

Do we need a human right to social care? A collaborative, arts-based project

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About the project

- Originated in the 'Power and Rights Sub-Group' of the Social Care Innovators Network, Institute of Health and Social Care Management
 - **Core team:** Caroline Green, Rachel Barber, Mervyn Eastman
- Linked to the developments on the international level, especially the discussions around a 'UN Convention on the Rights Of Older People'
- There is a 'right to health', but no 'right to social care'

Project aims

- Hear from different perspectives whether we need a human right to social care within a 'Research and Development Phase'
 - No pre-set agenda of 'right or wrong'
 - No pre-set definition of 'social care' or 'human rights'
- Use what we have learned to artistically capture the essence of what we have learned and produce a short advocacy film, aimed at policy makers
- Project has 2 Phases: 1: Research and Development, 2: Film making and dissemination

Phase 1: Research and Development

- What do we want to achieve overall?
- Which artists to use and how we involve them? (After some disappointments, we started to work with Christopher Green and Naomi Soneye-Thomas)
- What do we want to achieve from our R&D phase and how will we set it up? (online workshops/face-to-face event)
- Funding?
- Who to participate in the workshops?
- How are we going to run the workshops?
- How are we going to make sessions accessible?
- What questions do we want to ask?
- How/where are we going to organise a face-to-face meeting plus all the same questions as above



- 5 online workshops, 30 minutes each, led by theatre artist Christopher Green
- 1 Tea dance at Stanstead Lodge Seniors Club, Catford
- Funding ARC South London Involvement Fund: Vouchers for participation, money for transport/internet/phone costs/ venue and catering/ lead artist
- **And many conversations....**





Involvement Learnings
from organizing and
running the R&D
workshops



Setting up and promoting the workshops for a diverse audience

Learning 1: The need to promote events through multiple channels

- Access information right at the beginning – easy read/ not just Eventbrite
- Firstly promoted on Twitter/LinkedIn/Facebook but response was slow, we then filled our spaces fully (theoretically but not practically) mostly with professionals working in social care, some carers of service users
- Sign ups after re-tweeting but that means that we caught the attention of people already in our network – this was reflected in our workshops

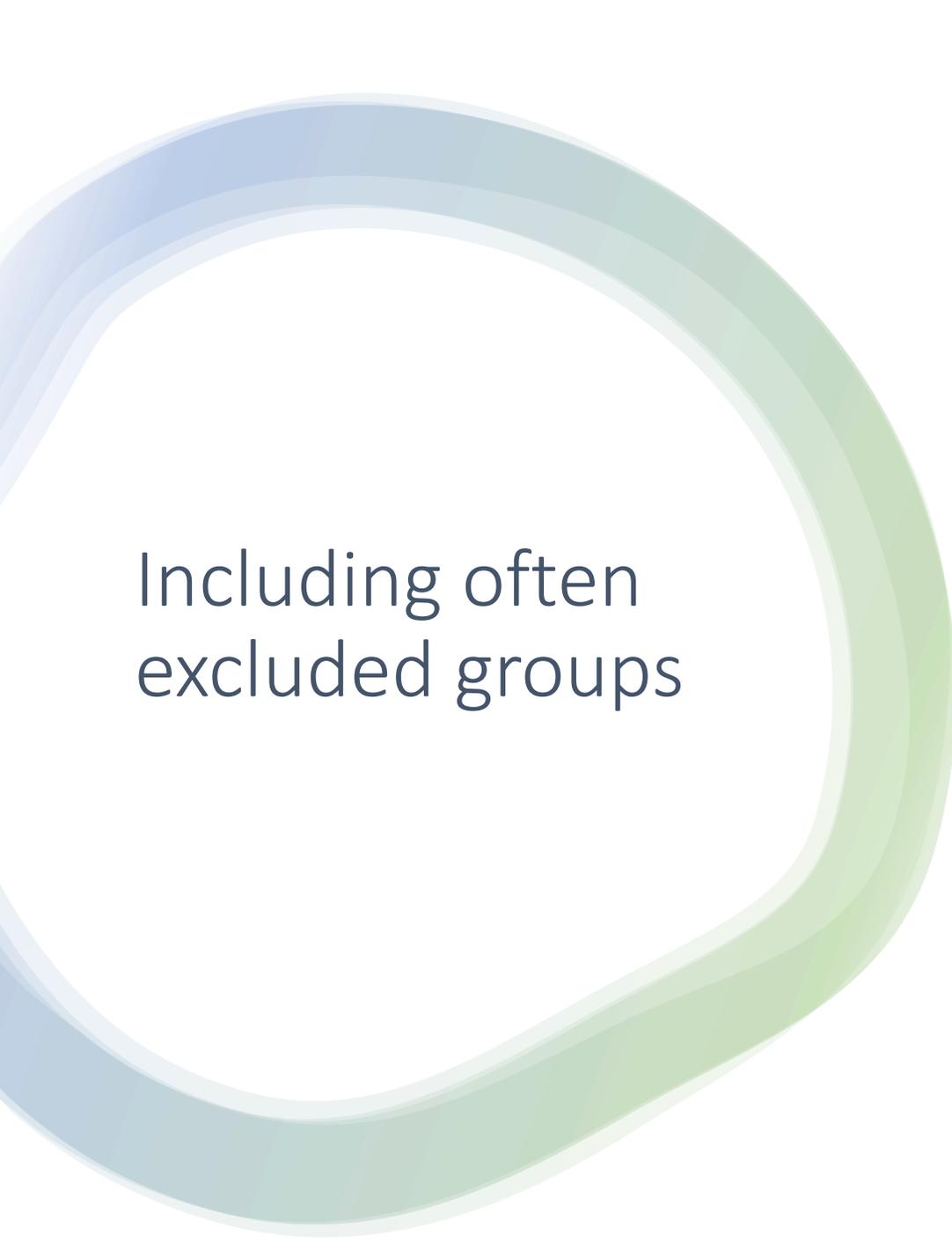
Learning 2: Reach out beyond networks and make way for alternative opportunities for communication (e.g. one to one phone calls/ face to face meetings)

