



Evaluation Report

‘Stories about Ely Hospital’



**Report by Cardiff People First
May 2012**

Introduction

This report is an evaluation of the Ely Hospital Project from May 2011 until May 2012.

It was prepared using feedback from our members and the wider public.

Copies of the digital stories can be provided separately.

Any comments on the report are greatly appreciated.

Summary of Facts and Figures

Number of people involved in the project	70+
Number of visitors to exhibition	1800+
Number of workshops alongside exhibition	12
Number of people benefitting from workshops	320+
Number of Guest Book Comments	288
Number of Luggage tag comments on picture at exhibition	26
Number of Case luggage tag comments	38
Number of people filmed to share their story in public	14
Number of likes on Facebook set up for Ely Hospital Project	52
Number of weeks exhibition opened to the public	6

Background



Cardiff People First (CPF) is a self-advocacy group run by people with a learning disability. Many of its members are former residents of Ely Hospital. Memories have been talked about during the years.



Cardiff People First also network with Newport People First (NPF). NPF are also a self-advocacy group and operate a similar structure to Cardiff People First – with a Black and Minority Ethnic group and a group for young people in addition to its core members. CPF also runs a Womens Group and Mens Group from time to time.

Each group employs Co-ordinators and Facilitators to work with members to support them to make their voice heard.

The Community Voices Team led this project, co-ordinating the involvement of groups across Cardiff and Newport People First.

Why did we start the Ely Hospital Project?

The project started with older people showing their video 'Ely Voices' to the young people at a meeting, over two years ago. The young people didn't know anything about the hospital. They wanted to know more.

**'I had no idea that there was a hospital – why didn't they leave?
Were people ill?
Was it like a hospital with beds and everything?
Were they allowed to leave?
What about their family?**

Given this, we set out to 'record the memories of people who lived or worked in Ely Hospital'. The project would enable younger people with a learning disability to learn about their own heritage and enable the wider public to capture the essence of life in Ely Hospital.

About Ely Hospital



Ely Hospital was a long and short-stay institution for people with a learning disability in Cardiff. It was originally a Workhouse (also known as Ely Lodge/Industrial School) before becoming an NHS Hospital in 1948. 20 years later, it hit the headlines in the News of the World following allegations of ill treatment of patients, amongst other things.

Thereafter an Inquiry took place which eventually paved the way for the 'All Wales Strategy for the Development of Services for Mentally Handicapped People' 1983 and the eventual closure of institutions across Wales. It set out to change the way people with a learning disability were treated.

Ely Hospital is very much part of Cardiff's heritage and became associated with scandal throughout the UK as a result of the Inquiry of 1969. It was a landmark in Cardiff which has now been replaced by a housing estate, a Health Centre, Aldi and Farm Foods. Part of the original front wall still stands.

The Application Process

When did the idea turn into a reality?

In 2010, after some initial discussions with HLF officers, we streamlined our initial application and proceeded with focussing on recording the memories of people who used to live or work in Ely Hospital. Our application was accepted and we were awarded £25,400.

Our Project Targets/Outcomes

Our project set out to produce

- 20 digital stories,
- an exhibition,
- 2 workshops alongside the exhibition,
- training for our members,
- Equipment and publicity for the project.

Some key outcomes would include working with The Cardiff Story to prepare an Exhibition and visits to Glamorgan Archives to find out what information they held about Ely Hospital and to give people the chance to learn about the heritage of people with a learning disability.

What our members said:

‘I’ve been waiting for this for years’ said MH a former resident.

‘I want to talk about Ely Hospital’ said BT

‘I can’t wait to visit the Archives. I’ve always wanted to go there’ said another former resident.

Getting Going

On hearing the outcome of our application we were keen to get going straight away. Within our application we were keen to work with The Cardiff Story, which tied us into an Exhibition date. We therefore designed the project timetable around this date.

During the planning stages of the application we were able to confirm interest in the project from our members and secure a partnership with Newport People First, The Cardiff Story and Glamorgan Archives. This made our work of setting up a Steering Group easier.

