

“Hidden impact of a co-creation project with care experienced learners”

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DANCOP (Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Collaborative Outreach Partnership)

This session will explore the co-creation and collaboration between DANCOP and Derby Theatre producing a life changing project for care experienced learners.

The main focus will be on how the learners created a curtain raiser, performed in front of live audience and most importantly, the impact this has had on a range of targeted and unanticipated aims.

We approached the holistic evaluation of this project using surveys, observations, focus groups with a range of stakeholders. We will highlight best practice when working with care experienced children including reaching parent/carers and ensuring retention throughout.

Changing lives through co-creation in the Dramatic Arts

James Telfer | Monica Blount | Natalie Smallwood | Vicky Cotterill

**DISCOVER
THE
DRAMATIC
ARTS
2023**



What is DANCOP?



Programme Aims:

- Learners will have **increased knowledge on educational and career pathways** to help support their next steps and improve aspiration realisation
- Learners will **experience a range of job roles** within the theatre industry
- Learners will have improved interpersonal skills, specifically **self-confidence**



Curtain Raiser Performance



Discover the Dramatic Arts: Co-creation with Derby Theatre



Derby Theatre, owned by the University of Derby, is the first ever Learning Theatre of its kind and is recognised regionally, nationally and internationally as a unique model for real-life learning.

Working collaboratively, we created a programme that utilised the facilities and expertise of Derby Theatre alongside the experience, knowledge and networks of DANCOP.

Creative therapists were also employed to support the young people and became an instrumental part of the programme.

The combined skill set across all partners allowed us to effectively meet the programme aims.

Regular planning and review meetings enabled us to address issues as and when they arose. Adaptability was key.

Discover the Dramatic Arts: Co-creation of the Curtain Raiser

Robin Hood themes



What does inequality
mean to you?



Good vs Evil
based on perspective?



Draft script and editing

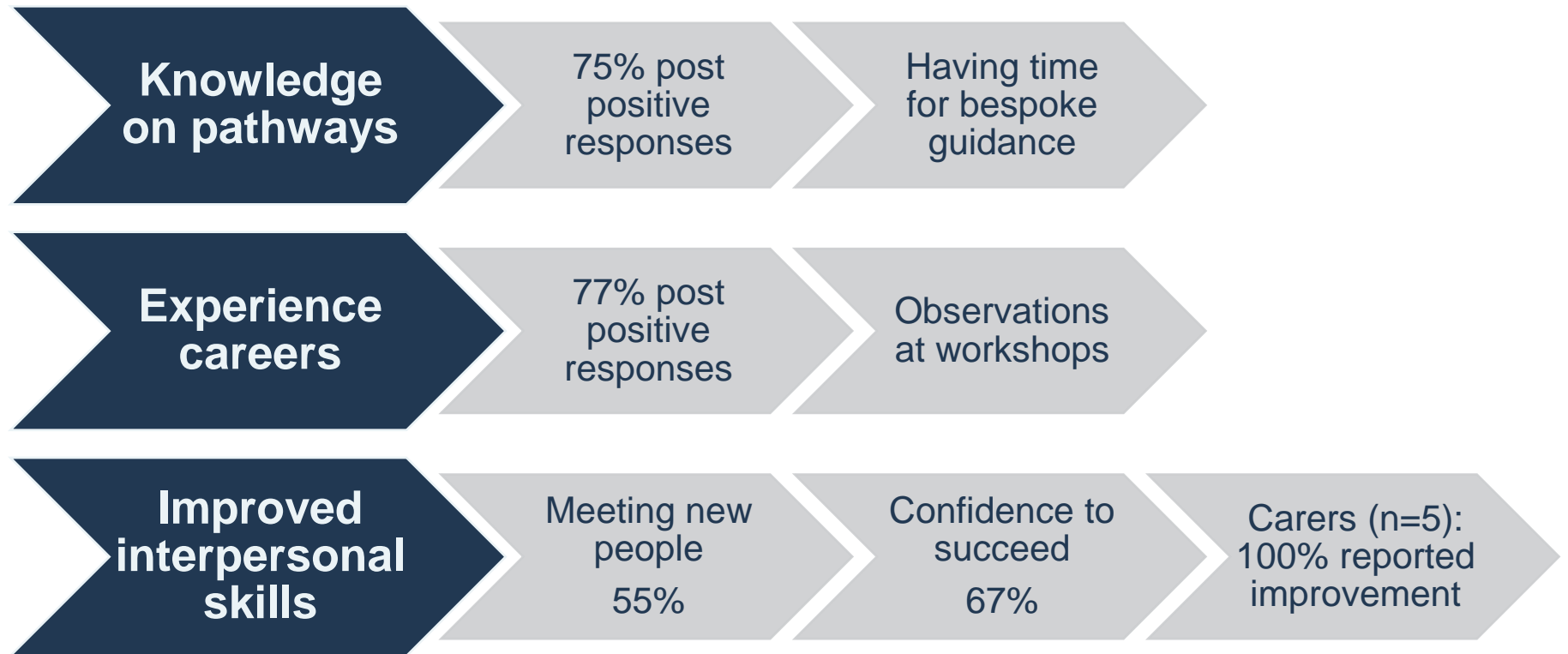


Adaption and
rehearsals



Discover the Dramatic Arts: Evaluation Highlights

- Pre-post-test questionnaires (learners and carers)
- Staff observations
- Focus groups



