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Background and Aims

- Creative arts activities can offer many benefits for people living with dementia including improving health and wellbeing
- Among others, they offer opportunities for self-expression, enjoyment, and social affirmation of worth.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, arts organizations have had to transition activities previously involving face-to-face interactions to remote delivery.
- we conducted a survey with arts-workers involved in the remote delivery.

Our research questions:

- What are the accommodations that have been made for people living with dementia to access arts activities through technology during the lockdown?
- What are motivations for arts activities during lockdown and are there changes from before?

Methods

A survey using a mixture of qualitative and quantitative questions was distributed online to arts workers delivering activities remotely for people living with dementia in the UK during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Questions included:

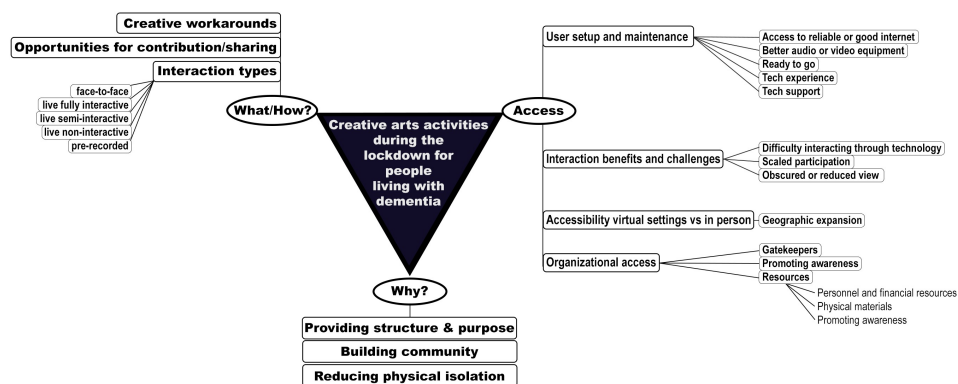
- what types of activities were employed
- how activities changed due to remote access
- what were motivations for arts activities before lockdown and whether they changed due to lockdown
- how lockdown affected the number of people they were able to reach with arts activities.
- what tools were used
- what technological support there was for access
- What would arts workers do to change their delivery of service if they had a magic wand to create any digital tool that they wanted

Discussion

- **Diverse, individual needs of people living with dementia** in group arts participation, while still prioritizing their motivations for participation:
- Important **motivations** during lockdown include sense of community, structure and purpose, and combatting against feelings of isolation.
- Many arts workers did not make use of either digital engagement tools or arts-based digital tools, possibly indicating need for **more accessible tools** or **support for training**.
- Particularly **successful** remote activities gave opportunities for **meaningful contribution** and had a **multitude of possibilities** for **access** for people living with dementia.

Results

Themes and subthemes found in qualitative data:



- Twenty-seven arts workers (mean age=47) delivering music (23), arts (8), crafts (4), dance (6), drama (3), and word-based activities (1) responded.
- 14 arts workers found that they reached more people in lockdown than before, while 12 found that they reached less, and 2 kept roughly the same.
- Motivations for arts activities stayed largely the same during the lockdown, but arts workers considered that *keeping occupied or distracted, and keeping minds active* increased in importance.
- The main tools used included: Zoom, YouTube Live, Microsoft Teams, and Facebook Live.
- The main tool for online engagement in activities was the use of online videos (17), but a few used online documents (4) or online voting (3), and 9 arts workers use none of these tools.
- Most arts works reported using no arts-based digital tools (21), with only a few using them (8).

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