



## **INR-I**

### **Name of Organisation**

Yeovil District Hospital

### **Title of project/programme**

INR-I

### **Dates of project/programme**

October 2010-Feb 2011

### **Summary**

Hugh Turvey was artist-in-residence over a period of six months in the X-ray department at Yeovil District Hospital. The project aimed to engage the public by making a series of visual artworks with Radiology equipment. Hugh Turvey worked closely with Sasha Moore, Senior Radiographer, radiology consultants and the arts coordinator in developing ideas for workshops and artworks to improve the environment of the department. Staff and the public were involved in bringing interesting objects and revealing their structure or content by using x-rays with a qualified radiographer. The children particularly enjoyed the workshop process, seeing science being brought alive and learning with their parents seemed a mutually beneficial and fun experience. 95% of participants from the workshops said they would be interested in using the Radiology equipment again and had enjoyed the opportunity.

29 striking artworks were produced as a result of these workshops and are now on permanent display in the department. Patients rarely see their imagery since the advent of digital radiography so part of the work produced enabled a display of the different modalities to show patients that each area views the body in different ways. Learning outcomes were disseminated nationally through the British Institute of Radiology where the artist was in a parallel residency.

This project was principally funded by the Wellcome Trust and supported by Yeovil District Hospital (YDH). <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk>

### **Overview**

Senior radiographer and artist Sasha Moore, consulting radiologist Dr Richard Clarkson, arts coordinator Alex Coulter and colleagues invited X-ray artist Hugh Turvey to become artist-in-residence to undertake the inr-i ('inner eye') project.

Principally funded by a Wellcome Trust Small Arts Award, the project included a series of workshops and drop-in sessions during which members of the public and hospital staff and their families brought objects to be X-rayed. As the radiographer took the image, they explained the basics of X-raying to the participants. Toys, shoes, seashells and even a police helmet were among the items imaged.

The 29 striking images produced are on permanent display at Yeovil District Hospital, and the team is exploring the possibility of touring the images around other UK hospitals.

The lack of public understanding of Radiology has been identified by staff and the need to demystify and find new ways of communicating complex imaging procedures was felt to be an appropriate way to increase public knowledge and in turn improve the patient experience.

### **Aims and Objectives were:**

- To engage the public and improve communication by making a series of visual artworks with Radiology equipment.
- To help develop public understanding of the radiology department.
- To increase awareness of the public the range of modalities in use in the department and their capabilities.
- To increase understanding of staff as to how a creative interpretation of x ray can aid communication with patients and help demystify procedures.
- Support the hospitals arts and health strategy in improving the hospital environment by exhibiting the works

Art forms used were: visual art, X- Ray imaging and printing.

Outputs were:

Participatory workshops  
Seminars/talks  
Exhibition  
Learning resources – website  
Video material

Radiographers, consultants, Artists, Art Coordinator, patients, patients family and friends, special interest groups e.g. Yeovil Camera Club were involved in the project which took place at Yeovil District Hospital X Ray Dept from October 2010 until Feb 2011.

Public workshops, where people brought familiar objects to be X Rayed, took place. Artist worked with staff to explore the creative potential of other imaging equipment. Staff voted on which images were to be selected and manufactured as metal backed pieces/framed images.

An exhibition of 29 permanent artworks were created with the public and the staff during 3 workshops that took place on Saturday mornings and 4 drop in sessions after 5pm within the week. The artist enhanced learning at these

workshops with a creative approach, his emphasis being on the revealing aspect of x-rays. The participants found seeing the insides of electrical toys especially interesting. Personal objects brought in by all ages were shown in a different perspective. As the images were taken the Radiographer explained the basic principles of x-ray imaging. There were a series of human images in the form of a short presentation which the public were asked to listen to given by the consultant Radiologist. Parallels were made between imaging objects and the human body. An interactive station at one of the computers allowed children to discuss other images with the Radiographer.

## **Innovation**

Having a professional artist in residence working in the department was found to be very beneficial in that, the artist's interaction with staff with a high level of technical knowledge developed his understanding of the creative potential of the equipment as well as feeding new concepts into his thinking. Feedback has shown that the project was believed to be a good use of the equipments down-time and has provided an opportunity for staff to discuss and debate. It has also shown that imaging creatively is thought to be a dynamic process, which benefits clinical practice and improves discourse between staff.

## **Participation**

An exhibition of 29 permanent artworks were created with the general public and Yeovil Hospital Radiology staff during 3 Saturday morning workshops (9am-2pm) and 4 drop in sessions after 5pm for (2 hours each) within the week.

The artist enhanced learning at these workshops with a creative approach, his emphasis being on the revealing element of x-rays. Personal objects brought in by all ages were shown in a different perspective. There were a series of human images in the form of a short presentation which the public were asked to listen to given by the consultant Radiologist. Parallels were made between imaging objects and the human body. An interactive station at one of the computers allowed children to discuss other images with the Radiographer.

Workshop attendance: 50 General public + 20 staff and their family members, +7 from the photographic club. Overall attendance was 77 people with 50 completing feedback forms.