Discover the Dramatic Arts: Quantitative Evaluation Limitations

Social Desirability Bias in Pre-Test Responses

Comparing Carer Pre-Test Surveys

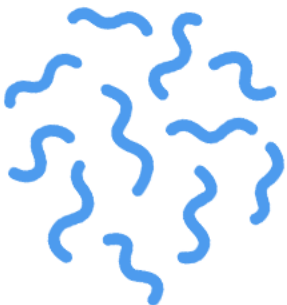
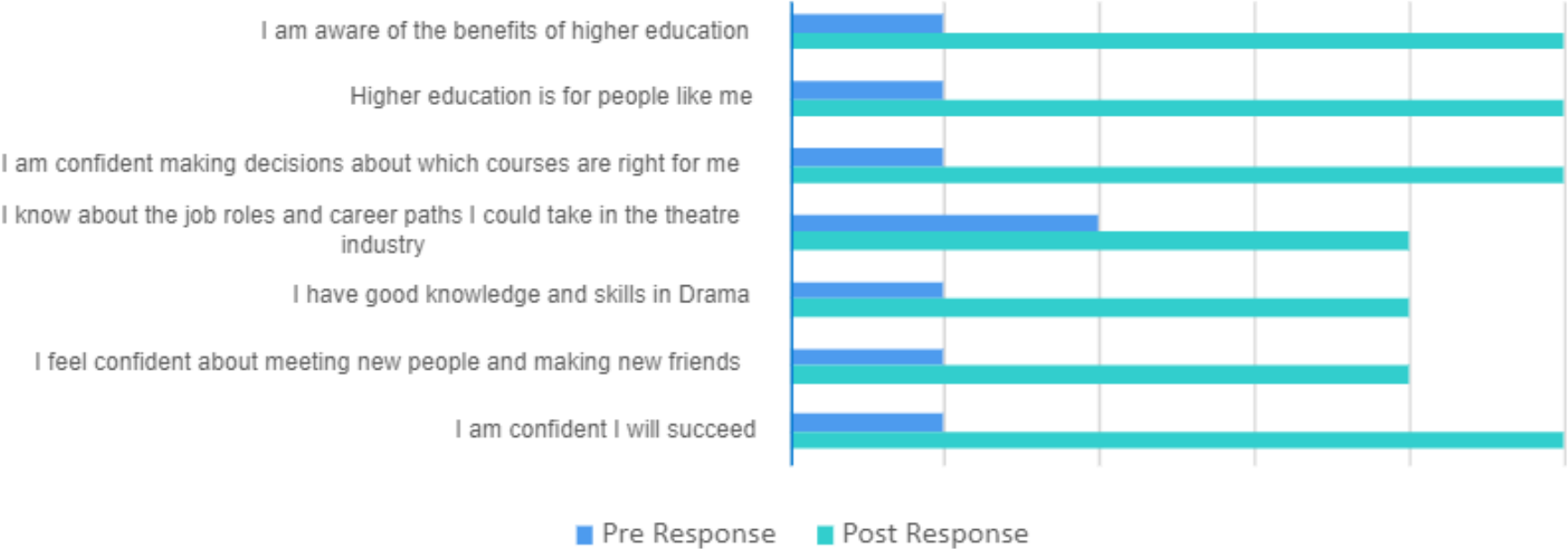
Perception Discrepancies and Interpretation

How much do you agree with the following statements?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
I am aware of the benefits of higher education					
Higher education is for people like me					
I am confident making decisions about which courses are right for me					
I know about the job roles and career paths I could take in the theatre industry					
I have good knowledge and skills in Drama					
I feel confident about meeting new people and making new friends					
I am confident I will succeed					

Discover the Dramatic Arts: Evaluation Highlights

Learner G



"I'm going to miss seeing everyone every week!"

"This group has become like another family"

"I want to study at Derby University now you've shown it to me"

"I've just got a place at Derby College!"