- To include more diverse audience, especially also people using social care services, **we have been reaching out to people AFTER the workshops through referrals, touching base with social care organisations and having multiple conversations on top of our formal workshops.**
- The Tea Dance will provide an opportunity to meet diverse people, who are familiar with the venue in Catford and to talk to them face to face

Conducting the workshops

Learning 3: Online meetings – especially long ones - do not work well for everyone

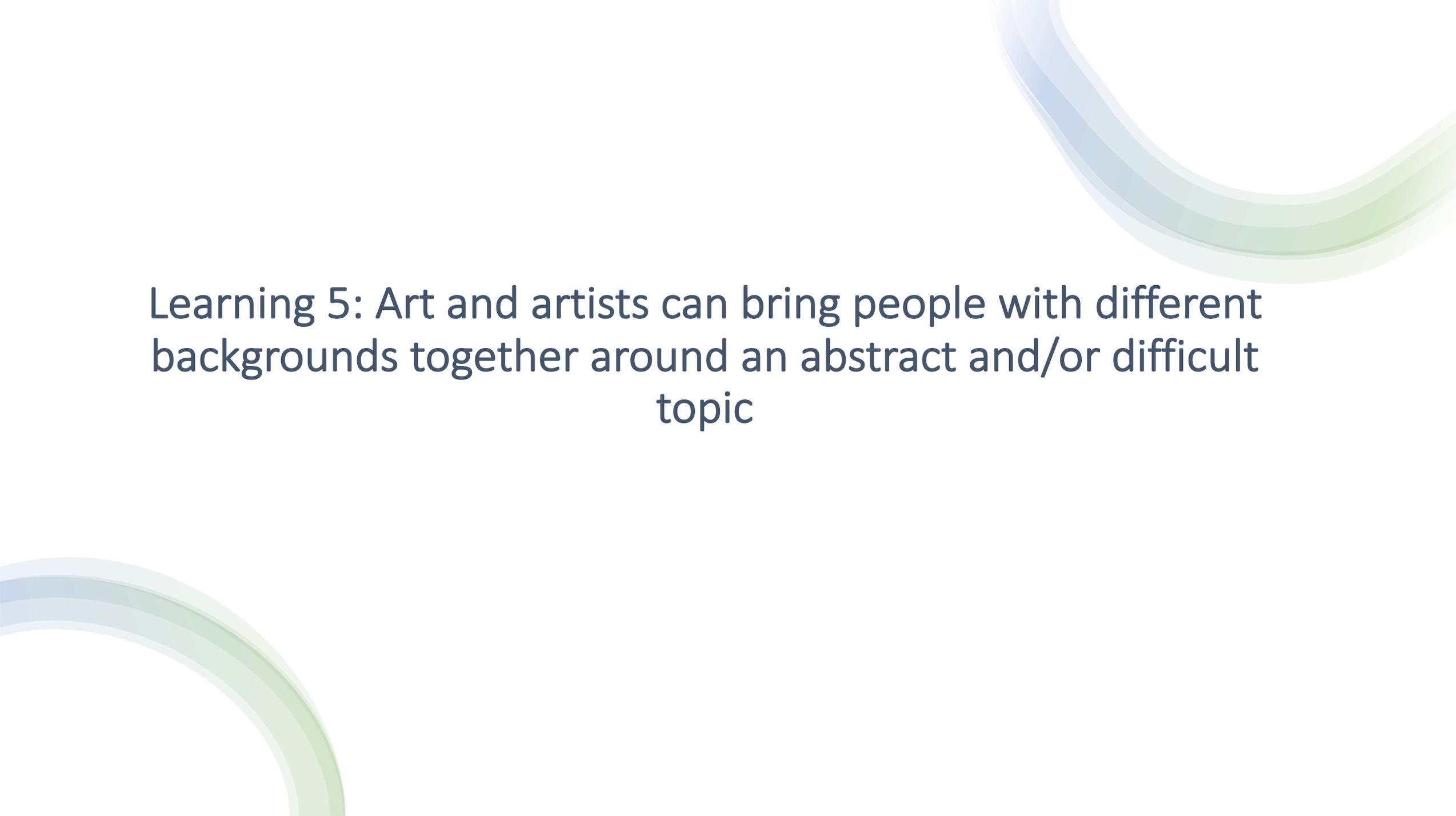
- Access needs online! We cannot make assumptions
- Captions and transcript
- 30 minute sessions during different times of the day: Two key questions, small groups (every session exactly 50% of registered attendees attended i.e. 3 participants per group)



Including often excluded groups

Learning 4: Make a real effort to reach out to people and gain trust through meeting, talking, getting to know each other

- Ethnic minority groups (underrepresented online workshops):
 - Blindspots/unconscious biases: Wider 'managing group'
 - Language barriers
 - Cultural barriers (e.g. multigenerational households; taboo subjects)
 - Religious holidays/key dates
- Excluded groups are often spoken on behalf of e.g. carers speak for them
 - We need to understand better how to work with carers to build trust
 - High sensitivity during and post Covid
 - We need to understand how to communicate effectively around abstract topics (e.g. alternative ways of communication for people living with dementia)



Learning 5: Art and artists can bring people with different backgrounds together around an abstract and/or difficult topic