the curators.

The children learnt about their past, increased awareness of their own place in history and speculated on their future.

With the help of the artists, the children produced a catalogue, dolls house furniture and other artwork inspired by the museum Art collections. The work was displayed across Central Library and Gallery in Ashton.

Curated by Marie Knudsen & Rachel Cornes



What we did:

- Engaged children from 5-13 years old with museum collections and contemporary art
- Encouraged a sense of ownership and participation in the Galleries' programme of exhibitions
- Encouraged creative thinking

Benefits to Participants and Wider Audiences

- Increased self esteem and confidence of participants
- Increased family learning and cohesion through art
- Increased civic pride
- Provided opportunity for creative learning
- Developed language, numeracy and creative thinking skills



“The arts workshops have been a great success with everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves. It's been great giving the young people the opportunity to express themselves creatively and get involved in activities they wouldn't normally take part in. They found the whole experience very uplifting and positive and seeing their creation being unveiled and on display will be fantastic!”

Ruhel Ahmed, Participation Worker from the NCH Tameside Participation Project



Artworks by children of Tameside working with interference-art and inspired by the collections of Tameside Museum and Gallery. Project funded by the Children's Fund and managed by NCH the Children's Charity

Fit for Life

“During my lifetime of living with renal failure I have always been able to enjoy my work. I would like to define my identity in terms of my relationships, my work and my passions. “

Dirk on living with renal failure

18 April – 16 October 2008
Portland Basin Museum, Ashton - under - Lyne
Funded by Tameside and Glossop Primary Care Trust

Exhibition visited by 53,380 people.
Over 1600 school pupils participated in Fit for Life - Healthy Schools workshops.

The Museums and Galleries Service was commissioned by Tameside PCT to promote and develop a creative and informative response to the health agenda in Tameside. We developed an exciting, family friendly exhibition and accompanying education programme for schools. The exhibition focused on key health areas such as alcohol consumption, smoking and diet using historic and contemporary objects. The education programme got pupils to explore the exhibition themes through activities, games and line dancing!

The exhibition also featured photography by artist Lucy Campbell-Maguire. Her work documented 10 Tameside residents battles with illnesses, providing a very personal angle to the exhibition.

Curated by Rachel Cornes

What we did:

- Engaged visitors with Tameside's health agenda in an innovative way
- Attracted new families to use the galleries and museums in Tameside
- Encouraged family learning and interaction
- Encouraged a sense of ownership and participation in the Services' programme of exhibitions
- Encouraged healthy living
- Provided an informal learning environment
- Worked with the Healthy Schools team to devise and deliver over 50 school sessions
- Promoted other health and wellbeing services from across the borough



“I don't know why I got away and they didn't? I see life differently from someone who has never had a mental health problem. It has taught me to be compassionate about disability and ill health. I value freedom, good health and family.”

Grainne diagnosed with schizophrenia at the age of 19



Benefits to Participants and Wider Audiences

- Developed confidence amongst parents to play and explore with their children
- Increased everyone's awareness of health and the benefits of exercise
- Actively and critically engaged everyone with contemporary health issues
- Created an accessible exhibition relevant to the people of Tameside
- Established better links with the community
- Educated young children about health issues





Adult Art Classes



“The art class gives me freedom. I enjoy meeting friends and learning in a lovely environment”

Ongoing
Central Art Gallery, Ashton - under - Lyne
The Rutherford Gallery, Ashton - under - Lyne

We run art courses and classes for adults at our galleries, championing life long learning in a supportive and encouraging environment.

The longest established art group at Astley Cheetham Art Gallery meets once a week over coffee and chat to explore art in a variety of forms; from sculpture to oil painting. This class has provided respite and friendship to many over the years and proves just how important and life affirming art can be. We are immensely proud of this group, for its diversity and ability to maintain a supportive and friendly environment for both regulars and new comers.

Project Managed by Katie Kennedy

What we did:

- Provide a supportive life long learning environment for all abilities
- Attract new users to the galleries and museums in Tameside
- Encourage social interaction

Benefits to Participants and Wider Audiences

- Developed confidence amongst groups members to create art
- Increase cohesion through art
- Actively and critically engage everyone with contemporary art through participation
- Increase the self esteem of the participants
- Stimulate mental wellbeing and health through art



Image 09

Annual photography competition for secondary and college students in Tameside. 2009 was the first year for Image.