Setting up the Steering Group



Meeting at The Glamorgan Archives



Meeting at the Glamorgan Archives

The aim of the Steering Group was to guide the project forward, gather some advice and support and to keep those who were interested informed of our progress. A steering group meeting was organised upon hearing of the application outcome.

Members from Cardiff People First Community Voices Group and Newport People First joined the Steering Group Meetings. We also contacted people referred to us. We also invited Newport People First to join us. Our links with the Councils Learning Disability Advisory and Planning Group had enabled us to find people interested in joining the project.

We met once a month at Glamorgan Archives and on three occasions we met at The Cardiff Story museum. Minutes of those meetings were made available at The Cardiff Story Exhibition.

‘I want to be involved in the Ely Hospital Project. I love meeting new people and like listening to people’s stories’ said SA a member of Community Voices’.

Finding the story tellers

We sent out an easy-read letter via the social work team who then talked to former residents about telling their story. Several peoples support workers contacted us, telling us they knew somebody who wanted to tell their story.

We arranged visits to inform people about the project and invited people to tell their stories with support if necessary. Some advocates, friends or support workers were with them when they told their stories, often reminding them of stories they had told in the past.

‘I don’t mind coming on my own (to tell my story) I want to tell you about life in Ely Hospital and about the time my mam and dad were waiting for me in reception and Mr (staff member) stopped me from seeing them’. JS.

We were invited by Learning Disability Wales (see attached) and All Wales People First to place an article in their publications and we were then contacted by former staff members of Ely. We also wrote an article for the Ely Grapevine (a local magazine).

‘I saw the article. I worked in Ely for a long time and would like to get involved’. said Dr Robert Jenkins of Glamorgan University.

Between June and September a total of 19 people contacted us. They were all invited to tell their story, choosing a method of recording of their choice.

Sandra Woodyatt	Filmed
Brian Thomas	Filmed
Kathleen Ahearne	Filmed
Martin Heffron	Filmed
Richard Manners	Filmed
Mary Gilbert	Filmed
Hilary Horton	Filmed
Lorraine Cox	Filmed
Una McElveem	Filmed
Dr Robert Jenkins	Filmed
John Stephens	Filmed
June Johansson	Filmed
Martin James	Voice recording/transcript
Doreen Jones	e:mail
Anon – former volunteer	Verbal
Anon – former worker	Verbal
Anon – former worker	Verbal
Anon – former worker	Verbal
Anon – former community member	Verbal

Other people came forward to tell their stories during the exhibition. These were shared and upon agreement recorded.



*SW is shown sharing her memories of Ely Hospital whilst at home.
Pictures show BME members including BT and KA (both storytellers on the project)*

Initial obstacles and how they were overcome

A few more people (mainly ex-staff) came forward with stories but specified that they didn't want them repeated as they would be distressing for family members that may still be alive. It was important to respect the wishes of people telling the stories and their requests for confidentiality.

Equally a couple of people (mainly ex-staff) came forward to say they had stories to share but didn't want to be recorded sharing their memories as they felt that there was too much negativity and emotion surrounding Ely Hospital. Again, personal choice was respected and some stories about the institutionalisation associated with Ely Hospital were shared in Steering Group meetings, but not always shared with the wider public or even recorded.

One ex-resident was unable to continue with the project. The person was supported by an advocate and a team of social workers and we were informed she was receiving counselling to help deal with such issues involved after waiting so many years to share her story. However, the risk to her health and wellbeing with continuing with the project was considered too high. She was, however, able to attend the launch and has been acknowledged throughout the project. Also, themes that emerged from the exhibition echoed many of her experiences

To overcome the issue of potential upset when talking to ex-residents about life in Ely Hospital, we ensured interviewers were prepared and carried out the interviews in pairs.

An Easy-read information sheet was drafted asking members to consider support they may need during and after the interviews.

People were interviewed in an environment of their choice, some at home, some in the office and some in their working environment.