Discover the Dramatic Arts: Evaluation Highlights

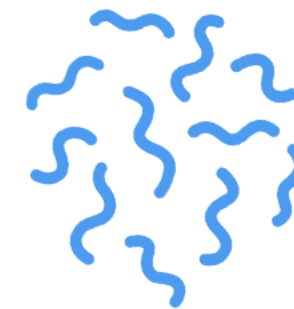
She is absolutely loving it and we hope it can lead to more opportunities for X

I'm so very proud of what he's done!

X has been buzzing about it every time I have spoken to him, I think it will do wonders for his confidence and aspirations, he's such a lovely boy and I'm so pleased he has had this chance.

Firstly I wanted to say X has loved the experience and it has made her want to consider a future pathway in theatre/arts, it has also built her confidence massively!

We have seen fewer negative points in behaviour since X completed the programme



Discover the Dramatic Arts: Evaluation Highlights

Unanticipated Outcomes:

Sense of Belonging

Emotional Wellbeing

Intrapersonal skills

Discover the Dramatic Arts: Legacy

- **Plus One** and **Creative Mentoring** through **DCEP** (Derby Cultural Education Partnership)



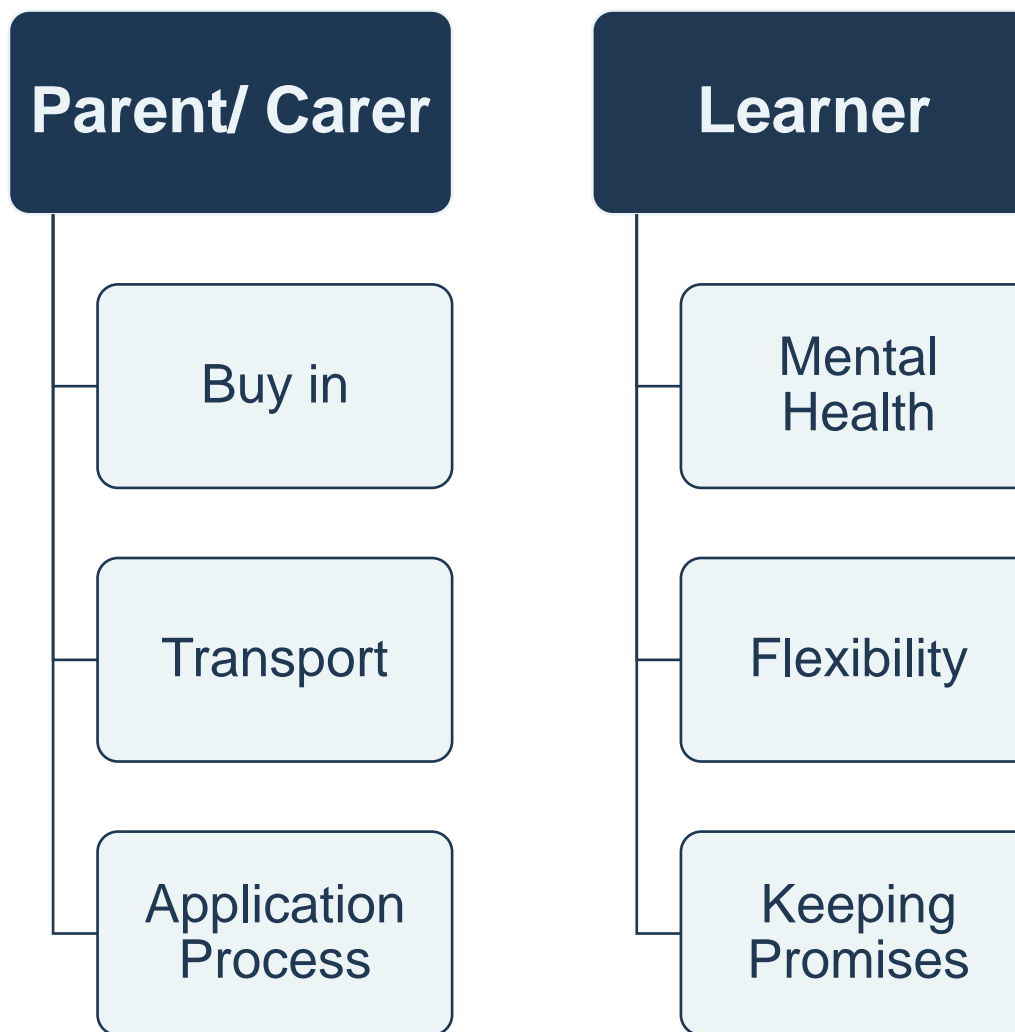
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- Nottingham Playhouse – *The Cinderella Project*

**NOTTINGHAM
PLAYHOUSE**

Discover the Dramatic Arts: Final Reflections



Thank you

We now invite questions





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