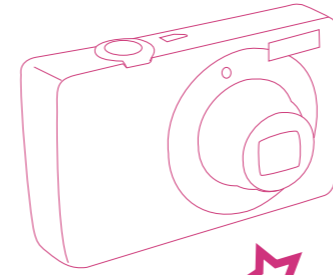
“I was delighted the way in which a number of the pupils at Dale Grove engaged with the project presented by Image 09. It was however especially rewarding for all the pupils involved to have their work recognised. Elliot in particular was delighted and indeed proud that someone outside of school had recognised and appreciated their efforts and they were overwhelmed to see it framed on public display. Elliot said to me “hey miss us in a gallery who’d of thought it” he then began taking pictures of the guy with all the bling (Elliot’s words not mine) of course referring to the Mayor. Most of all I would like to thank you for making our pupils feel special. You cannot understand what it means to myself and the pupils in our care. Thanks”

Kim McDonough, teacher

Following the success of the ‘Dedicated to the One I Love’ exhibition we felt challenged to provide young people with an opportunity to have their work involved in a professional photography exhibition.

The exhibition results from an open photographic competition for those aged 11 – 18 at Tameside schools or colleges. The work is judged by independent professional photographers and the work exhibited at Central Art Gallery.

Curated by Marie Knudsen

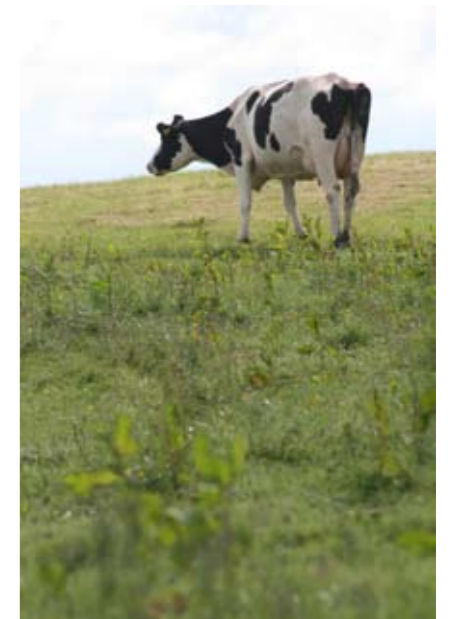


What we did:

- Engaged young people with contemporary photography
- Encouraged learning and interaction
- Encouraged a sense of ownership and participation in the Galleries’ programme of exhibitions
- Encouraged photography skills for the participants
- Encouraged a positive image of young people

Benefits to Participants and Wider Audiences

- Enhanced self confidence and attainment amongst the participants
- Provided opportunities for developing a sense of community identity and broadened understanding of local area
- Challenged negative assumptions about teenagers
- Encouraged critical analysis and self reflection





Yoga

“Yoga calms the mind and helps me with depression.”
Yoga participant

“I feel fit and healthy, and my joints are flexible.”
Yoga participant

Wednesday lunchtime – ongoing
Central Art Gallery, Ashton - under - Lyne

Central Art Gallery runs a weekly lunchtime yoga session in one of the gallery spaces. The sessions provide a calm and supportive environment for all ages to enjoy and benefit from yoga. The idea was originally put forward by a group from Age Concern and there are now a group of regular participants who take part in the lunch time sessions.

Yoga is an ideal companion to the art in the galleries as both can provide a haven of peace and tranquillity away from the stress and concerns of everyday life. Yoga not only helps balance and flexibility of joints, it also has a calming and re-energising effect on the mind, something the service is keen to support.

