

Reminiscence Impact Study

Evaluation of Key Memories: Recollections of My First Home a partnership reminiscence project involving museums and social care settings

Project brief

1. Who are we?

Cambridgeshire Museums Advisory Partnership (CMAP) encourages and supports museums across the county, including in strategic working, the development and management of resources, improving standards and increasing access and learning opportunities. CMAP provides a voice for museums helping them to make a positive contribution to the social and economic well-being of communities in Cambridgeshire. This CMAP evaluation project is part of the East of England *Effective Museums* programme which is funded by Renaissance and managed by Norfolk Museums & Archaeology Service.

2. Background

Key Memories: Recollections of My First Home was an intergenerational reminiscence project funded by Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), bringing members of the community together to talk about their home life. The project explored 1950's post war home life with older people in the community and home life experiences up to present day with members of new communities. From 2008 for a period of 18 months, 5 museums, one for each of the districts of Cambridgeshire, worked with staff and older people in care homes and day centres and with young families.

The Key Memories Project involved working with many partners and participants including; museum staff, volunteers, older people living independently, older people in care, care staff, organisations working with older people including in the voluntary sector and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust. For the purpose of this evaluation the emphasis will be on the aspects of the project which involved working with older people in care settings.

Key Memories is a multi-faceted project consisting of:

- Training for museum staff, volunteers and partner care staff in reminiscence approaches.
- Training for museums and volunteers in the production of resources for reminiscence work and oral history collection.
- Production of high quality resources held at museums for reminiscence work.
- Production of high quality reminiscence resources held at participating care settings.
- Reminiscence sessions where museum staff and volunteers worked with older people in care homes and day centres using these museum resources.
- Collection of a small sample of people's stories as oral history extracts for Cambridgeshire Community Archive Network (CCAN).
- Touring exhibition of 1950's style kitchen cabinets in care settings and museums. The use of these cabinets is ongoing.
- Museums purchased a contemporary item for their collection.
- Further training with 'buddies'; new partners, and volunteers established during the project .

An important part of the Key Memories Project has been the forging of partnerships including with Cambridge and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust. These partnerships and additional funding have enabled the project to become a continuing programme. One of the kitchen cabinet resources is currently administered by staff at Cambridge and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust and there have also been shared training opportunities. Following consultation with care partners, two new bespoke cabinets with a theme of dressing up and getting ready to go out have been developed. They are now being administered by Wide Skies Learning Co-ordinators and used during reminiscence sessions in care settings. Reminiscing is part of the Wide Skies (a HLF partnership Project involving 9 museums in Huntingdonshire and Fenland) programme.

Further outcomes of the project include:

- At least 3 of the 5 museums involved initially have continued to regularly provide reminiscence sessions with existing and new care providers.
- One care home received an extra star rating during their annual inspection following their involvement in the project.
- The establishment of Cambridgeshire Reminiscence Network, a collective of museums and providers using reminiscence approaches in care settings. Their work and resources are promoted in a joint leaflet.
- New museum partners have become involved and have developed new resources.

3. Aim of evaluation

The aim of this piece of work is to evaluate the impact of the Key Memories Project for participants and partners (outlined in point 2) and the critical success factors for museums. The purpose of this evaluation is to inform future museum practice, partnerships with the health and social care sector and to provide evidence to current funders, local authorities, other relevant organisations and potential funders in the future. Information from the final report will be used in a short dissemination leaflet for advocacy purposes with museums, health and social care partners and potential funders.

We are particularly interested in the following:

- a) Why the Key Memories Project has progressed and continued in the way it has, and the strengths and weaknesses of the project.
- b) How the Key Memories Project has impacted upon older people in care settings, their relatives and care staff working with them; including how resources and reminiscence approaches have been used and the effect of their usage.
- c) To find out how involvement in the Key Memories Project has impacted upon museums, their staff and volunteers.
- d) To explore the effect and scope of ongoing partnership working that has been developed during and as a result of the Key Memories Project.
- e) To establish the costs of this provision per person per hour.

4. Methodology

To undertake an evaluation study of this project in line with the aim and questions outlined in point 3 and the framework shown below. This will be a small scale piece of research.

The Key Memories Project has developed and progressed with time, and some work is ongoing as part of the Wide Skies Project. It will therefore be necessary to include evaluation of retrospective and current practice. It is envisaged that a tiered framework will be used and suitable methodology chosen for each stage:

- i. A piece of evaluation from the perspective of the museums, volunteers and different partners on their role, the work and achievements of the project.
- ii. Retrospective evaluation of at least two case studies of care settings involved from the start of the project (one should be a day centre) to establish what has been done and the impact of this reminiscence work.
- iii. Evaluation of current ongoing reminiscence work in at least two care settings as part of the Wide Skies Project. We anticipate that these case studies will include an element of dementia care mapping. It is also important to include the views of relatives on the use of reminiscing and resources with their family members for section iii.

5. Deliverables and Timetable

The consultant(s) will deliver a piece of evaluative research within the timetable using the methodological framework given.

September to November 2011: Evaluation will be carried out

December 2011: interim report

January 2012: final report including executive summary

The evaluation study will inform an advocacy document which will be available in March 2012.