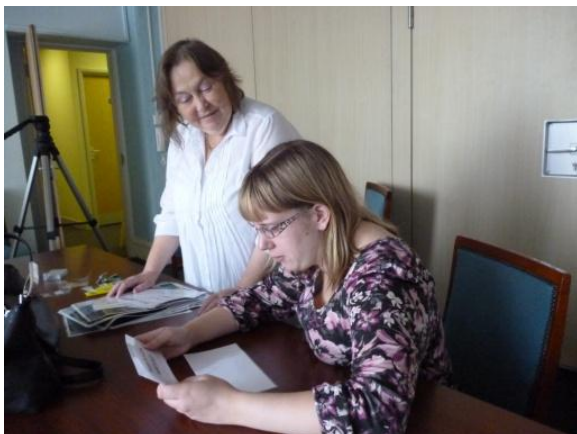
LC was interviewed at Vision 21 supported by staff and JC was interviewed at home.

Involving the whole of Cardiff People First

Ely Hospital tended only to be known amongst our older members. But CPF involves younger members. A number of workshops were therefore set up to involve Cardiff Young People First in the project. They were keen to find out what life was like for people with a learning disability in the past.

Following an initial meeting with the group, they decided they were keen to get involved throughout the project. A series of workshops were set up.

- Interview Skills
- Filming skills/camera skills
- Preparing Interview Questions
- Visiting Museums to find out how to involve visitors
- Interpreting Stories using creative techniques
- Learning about Ely Hospital
- Planning an Exhibition



Interviewing People and Preparing the Questions

Young People First learned more about interviewing. They carried out role plays and followed this up with a workshop where they wrote a series of interview questions of their choice. These were used as a basis for all the interviews.

Emma practicing her interview questions

'I want to ask the questions' said ES, member of Young People First.

Training in the use of the HDV video camera.



At another workshop young people were provided with training in the use of the HDV video camera. They learned how to use the tripod and basic camera skills including how to look after the camera, how to set it up and how to use various settings while filming somebody or the group.

‘I’m keen to learn how to use the camera’ said MS

Mark preparing the camera for an interview

Because ex-residents tended to mention a lot of named individuals, throwing up issues of confidentiality, it was agreed that the staff employed by Cardiff People First would interview the former residents and where possible Young People from CPF would interview former staff.

Young People First got together with a facilitator and drew up a list of questions to be asked.

‘I want to ask about family - did people see their families?’ said JC

Visiting the Waterfront Museum



A visit to the Waterfront Museum was organised to look how things are exhibited and ways to interact with the audience. Young People then passed their ideas onto the steering group. One idea included the use of luggage tags for comments.

Here Emma, Matthew, Mark and Jacques members of YPF write up their findings.

Using Creative techniques to interpret stories



The idea about the Snakes and Ladders came was brought up at a workshop and the young people looked at the area of Resettlement. They prepared a mock up of the game at another workshop and the group agreed whether a part of a story was a snake (negative) or ladder (positive) story.



Hospital closing – ‘we think that’s good’ said members at the workshop.

Going back to hospital because the neighbours wouldn’t accept us, ‘that’s definitely a snake!’ said JC

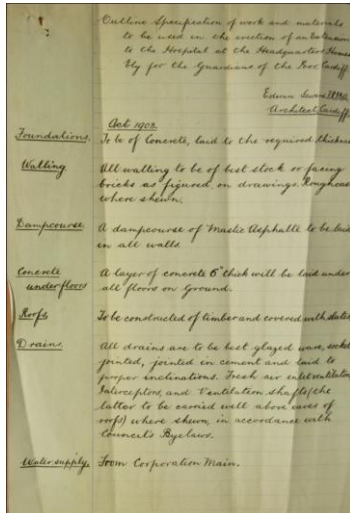
Aaqib during Ely Hospital Workshop

Learning about the language used in the past

Our members spent several sessions looking at the language of the past and present. We took language used in history and took language used today and YPF members created a word game where they asked visitors to place the words in the past or present. For many people, especially the young people, this was also a fun way of learning about the terms used in history, many of which are deemed offensive today.

Members unfamiliar with Ely Hospital, learned about it through listening to the stories, through recording some stories and through talking to people, including story tellers.

