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Short description of the completed local pilot work in the UK WP 3, WP 5 and WP 6, Nov 2013 - Dec 2014

The local pilot work during WP 3, 5 and 6 (Nov 2013 - Dec 2014)

(VA) "Voluntary Arts" of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland has implemented pilot work in four areas, respectively Wrexham (North Wales), Torfaen (South Wales), St Helens (North West England) and Faversham (South East England).

- The end-user groups for all areas are a mixture of identified groups and members of the public self-selected as not engaging with arts activities for whatever reason. The identified groups included mental health service users, older people including those with dementia, disabled people, faith communities, and people in areas of economic deprivation.
- The local partners VA cooperates with are:
 - Wrexham: Wrexham Borough Council, Oriel Wrecsam, Mind Cymru, and Diverse Cymru
 - Torfaen: Torfaen Borough Council, Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre, Theatre Ffynon, Ancient Cwmbran Society, and Congress Theatre
 - St Helens: Library Network, Hope Centre, Helena Partnerships, and Leonard Cheshire Disability
 - Faversham: Ideas Test (Creative People and Places consortium for Swale and Medway), and Medway Queen
- The 2-days culture guide course took place in Birmingham, 22 to 23 July June 2014 with 18 volunteers, recruited across the four regions.
- The topic of culture activities have been selected in consultation with the local partnership groups and based on the interests of the Culture Guide volunteers. They include in Wrexham to encourage people to cross boundaries into artistic spaces, in Torfaen to link people with their built heritage through arts participation activities, in St Helens a variety of topics, and in Faversham the topic is traditional maritime crafts.
- VA has been able to provide additional training to the Culture Guide volunteers thanks to match-funding from the Arts Council of Wales. This training has included how to be inclusive, how to identify creative cultural activities in an area, how to mentor amateur groups and how to develop young leaders.
- VA has also applied for additional Arts Council funding in collaboration with an arts centre to expand culture Guide activities into Cardiff.