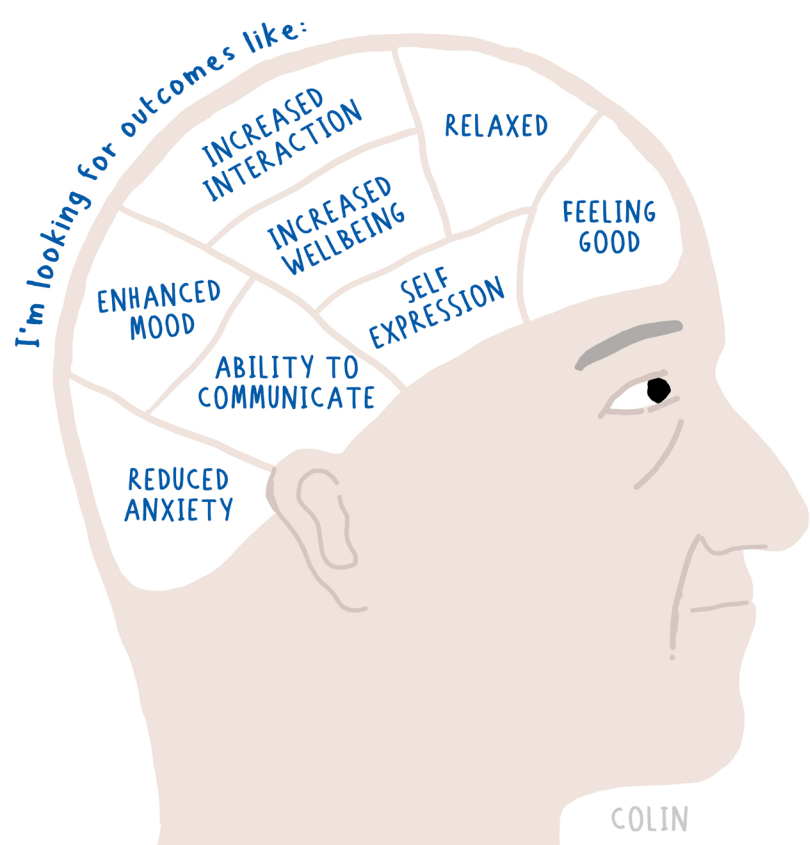


ARTS and DEMENTIA EVALUATION: addressing some of the challenges



Based on original research by Karen Gray, this is a graphic narrative created by ForMed Films. It is based on interviews with 26 artists, evaluators, managers, funders and commissioners of arts activities for people living with dementia. Interviews were conducted as part of a study exploring the methodological challenges of evaluating these activities, with the aim of identifying some solutions. While the words are all theirs, the experiences are not those of just one individual. This research was funded by the Alzheimer's Society as part of a PhD studentship within the TAnDem Doctoral Training Centre.



FUNDER

The arts, by a lot of people in social or health care, is still not perceived as something more meaningful, in general.

It is crucial that arts organisations do in depth research and evaluation of the work that we're doing because all of those outcomes are going to be lost.

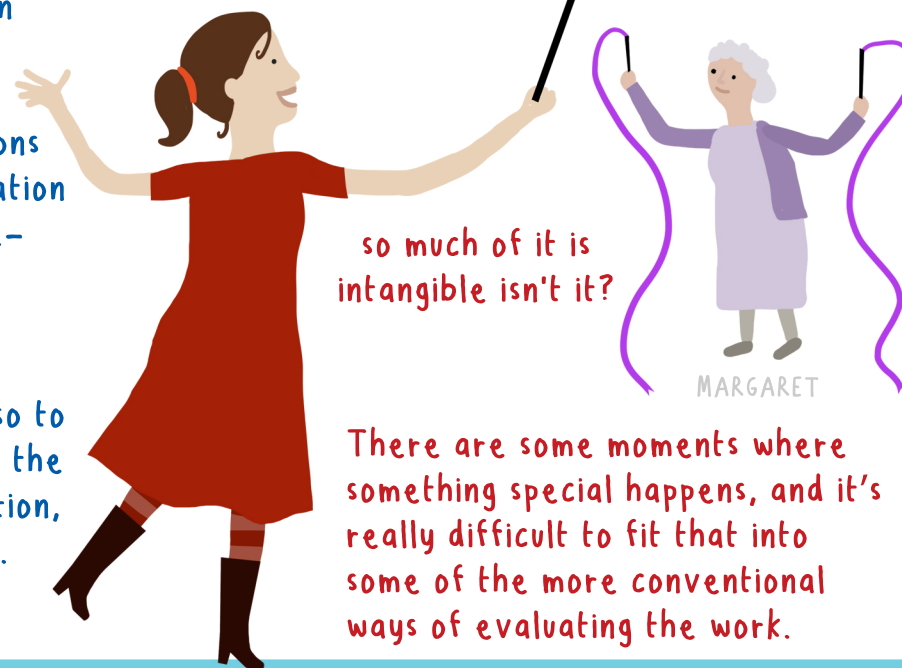
I'm looking for outcomes, But also to integrate it into the practice of the home. Getting the good information, and the reports, into care plans.