Learning about the Structure of the Buildings



Archive document



Picture of part of Ely Hospital

A workshop was held where young people were invited to interpret the plans of Ely Hospital. They invited a story teller on the project to provide them with advice about how the Hospital was set out. Young people learned about the structure of the buildings as well as about how people used to live in the Hospital.

Research by The Womens Group, Cardiff People First and Newport People First

Glamorgan Archives set up sessions upon request for members to look at the old documents. They supported our members at these sessions to understand the materials and some of our members shared their experiences of Ely Hospital at these sessions.



Plans shown during Visits to Archives and representatives from the Womens group meet to discuss Ely Hospital



Other Cardiff People First members were also interested in taking on specific roles. One of our members, SW is a keen film maker animator so he came along and filmed the Steering Group and one of the former residents JS playing the piano, as this had been mentioned in JS's story. SW also visited Parkview Health Centre to film the old memorial stone and tiles as part of some formal training sessions.



Gwen looking at the Archives Martin, Aaqib and Martin looking at the Archives
The Womens group were keen to take on the role of Researchers in the project. Many of the women were from the Community Voices group.

GETTING INVOLVED IN THE ELY PROJECT	
RESEARCH	STORYTELLING
VISITING GLAMORGAN ARCHIVES VISITING CENTRAL LIBRARY FINDING OUT INFORMATION ABOUT ELY HOSPITAL FINDING OLD PHOTOS PLANS OF THE HOSPITAL (LARGE)	TELLING STORIES ABOUT LIVING AND WORKING IN THE SUBURBS, IN A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT WAYS DIGITAL STORIES APPAREL QUOTES, RECORDINGS
ORGANISING EXHIBITION	FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY
RECAPTURING ELY HOSPITAL AS IT USED TO BE FURNITURE, STAFF, SOUNDS, AUDIO, FILMS ELY HOSPITAL, NEW HOSPITAL, CARDIFF STORY MUSEUM	CAPTURING PEOPLE TELLING THEIR STORIES AND SHARING THEIR MEMORIES ALSO FILMING + PHOTOGRAPHY MEMBERS AND STAFF BEING INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT

Notes from meetings



The Womens Group

'Us women, can do the research. We'll do a brilliant job. I'm really looking forward to this' said MH.

'There must be more information about Ely Hospital – My friends were in Ely Hospital' said CE

With the support of our Facilitators, they organised separate visits to Glamorgan Archives to carry out their initial research where Rhian Phillips, Senior Archivist, prepared a workshop. The support provided by Glamorgan Archives was excellent.

NAME OF PATIENT ELIZA AMOS.

AGE 40 CALLING Nil.

WHEN ADMITTED 15th August, 1914.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEAREST KNOWN RELATIVE OR FRIEND Sister, Miss. DIX 3 Church Terrace, Cardiff.

FORM OF MENTAL DISEASE Melancholia.

FAMILY HISTORY

DATE OF DISCHARGE

CONDITION ON DISCHARGE

CONDITION ON ADMISSION Incapable of any mental task. 4 x 3 = 40 There are two farthings in a penny.

RECORD OF TREATMENT AND SUBSEQUENT HISTORY

16. 9.21. Hoards rubbish, incapable of the simplest mental task.

23. 8.22. Very simple. States there are 4 farthings in a penny and six in two pennies. Still hoards rubbish.

3. 9.23. Very simple and childish. Has a mania for taking articles such as a handkerchief - and storing them up.

1.12.24. Very simple. Unable to perform simple mental tasks.

30.11.25. Greatly given to hoarding handkerchiefs and small things which do not belong to her.

23.7.26. Cannot read or write correctly. States that there are 5 seconds in a minute and 25 minutes in an hour. Still hoards.

25. 3.29. Defective in memory. Unable to give to-day's date. Hoards rubbish. Simple and childish.

1.12.30. Very defective in memory. Irritable. Confused, lost, simple and childish.

4. 4.32. She will get into an Officer's room and take any articles that takes her fancy especially little articles of personal wear. At times she will hide them, and at others openly give them to another Officer or patient. Still hoards rubbish. She can carry out rough tasks under supervision.

