

# IGNITE IMAGINATIONS

## Annual Report 2017-18



Ignite Imaginations is a limited company registered in England (5603846) and a registered charity (1116631).  
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## This year...

We've worked  
with  
**2,930 people**

...and  
**46 partners**

**100%** of our  
partners thought  
our projects  
were high quality  
and well delivered.

## People we worked with

**94%**  
of adults and children  
**increased in  
confidence**

**98%**  
of adults and children  
**increased their  
creative skills**

**95%**  
of adults and children  
**had an increased  
sense of being  
part of their  
community**

## Funding...

... we secured a further 3 years of funding from SYHA's Age Better programme for our Start Up project supporting older people to start new activities in their local area.

... after a successful pilot project, we received funding from Age Better to deliver the We Are Makers programme, celebrating the people over 50 who make the communities of Burngreave and Firth Park special.

...with another round of funding from Children in Need we were able to repeat our Everyday Stories project in 5 libraries this summer and introduce an art club for children with extra needs in the city centre. Altogether this provided free creative provision for over 200 children.

*"It has been insightful for me as I have been able to awaken my writing side, but also it has helped me write about my past and see how far I have come."*  
Participant from Rotherham Rise, an organisation who provide help and support to survivors of domestic abuse. They created a booklet of poetry inspired by their lives.



*"A woman came on the walk expecting to look at places where she used to play as a child and came away knowing so much more including how Tinsley has always been multicultural even back in Roman times."*  
Artist report from the second Tinsley Time and Travel art walk. Each walk and workshop explored a different milestone in time of Tinsley's history, starting with the Bronze Age. In partnership with Heeley City Farm.



*"One resident seemed very confused and struggled to recall anything from his past at all, but when we played an old song he started singing along - he knew every word - and talked about dancing with his mother when he was young. He had a lovely smile on his face."*  
Report from the Sporting Memories group at Park View sheltered housing scheme, encouraging the residents to come out of their rooms, meet each other and share memories.

*"At a difficult time losing yourself learning a new skill was so enjoyable."*  
Photography course at Clifford House, a day centre run by St Lukes Hospice providing courses, groups and support for people affected by an illness that has no cure.

*"A mother and teenage daughter came along to create a floral nature picture. They were thoroughly engrossed for about 40 mins. They said they enjoyed it and it was very relaxing...lovely to have some 'mother daughter' time. They want to buy some clay to use at home."*  
Artist report from the Wardsend Cemetery celebration workshop where people used Fimo to create nature inspired pictures and celebrate the 160th anniversary of the cemetery.

*"An opportunity to think about and interpret our history, space, and community in a novel way. Great!"*  
Group member who took part in the Lakelands project, in partnership with Sheffield Wildlife Trust, exploring peoples use of and feelings about the Sheffield Lakeland area.



*"Before the group my daughter thought she wasn't very good at art - it has helped her to realise creativity isn't just about drawing."*  
Participant at Everyday Stories, using different art techniques each week to express what makes them who they are.



### British Legion

We received funding from The Royal British Legion to run intergenerational workshops exploring memories and moments in time that affect us all. First, we worked with 30 ex-service men and women from Rotherham Military Community Veterans Centre (MCVC) and 50 young people from Sheffield Sea Cadets.

The groups explored their personal memories in separate sessions and then came together to share their stories.

*"The veterans were very patient and worked with a kindness guiding (the young people)...The mixed media banner of painting, collage, clay and sewing was thoughtfully made by many of the young people and veterans working side by side and helping with the threading of needles and planning the lay out of the design. It was a hive of activity and story telling and I think the veterans were reminded of their past when they were first beginning their careers in the Forces." Artist*



We also facilitated 10 young people at a local secondary school to create a large portrait of an ex-service man from WW2.

*"I felt really important, they think I am a hero! Such talented children, it was a real treat to be with them" 91 year old ex serviceman.*

The workshops culminated in a 4-day exhibition in Sheffield City Centre with 30 people attending the opening and over 400 seeing the exhibition its self.

*"These sessions have really brought everyone together in the process of making. The work has been really therapeutic, it's a break from the norm and added a new dimension to our meetings." MCVC member.*

*"This project has opened our eyes to other people's regiments and all the different terms and sayings. We feel more knowledgeable and part of the British Family" MCVC member.*

5.