ARTIST

Our aim is for a person with dementia to have an experience of themselves as creative, as connected,

so much of it is intangible isn't it?

There are some moments where something special happens, and it's really difficult to fit that into some of the more conventional ways of evaluating the work.



EVALUATOR

It's a very pragmatic area. The projects aren't designed with evaluation in mind,

There's a desire to have a long-term change and impact. Having a good time this morning is one thing but does that impact people's behaviour longer term?

Is that the right question to be asking? because the here and now is so important.

If you think you're going to get some tidy little charts from this... your going to be very disappointed!

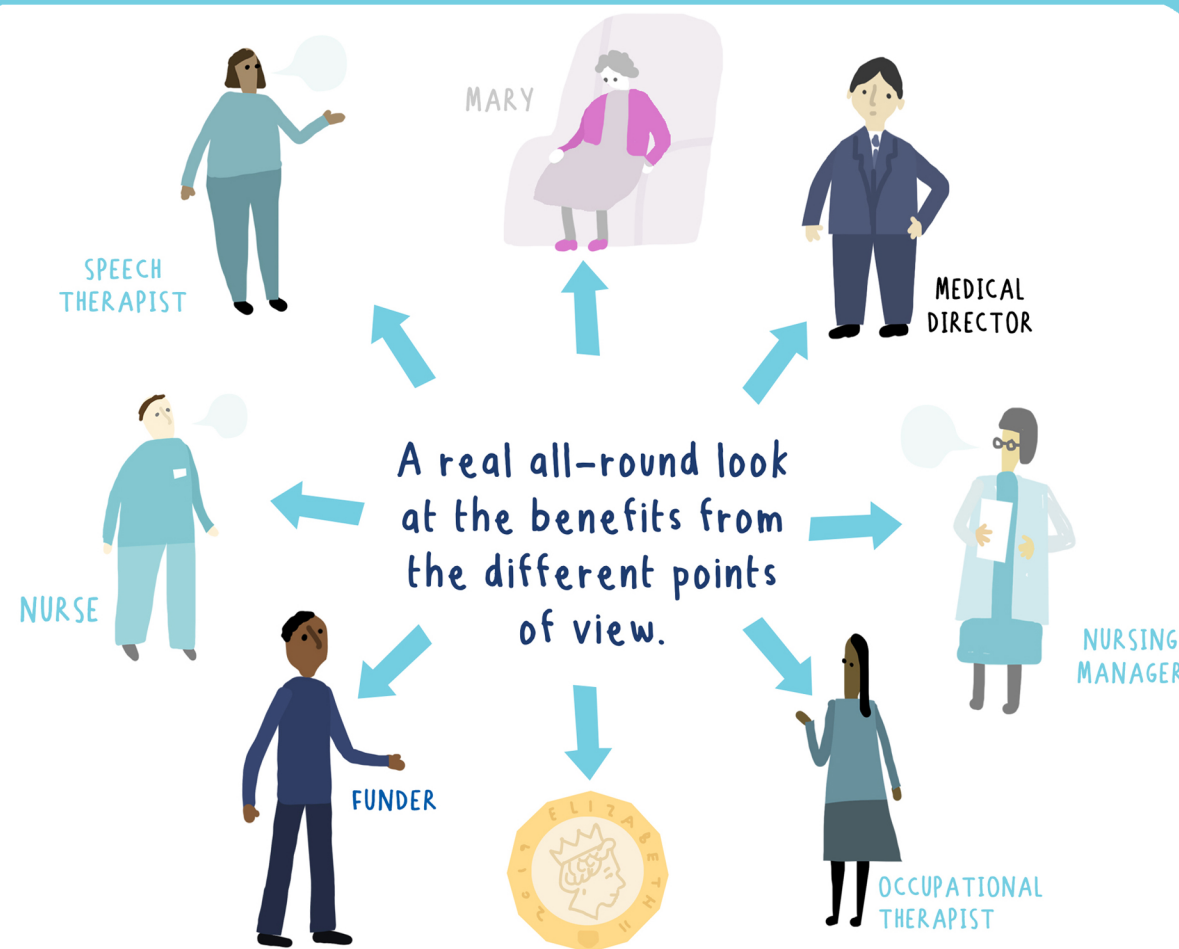


You can't just EVALUATE for the sake of it!



ASK QUESTIONS

An organisation has to decide WHY it wants to do the evaluation, what purpose is it for?



FIND OUT THE VALUE

GET THE PARTNERSHIP RIGHT