29. 9.32. She is a feeble-minded person. Simple and childish. Defective in memory.

21. 3.33. She is simple and childish and has no idea of the value of money. Is a good worker and well behaved. Has a delusion that she has died at one time and that this is her second life.

4. 9.33. Inclined to hoard rubbish. Defective in memory. Simple and childish. She is occupied in helping generally in the ward and she is a reliable and useful worker.

16. 2.34. States that she has had an idea that she has made people ill and that she has

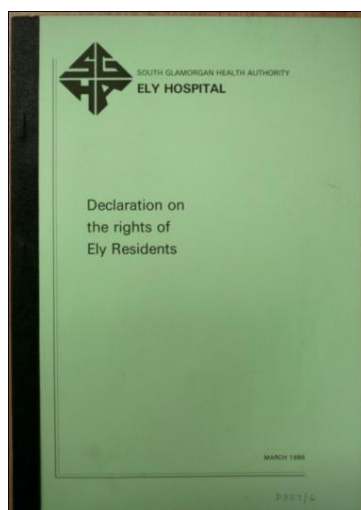
'I didn't know they had a staff handbook - Look at this from the early 1900's. People were called imbeciles. It's not nice' said JP.



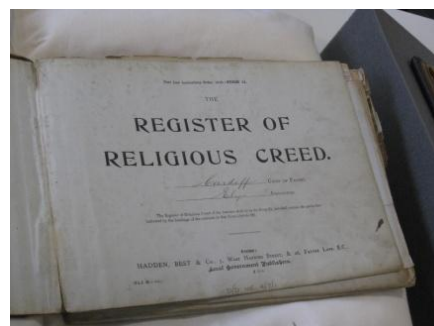
Janice looking at Handbook

Following the visit to the Archives the Women's Group delivered a presentation about their visit to the Steering Group, informing them what they had learned about their heritage.

At a later date a further group of people including former workers visited the Archives for a Workshop prepared by Rhian Philips.



'I worked on these 'Rights for Residents. Before that, we had no rights' said MH.



Library Visits by Cardiff and Newport People First

A series of visits were then carried out to Ely Library and Central Library. The visit to Ely Library was very successful with members gaining access to a series of old documents about the hospital. Library staff were very helpful and worked with us to collect and where possible copy the documents.



Members of Newport People First joined members of Cardiff People First to visit Central Library where again they accessed information that could be made available at the exhibition. These visits also led to a desk-top exercise of collating documents and news archives about Ely Hospital, including the Inquiry of Ely Hospital 1968/9.

Ope researching



Alison at Ely Library

Members were amazed by what they found. Documents were printed and copied and were presented ready for the Exhibition.

Look at these...early editions of the Grapevine mention Ely Hospital', said AL

Planning the Exhibition



Steven and Charlotte sorting out research and Jon helps us pack up

Cardiff People First organised visits to the Cardiff Story museum to look at the space we were being given. **'This is absolutely amazing'** said SA. We gathered the ideas from the Young Peoples First group meetings, the steering group meetings, Community Voices Group meetings, the Womens Group

meetings and met at the Cardiff Story on several occasions to plan the exhibition

New ideas emerged at these meetings including the possibility of using smells, re-enactments and the groups decided on what they would like to represent in the Exhibition:

Young People First agreed they would like to recreate Occupational Therapy, some Art Therapy, a kitchen and a ward.

We contacted the Cardiff University Art College (Howard Gardens) who arranged for students to drop into the museum, before it opened, to assist with putting up the displays. 7 students assisted during the college holiday period.

Meanwhile other members of Cardiff People First sought out ideas on where to find things for the exhibition. They discussed Ely Hospital at many group meetings. They suggested that we contact local hospitals for old furniture but this proved time consuming and unsuccessful.