Project Managed by Marie Knudsen

What we did:

- Provide a supportive life long learning environment for all abilities
- Attract new users to the galleries and museums in Tameside
- Encourage social interaction
- Encourage a sense of ownership and participation in the Services offered by the borough
- Stimulate mental wellbeing and health through exercise
- Provide a space relevant to local people

Benefits to Participants and Wider Audiences

- Develop confidence amongst groups members
- Supported healthy living in the borough
- Relaxed learning opportunities
- Meeting new people

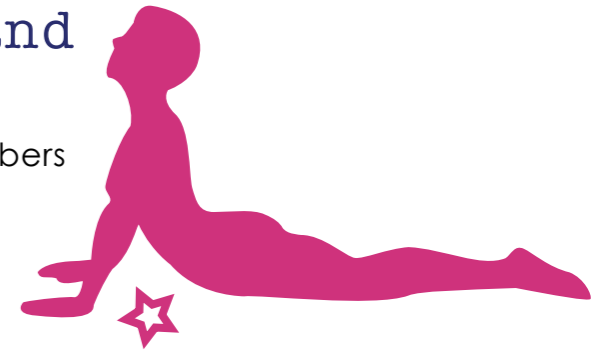


Illustration of local history



POPPs

“I’ve enjoyed everything about the session; the company, doing things with my hands and seeing the old things again”

Workshop attendee

“It’s good sharing memories with the group. I enjoy the company and like to talk”

Workshop attendee

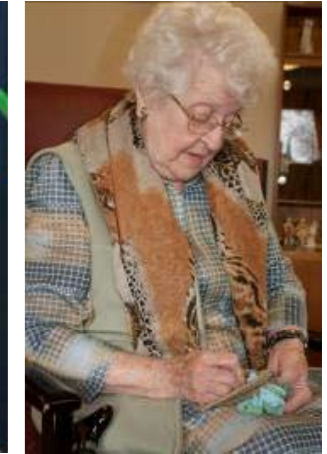
“It’s been a good laugh, you know, and laughing makes you feel good”

Workshop attendee

Through funding from the Opening Doors for Older People’s Partnership (POPPs), Tameside Museums & Galleries appointed a POPPs Project Facilitator to engage older people living in Tameside with the museum and gallery collections.

We have established links with older residents at Tameside community groups, sheltered housing and luncheon clubs. We are engaging these groups with reminiscence sessions and art workshops related to local history through the museum and gallery collections.

Project Managed by Leisa Gray, Garry Smith & Katie Kennedy



“Looking at the museum objects was very good. It brought back memories of things costing just three pence. I’d forgotten things could be so cheap!”



Workshop attendee

“The rag rugging was fun, but slow enough so that we could still talk”

Workshop attendee



What we did:

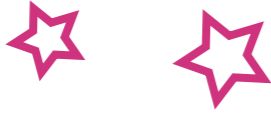
- Engage older people in Tameside with the Museums and Galleries’ collections
- Encourage social interaction and creativity
- Encourage a sense of ownership and participation in the services offered by the borough
- Stimulate mental wellbeing through reminiscence and art projects
- Support healthy living in the borough



Benefits to Participants and Wider Audiences

- Participate in creative art sessions and museum and gallery visits
- Share experiences with others
- Develops confidence amongst groups members
- Increases self esteem and confidence





Knit and Natter

“This group is just what I’ve been looking for. It’s just what Ashton needs”



Knitting group attendee

We run a fortnightly knitting group at Central Art Gallery for people to drop in to, share skills and meet new people. The group is open to anyone who may be interested in knitting, learning to knit or sharing their own skills with others. Materials and tuition are provided if needed; otherwise participants can bring along their own knitting projects. We try and create a relaxed atmosphere in the gallery space and an opportunity, not only to learn, but also to have a good chinwag and a cup of tea!



What we did:



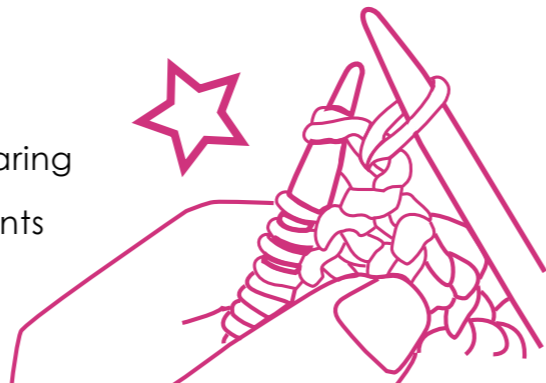
- Encourage social interaction and creativity
- Provide learning opportunities for local people
- Stimulate mental wellbeing



Benefits to Participants and Wider Audiences



- Share skills with others
- Develop confidence amongst groups members
- Increase cohesion through understanding and sharing
- Increase self esteem and confidence of participants





adult
who has los
they once
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1:7