Create an atmosphere where there's good communication and equality throughout.



Different disciplines learning from each other.

It's about the relationship that people with dementia have with each other, and also with the care staff, and also with us



A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

BE REFLECTIVE

How did that go?

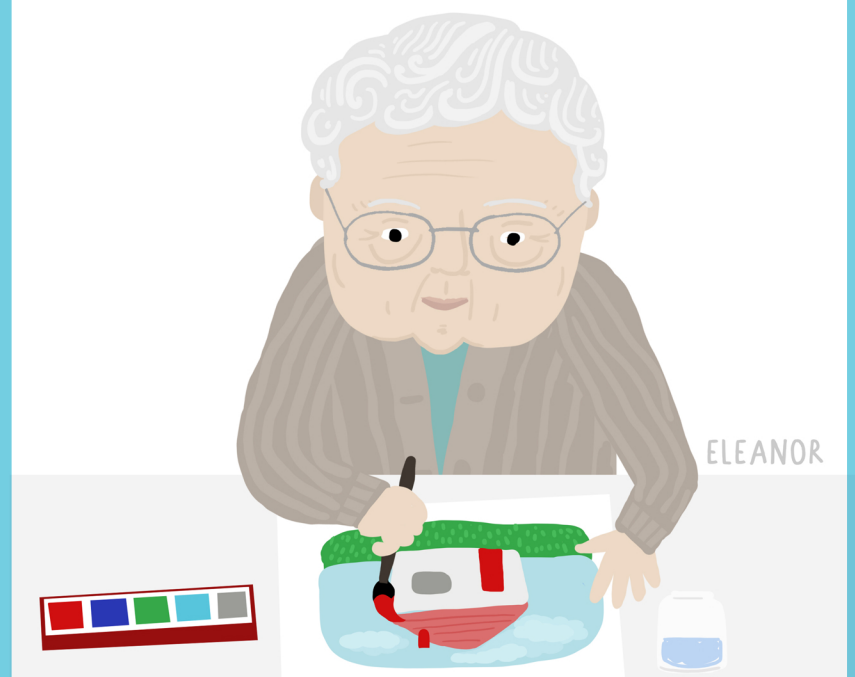
Evaluation is the kind of sifting through and seeing what things of meaning have come out that we can learn from and that are going to change the practice.

MAKE MEANING



You need lots of different sorts of evidence. We absolutely believe in showcasing, and heart as well as head.

Try and really SEE THE SUCCESS OF THE PROJECT in the context in which it's delivered.



it was an absolute joy, one of the best research initiatives, absolutely food for the soul!



Research by Karen Gray (University of Worcester). Funded by The Alzheimer's Society. Construction and Illustration by ForMed Films. For more information, contact karen.gray@worc.ac.uk.