### Hopes and Dreams

We partnered with Aid Works (a company that runs training for people supporting aidwork in Africa) to run a series of creative workshops with refugee women exploring their 'Hopes and Dreams' through the medium of art.

The workshops worked with groups at Darnall Library, Together Women, Places for People and South Yorkshire Resettlement Programme, to share their hopes and dreams for their own future, and that of their families. The women were predominately refugees who have made Sheffield their home, but the groups included women who were born and brought up in the City.

The resulting artwork was displayed at the Moor Market.

This project was funded by Evan Cornish Foundation and the J G Graves Charitable Trust.



*"The activity has been lovely – to sit amongst a group of women, with our children, chatting away."*

*"M was reluctant to join in with activities, understanding little English. I chatted with her and showed some visual examples, leaving her with paper and drawing materials but she didn't touch them; as I worked around the room she caught my eye and requested a large canvas and paints which she proceeded to paint on, creating her own artwork on canvas and looking proud of her achievement and spoke little about it." Artist*

*"Very inspirational exhibit. It is great to see how Sheffield gives people a platform to express themselves and their aspirations. I share lots of these hopes too!" Passer-by in the Market*

7.

### Adullam - Identity Exhibition

We partnered with Adullam (supporting people with mental health issues and housing needs) to run a "Mask" themed exhibition exploring the issues of Mental Health and Identity which was showcased at the Winter Garden during Sheffield's Mental Health Awareness Week.

The project, funded by National Lottery Awards for All, brought together people supported by Adullam who have histories of mental health issues and social isolation to develop a stimulating art project through a series of workshops, resulting in a public exhibition to raise awareness and understanding of mental health.

Twenty participants took part in planning, developing and undertaking the project.

Many of them reported low confidence and anxiety at meeting other people at the beginning of the project but this improved during the course of the workshops. They also shared how engaging in something creative helped them engage in the present. They also stated they learnt new creative and communication skills

*"Art is a great gateway to express thoughts and feelings which can be difficult to say." Participant*

*"I got home yesterday, and my stress level had dropped. I felt calmed and I slept all night. I don't usually do that, so I thought I would come back today." Participant*

We created a short video about the project:



*"A gentleman suffered with social anxiety and often would not leave the house. He really struggled being around other people and found it difficult to be around lots of people, preferring to get taxis over buses, because they made him too anxious. This gentleman came back time and time again, and was the biggest inspiration, when he made it to the exhibition to see the final work...he reported that the whole thing had changed his life, and that he was going to start volunteering as a result of it." Artist report*

*"A very moving exhibition. It is so good to hear that art can really help people who are going through such difficult times." Viewer at the exhibition*

6.

### Art in a Box

We were commissioned by Sheffield Children's University to create a 6-week session plan and pack of materials for schools that enabled teachers to completely run a series of art sessions themselves.

We created 30 boxes with all the instructions and materials for 6 sessions exploring portraiture in different mediums. There were drawing tasks, Pop Art portraits, continuous wire creations, Cubist clay tiles and Warhol inspired printing techniques.



*"Seeing the children's enthusiasm ignited made us make more time for art in the curriculum. We all looked forward to Art Club, even the staff. We learnt a lot. At first we were nervous about 'getting it right'. Then we banned rubbers and we began to relax and really get into it!" Windmill Hill Primary School Staff.*

Thirty schools took part in the project and 10 came with their pupils to a final celebration in July 2018 at the Sheffield Institute of Art. One hundred children exhibited their artwork from their projects at school and tried a couple more techniques on the day.

### Extra Needs Art Club

As part of the Everyday Stories project and in partnership with a parent of a child with additional needs we ran a series of free art workshops for children with extra needs. Twenty four children took part over 5 weeks trying new art processes each week.

*"He is less anxious. This art club is really helping build self-confidence." Parent*

*"She absolutely loves art club, she is sometimes a little hesitant about going but she always has a great time once in. It is such a change to the usual swimming and sports clubs which are available but are her worst nightmare!" Parent*

*"I have got to know more people. The art club makes me more able to ask for help." Child taking part*

*"I enjoyed making others happy and to help them create something they like. The staff have helped me learn how to treat kids and improve on being a leader of the group. It will be a pleasant memory that I will hold onto and share with others." Young volunteer*

8.