



Deposited via The University of Sheffield.

White Rose Research Online URL for this paper:

<https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/id/eprint/204206/>

Version: Accepted Version

---

**Article:**

Christensen, J., MacRitchie, J. and Timmers, R. (2022) Accessible and meaningful engagement for people living with dementia when transitioning arts activities online. *Alzheimer's & Dementia*, 18 (S9). e063236. ISSN: 1552-5260

<https://doi.org/10.1002/alz.063236>

---

This is the peer reviewed version of the following article: J., MacRitchie, J. and Timmers, R. (2022) Accessible and meaningful engagement for people living with dementia when transitioning arts activities online, *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association*, 18, (S9), e063236, which has been published in final form at <https://doi.org/10.1002/alz.063236>. This article may be used for non-commercial purposes in accordance with Wiley Terms and Conditions for Use of Self-Archived Versions. This article may not be enhanced, enriched or otherwise transformed into a derivative work, without express permission from Wiley or by statutory rights under applicable legislation. Copyright notices must not be removed, obscured or modified. The article must be linked to Wiley's version of record on Wiley Online Library and any embedding, framing or otherwise making available the article or pages thereof by third parties from platforms, services and websites other than Wiley Online Library must be prohibited.

**Reuse**

Items deposited in White Rose Research Online are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved unless indicated otherwise. They may be downloaded and/or printed for private study, or other acts as permitted by national copyright laws. The publisher or other rights holders may allow further reproduction and re-use of the full text version. This is indicated by the licence information on the White Rose Research Online record for the item.

**Takedown**

If you consider content in White Rose Research Online to be in breach of UK law, please notify us by emailing [eprints@whiterose.ac.uk](mailto:eprints@whiterose.ac.uk) including the URL of the record and the reason for the withdrawal request.

## 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:

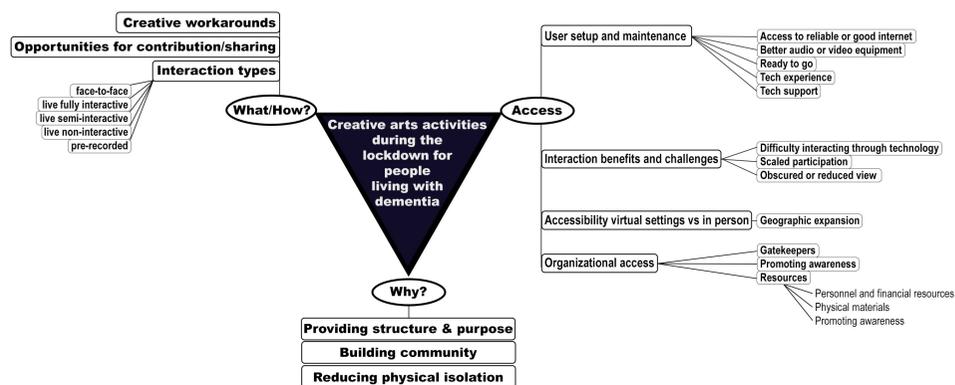
- what types of activities were employed
- how activities changed due to remote access
- what were motivations for arts activities before lockdown and whether they changed due to lockdown
- how lockdown affected the number of people they were able to reach with arts activities.
- what tools were used
- 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).

## References

- Cutler, D. (2020). Key Workers: Creative ageing in lockdown and after. <https://baringfoundation.org.uk/resource/key-workers-creative-ageing-in-lockdown-and-after/>
- Dassa, A., Ray, K., & Clements-cortés, A. (2021). Reflections on telehealth music therapy for persons with dementia in response to COVID-19. *13(3)*, 201–205.
- Dowson, B., Atkinson, R., Barnes, J., Barone, C., Cutts, N., Donnebaum, E., Hung Hsu, M., Lo Coco, I., John, G., Meadows, G., O'Neill, A., Noble, D., Norman, G., Pfende, F., Quinn, P., Warren, A., Watkins, C., & Schneider, J. (2021). Innovative digital approaches to music-making for people with dementia in response to the COVID-19 pandemic: current practice and recommendations. *Frontiers in Psychology*, *12*(April), 1273. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.625258>
- Quail, Z., Bolton, L., & Massey, K. (2021). Digital delivery of non-pharmacological intervention programmes for people living with dementia during the COVID-19 pandemic. *BMJ Case Reports*, *14(6)*, 1–8. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bcr-2021-242530>

## Contact

j.christensen@sheffield.ac.uk