

Manchester sessions by People's Voice Media

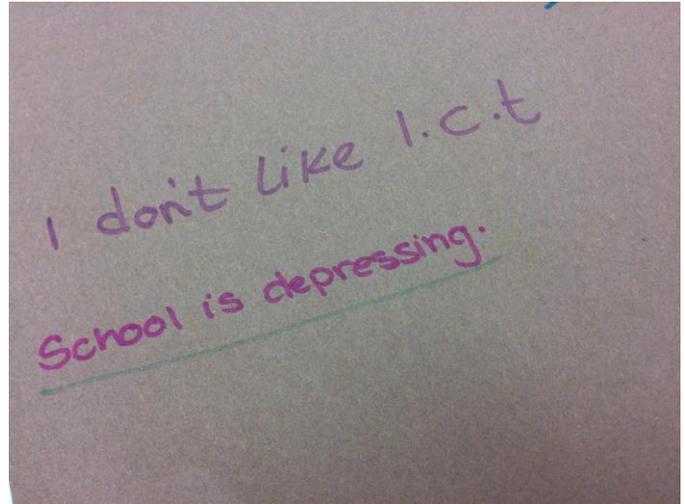


In line with PVM's basic mission we wished to invite young people to get acquainted with the Community Reporting method, using some elements of Forum Theatre.





About the workshops



Who participated?

We worked with two groups of young people from two alternative education providers.

The first partner was Included Learning – a small alternative education provision for approximately 12 pupils. We worked with a group of 4 of these pupils all aged 13 to 14. The group was three females and one male. All of these participants had some form of learning difficulty or special educational need.

The second partner was GRIP Education Programme – a support programme for young men and women at risk of exclusion from mainstream education. In this group there were 12 participants all aged 13 to 18, with ten males and two females.

About the recruitment

Young people were recruited by working with local alternative education provisions. Meetings were set up with local education workers and youth workers and the project was promoted heavily online and through social media. However, uptake was slow and so it was decided that the most effective route would be to work directly with alternative education providers, as they were working directly with young people at-risk of school exclusion.

Where were the sessions?

Both groups were closed, private groups specifically for members already accessing each alternative education provision.

The Included Learning group sessions took place in a classroom setting at the education centre for two of the sessions, and in a local church hall for the final session.

The GRIP group sessions took place in a large hall at a local facility called Gorse Hill Studios, which provides arts facilities to the local community.

About the Facilitator

One female facilitator, White British, age 30, trained in youth and community work, Theatre of the Oppressed and musical theatre.

+ Methodology

Ideally we wanted to deliver a course that combined a full Silver Community Reporting course (covering storytelling, recording stories using basic video and audio media, photography and ethical reporting) and elements of Theatre of the Oppressed (Forum Theatre and Image Theatre) to explore the topic of early school leaving with these groups. We hoped that this structure would allow young people to learn new skills and to explore opinions and ideas in a safe and fun learning environment, as well as enabling them to become part of the national network of Community Reporters.

However, in the end the focus became more on Community Reporting. It would have been nice to have the opportunity to explore Forum Theatre more with these young people but due to the short time limit imposed upon the project (the workshops had to fit in with the partner's existing plans and curriculum) and the confidence levels of the group it was more beneficial to just work with one method.



+ Workshop outlines

Group 1:

Session 1:

- Introductions, ice breakers, trust building and exploring group dynamic
- Introduction to Community Reporting
- Exploring equipment and basic photography skills
- Exploring opinions about mainstream education and school

Session 2:

- Interview skills and ethical reporting
- Carrying out filming of interviews on the topic of school and ESL

Session 3:

- Building on camera skills and interview skills learned last week
- Evaluation

Group 2:

Session 1:

- Introductions, ice breakers, trust building and exploring group dynamic
- Introduction to Community Reporting
- Exploring equipment and basic photography skills
- Exploring opinions about mainstream education and school

Session 2:

- Interview skills and ethical reporting
- Carrying out filming of interviews on the topic of school and ESL

Session 3:

- Storytelling skills and sharing own experiences of school and ESL
- Filming storytelling and creating Community Reporting content