

PROJECT IN A BOX: Out of the Frame Loan Box



Summary of 'Loan Box' project

The Wallace Collection is a National Museum in central London; with funding from NIACE through CLIF (the Community Learning Innovation Fund) we were able to provide older people in care home settings outside of London, access to the Collection.

We created six themed 'loan boxes' to be lent to care homes and day centres as an innovative way to facilitate an experience of the museum. They were specially designed to be a stimulus for discussion and appreciation so that care home staff and volunteers could deliver their own sessions with residents.

We provided care staff and volunteers with training to deliver art and heritage workshops using the loan boxes. Residents where appropriate were given the



opportunity to visit a museum and 'Family and Friends days' were held to share the project with the wider community.



Each themed box contained reproduction images such as a portrait of Madame de Pompadour and an Indian dagger thought to be owned by Shah Jahan. Handling items were commissioned or sourced to accompany the works of art, such as a copy of a doublet worn by Sir Robert Dudley in his portrait. A booklet for each theme was written and an iPad with relevant digital content was also included.

Objectives and planned outcomes for learners;

1. Create a series of 'Out of the Frame Loan boxes' that can be lent to care homes and day centres .

Planned outcome- The Wallace Collection for the first time will work with care homes outside of London.

2. Train care home staff and volunteers to deliver art and heritage sessions using Wallace Collection objects.

Planned outcome -Care homes and day centres will be able to deliver their own sessions with greater frequency without having to rely on the Wallace Collection to deliver them.

3. Care Home residents in isolated areas visit a National Museum collection for the first time.

Planned outcome - An increased sense of ownership and connection to the Wallace Collection is experienced by care home residents.

4. The loan boxes encourage residents and care home staff to engage with local cultural venues.

Planned outcome - Residents and care home staff learn more about their local area and have increased access to cultural and creative activities.

5. Encourage increased family and intergenerational activity within care homes.

Planned outcome - The loan boxes will inspire families of care home residents to enjoy new conversations and experiences with their relatives and therefore increase the communication skills and confidence of residents.

Project timetable summary

September- November 2012

- Researching and consultation period with local partner care homes about the development, design and contents of boxes
- Evaluation strategy and data capture tools were developed
- Recruiting care homes to participate in the project
- Wooden box proto type is commissioned
- Writing for the accompanying booklet of the themes commences
- Handling items are commissioned and sourced for the boxes

December-February

- Training delivered to care homes and the first box "Family and Home" is piloted
- Eight wooden boxes are made

- iPads are purchased
- Partnership agreement with Alive! is established and care homes in Bristol and Avon recruited.
- Boxes are being lent to care homes and evaluation of the project commences.
- Three themes are completed and tested by care homes

March-July

- The contents of three themes are duplicated so that they can be used with Alive! care homes
- The loan boxes are being used by all fifteen care homes and one day centre
- Two 'Family and Friends Days' are held
- Two trips to the Wallace Collection is made by two care homes
- Two trips to local museum are made by four care homes
- Evaluation of the project comes to an end

Finances

Financial resources required: (figures rounded to nearest £100)

Staffing costs: researching, delivery of session and evaluation strategy	£18,600
Developing and designs of accompanying booklets for six Loan boxes	£10,700
Ipad training costs for Wallace collection staff	£400
Resources and costs for handling items and reproduction images	£8100
iPads and Laptop	£4200
Travel expenses for staff "Out of the Frame" visits	£3800
Cost of trips to local museums and the Wallace Collection £300	
Learner and volunteer expenses, e.g. refreshments	£400
Total	£46,460

We were awarded £46,460 from the CLIF .

Top tips

- The key to success is the project being fully embraced by the partner organisations. We found that staff and volunteers who attended the Wallace Collection training, had a better understanding of the project and therefore were more able to facilitate the boxes in self-led sessions.
- The quality and variety of resources that were created and sourced for the boxes really brought the Collection to life. They not only impressed the learners but they were highly valued by them and consequently made them feel valued.
- Effective partnership working was fundamental to the success of our project.
- Spend time planning and researching a flexible evaluation strategy in the start phase of any project.
- Beware of the pressures care homes and their staff are under as this may impact the outcomes of your project.

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Partner organisation Alive!

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