## **Outcomes**

The project developed from including all the modalities to just x-ray, due to time constraints and clinical needs. Initially a series of light boxes for the final works was envisaged but these proved too expensive for the budget so aluminium panels were chosen instead. The role of the Radiographer was extended and included the evaluation throughout as the Arts co-ordinator has limited contracted hours with Yeovil District Hospital. The delivery of the project was within the time frame set out by the Wellcome Trust. 29 works were produced for the final exhibition; they were installed quickly and without disruption to the Radiology department. A talk was given by the Artist and

Radiographer at UCL, to medical physicists who research in Radiology equipment. An article on the project was published in the Wellcome Trust magazine 'Wellcome News'

<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/News/2011/News/WTVM052878.htm>.

A facebook page outlining the project has been created.

Staff members wrote, *'An excellent experience, my 12 year old daughter thought the whole experience was brilliant. She learnt about x-rays, how they are formed, what shows on x-rays, also, that radiation penetrates. She loves the images and is delighted some of her images are displayed. Real confidence boost for her and she is now educating her fellow pupils about it.'*; *'Great to have a certificate to present at school from the workshops that commended activity other than sport, helped my son gain experience and confidence outside the school environment.'*; *'Totally worthwhile, adds interest, sparks conversations and helps break down barriers.'*

96% of the general public completing a questionnaire enjoyed seeing the final works. One patient wrote that they 'lifted her spirits, were wonderful/ appropriate' and *'showed that x-rays penetrated.'* She felt they were *'a good talking point'* and that they *'really broke the ice.'*

The participants found seeing inside electrical toys especially interesting. As the images were taken the Radiographer explained the basic principles of x-ray imaging.

In terms of learning about science a 7 year old boy said that he had, *'yes, in a fun relaxed way.'* He said the images 'showed what x-rays would do to him' and that he 'felt more relaxed in their presence. 'Another patient commented *'Very clever way of making the process accessible can only be a good thing.'*

The arts co-ordinator commented, *'The opportunity to use medical equipment in a creative context is highly unusual and the children (and adults) involved have been receptive and excited by the opportunity and hopefully can relate to such a positive experience should they be admitted as patients in the future.'* The artist involved also found the experience beneficial and worthwhile, stating; *' Having the opportunity to see an x-ray department functioning has been truly inspirational, especially when you realise how many patients are treated on a daily basis and how a number of factors really impact on the staff.'*

The project was evaluated using a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, including questionnaires, feedback discussions and testimony from key partners.

The final works were evaluated by feedback questionnaires, 50 members of the public responded. 72% said it made them think about science, 86% would like to see similar images in the other modalities.

It was reported that the staff that were involved really enjoyed the opportunity to work collaboratively with another artistic professional. From the staff feedback, confusion over funding sources in a time of financial hardship in the

NHS has been the main objection from staff. This was communicated more clearly after this became apparent.

## **Learning**

It was reported that:

- Plenty of time should be allowed for evaluation and analysis throughout the project. A lot of time was donated in goodwill, but in reality it is difficult to put this on top of a full time contracted job for the Radiographer involved, who also has heavy on call commitments. The time that each member can put in should be checked and the flexibility of members assessed.
- It should be ensured that budget planning is as accurate as possible and includes VAT, as, even in a hospital, very little can be claimed back.
- Financial planning needs to be in place for the installation of works and time allowed, it took the artist approximately one long working day (9 hours) to hang 10 small works with self locking mechanisms.
- Most elements of the project took longer than expected.
- The team involved could always be larger than originally intended to spread the workload and provide a contingency for sickness cover or unexpected.
- One of the challenges reported was to secure match funding. The Arts Council were unable to provide any support in the current financial climate. However, Yeovil District Hospital were able to match fund with money from the art in healthcare capital gains initiative which states that 5% of the budget of all new developments involving public areas is spent on improving the patient experience. Art in hospitals is endorsed by Yeovil District Hospital Trust to improve the patient experience and promote healing.
- During the accumulation of images the cost of image storage was highlighted as being expensive and difficult to calculate. Due to the archiving nature, images can never be deleted once sent to the archive. The Radiology manager had no objections as long as these were kept to a minimum. Unfortunately the images are not secure (and can be taken off as copies TIFF or JPEG files) in terms of copyright for the artist unless they are made into a VIP format. The images were subsequently made secure so the artist's contract was not breached.

## **Critical success factors**

It was reported that the collaborative team worked well together, all sessions were enjoyable, creative and productive. Each of the 3 key members, (Arts co-ordinator, Artist and Radiographer) communicated regularly and effectively to ensure deadlines were being met.

The workshops had a productive atmosphere, with unexpected radiography staff getting involved to help as the project progressed.

The public were kept at the forefront of the project, from the workshops feedback was gained from which information was drawn to help formulate the

final works with the images they helped create. Final works were chosen from a selection of thumbnail images from the workshops by a sticker vote. At least 104 members of the public voted in 1 week. The final feedback suggested that the works were enjoyable and relevant.

Staff felt ownership over the final works they helped create and have used them as a communication tool to break the ice and help explain procedures.

Further funding is being identified to support a second collection of a number of works that could tour hospital settings nationally.

### **Funding and Resources**

The total budget was £12k this came from the Wellcome Trust with additional in-kind support from hospital radiology staff and Arts Coordinator and cash support from the Hospital Art Fund.

### **Contact details for further information**

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