Martin visits Celtic Props Hire



Visitors to the Exhibition

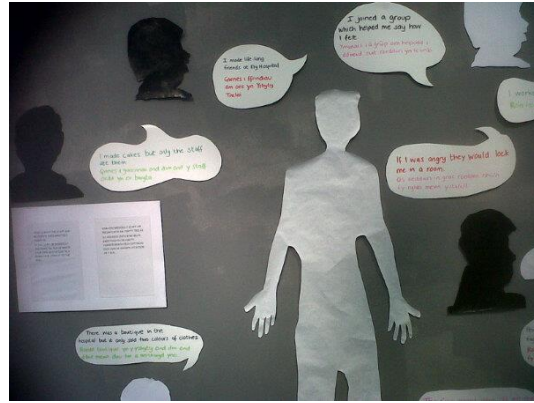
We visited Celtic Props with members who pointed out the furniture similar to that in Ely Hospital. **'Look that's the furniture we had. Is it from Ely Hospital?'** Said MH

We had 1 photo of the Dayroom that we found and agreed to recreate it at the Exhibition. The costs of re-creating a kitchen would be too high..

We photographed the props and took them back to the Steering Group where members who lived in Ely took part in selecting them for the Exhibition.

Verbal/Anonymous stories at the Exhibition

Meanwhile, people we met on a day to day basis were relaying stories about the hospital back to us. We recorded them on an anonymous basis where requested and used them in the exhibition. Stories were also told at Group meetings held on a regular basis.



YPF pose for photo at group meeting Silhouettes by YPF

Interpreting the Stories through Shadow Theatre



After a range of stories were collated, Cardiff People First Facilitators and Newport People First facilitators then showed these stories to their groups. After looking at options, they decided they wanted to use shadow theatre to depict the stories, an idea originally discussed with artist volunteer at the first Steering Group.

A series of workshops were organised, led by Newport People First, where CPF members and NPF members got together to direct the stories, produce storyboards, film, produce the voice overs and lighting. Nobody from the organisation had produced shadow theatre before. For these sessions,

student volunteers were contacted to support members to interpret the stories and support members with the practical tasks involved, where needed.

As the project progressed members learned more about the hospital. Many people had no idea there was a cinema there for example. We decided to ask people via Facebook what the cinema was like and somebody who worked there responded. We then agreed to recreate a cinema at the Exhibition.

Members also thought hard about how other verbal stories could be interpreted to make them more accessible. It was agreed that an easy-read translation of written materials should be produced to increase accessibility for all.

Initial showcase of our Project



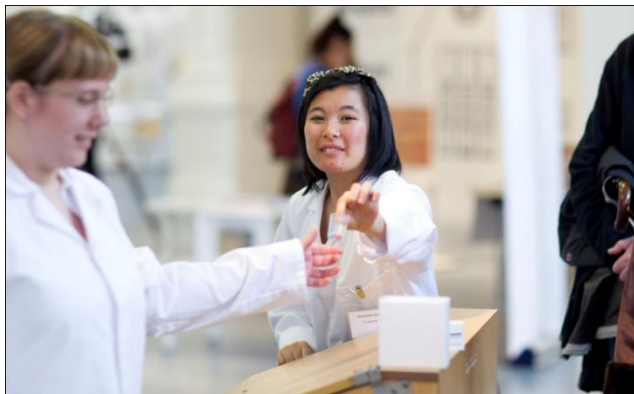
Group members and staff at The Senedd

We were invited to a Heritage Lottery Event at the Senedd in December. This was a great opportunity for us. Together with members we created a small stand showing photos of the work we'd done to date.

We met a range of AM's including Mark Drakeford AM who we had noted had written about Social Policy, covering Ely Hospital and the Inquiry into Allegations of Ill treatment of Patients of 1968/9. He expressed a keen interest in the project and following the event kindly offered to run a workshop at the exhibition on The Inquiry of 1969. We also asked invited him to our Launch to say a few opening remarks. It was great to have him on board.

Workshops accompanying the Exhibition

We contacted several Cardiff based universities who were keen to get their social work students involved. They were invited to run workshops and were keen to support the project.



Katie Lee (centre) and Emma Stokes during workshop (photo courtesy of HLF)

Our initial target was to hold two workshops but, we realised that interest in the project was running high.

Groups within CPF were exploring ways in which they could contribute a workshop. Cardiff and Newport People First agreed to provide a

Shadow Theatre Workshops on Rights (how rights have changed since Ely Hospital) enabling people to have a go at producing their own shadow theatre whilst another workshop involved Cardiff Young People First leading a short re-enactment of living in the hospital. Another workshop agreed to cover disability awareness 'now and then'.

Further workshops were also run by an ex-staff member – Dr Robert Jenkins, Prof Mark Drakeford (AM) and Steve Jones and Nigel Billingham (local Ely Area historians)

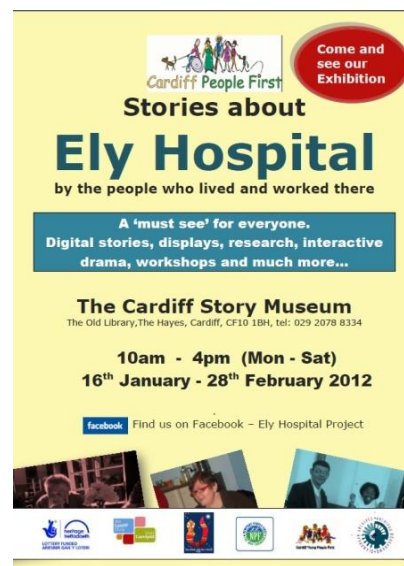
The number of workshops that ran alongside the exhibition increased from a target of 2 to an achievement of 10 reaching over 350 people in total. A timetable was set out in the Exhibition and displayed on The Museums Website.

Publicity

We produced a range of fliers and posters for the exhibition.

The Internet

We set up a Facebook page called Ely Hospital Project. It has 52 likes to date! We continue to use



the Cardiff People First Facebook account and use both on occasions. We also used Twitter on occasions as we have over 250 followers.

When we originally googled Ely Hospital before the project only a small amount of information came up. Now, by comparison, there are pages and pages of links.



Sam and her son visit the Exhibition

Flyers and 'A' Frame for the Exhibition

Members of Cardiff People First told us how to do the publicity flier. 'Make sure you use bold colours, clear writing – no patterns!'. They wanted it to be clear and accessible with a few photos if we could. They worked on some ideas with staff from the Cardiff Story Museum and agreed on the one used.

The Launch

Planning the Launch



Members wrote out their guest list for the Launch. They listed people like AM's, former workers, former residents and organisations like Ategi, Cartrefi Cymru and other organisations CPF have worked with. They wanted nice food, a cup of tea and an opportunity to meet the storytellers and look at the Exhibition.

Steven welcomes students to the Exhibition

We talked to The Cardiff Story to obtain special permission to use a catering company chosen by members. Once again, they were helpful in making this happen.

The project was successfully and officially launched on 24th January 2012. Over 80 people attended from a combination of groups and organisations including:

- **Authors of Ely Voices – Nigel Billingham and Steven Jones**
- **Welsh Government Representatives**
- **Equality and Human Rights Wales**
- **Disability Wales**
- **Vale People First**
- **HLF Representation**
- **National Museum of Wales**
- **Advocacy Matters**
- **Learning Disability Wales**
- **Mencap Cymru**
- **All Wales People First**
- **Innovate Trust**
- **Diversity Wales**



Mark Drakeford AM at the Official Launch of the Exhibition

Representatives from Glamorgan Archives presented the Archived materials from Ely Hospital at the event under special circumstances so they could be accessed by the public.

Members, supported by facilitators, ran the whole event. Prof Mark Drakeford AM gave an opening speech. Young People First spoke about their involvement in the project and Janice Partridge spoke about the Research Group, Lorraine Cox, one of the story tellers showed an extract of her DVD, Shahid Afsar thanked everyone for their involvement and Brian Thomas and Lisa Pickard cut the ribbon to mark the official opening.

Translations into Welsh



Ely Hospital by local artist Ruby Hooper and Signage Board Replica for Exhibition by CPF

The written materials provided by Cardiff People First for the Exhibition were translated using Cardiff Council. This including information about the exhibition as well as stories provided in written form. All fliers and key publicity for the event, such as information about the workshops, was translated into Welsh. Information boards at the Exhibition were also translated into Welsh. We received great support from the Cardiff Story to enable this to happen.

Filming and Editing

The creation of 20 digital stories was central to the project. Filming started as soon as possible and within a few months we called for professional help with editing the stories. As the stories were emerging, we thought it would be good if the Editor divided up the stories into sections as themes emerged. Whilst it was our aim not to influence the stories we quickly became aware that many stories were distressing, so we ensured that themes such as Entertainment, Food and Resettlement were shown in the final edits as these tended to represent more positive experiences. However, we agreed that all the interviews in their unedited format should be available for viewing if requested.

Entertainment, Food, Staff, Rewards, Punishments, Holidays, Resettlement, Structure and Closing the Hospital were selected as key themes that were emerging from the stories.

Within the timescale we had, it was not possible to secure member-led involvement in the physical editing of the stories. A more generous budget, more time and training would have been needed to ensure our members could use the software. This was disappointing but in light of the material shown it was decided that the editing was best carried out by somebody with solid experience in the field.

TV 1 – 41 minutes	Food, Staff, Work and Rehabilitation
TV2 – 27 minutes	Rewards and Punishments, Family and Friends, Holidays and Social outings
TV3 – 47 minutes	Entertainment, Structure of the Building, Closure and Resettlement..
TV4	Shadow Theatre animations showing stories provided to us by those who wished to remain anonymous.
Total number of themes	9 themes selected from the stories told.
Total number of story tellers	19 including 6 x anonymous storytellers
Total hours of filmed footage – storytellers	Approx 14 hours
Total hours of footage from project including steering group	Approx 20 hours
Number of stories utilised for shadow theatre	5

Newspaper and TV Coverage

At an initial Steering Group meeting, members told us how they would like to publicise the project and they identified the South Wales Echo, the BBC and ITV as potential publicity channels. They also highlighted the radio stations and Learning Disability Wales amongst others.



Photos courtesy of Media Wales

Ely Hospital Interest

We understand that our exhibition has been mentioned in various conferences and at training sessions organised by a variety of individuals and organisations including Care Work training provided by a private care home and Police Training – working with people with a learning disability.

On the day of our official launch, 24th January 2012, an article about an Honour for Jim Mansell featured in The Guardian. Jim Mansell contacted the South Wales Echo saying that he was following closely the feature. Jim also wrote to us passing on a document about the closure of Hospitals which we then featured in our Exhibition. He said he found the Echo photographs amusing as they did not reflect reality he knew! He told us he would like to have visited the exhibition but could not due to very ill health. He nevertheless contacted us saying 'that Ely Hospital was a truly awful place, and that we must keep up the good work we were doing'

Additional Stories (captured during the Exhibition)

One other story, by a former resident of Ely Hospital (for 3 years pre 1969) was recorded during February. The story is very distressing and it has taken the woman 15 years since leaving Ely Hospital to actually speak about it. She was very keen for her story to be made publicly accessible. (She previously attempted this but the people she complained against were untraceable and so nothing could be done).

Because we were unable to show her story during the exhibition she asked us to contact the radio stations. We have contacted Radio Wales and Radio 4 on her behalf and Radio 4 have spoken about contacting her as they are interested in her story.

Another story was sent to the Exhibition.

Another short story was recorded with a former resident. He enjoyed Ely Hospital. We filmed him whilst at the Exhibition upon request. He may wish to consider a further interview as it was very short.

A person travelled from Swansea to share her story of the time in the early 1970's when they pioneered the initial programme now known as care in the community. She lived in the original house which was shared between members of Ely Hospital and Cardiff University Students.

Contributions to Archive Materials

DVD's

We have a collection of stories told by staff and ex-residents.

The Master Journal from the 1930's.

A man brought a Master Journal from Ely Lodge – the workhouse to the Exhibition. He wanted to see it looked after. We contacted Glamorgan Archives who happily received it on the same day and were delighted.

Newsletters and documents from Ely Hospital

Innovate Trust brought in some documents from the Cardiff University Social Services Volunteering Project that paved the way for the closure of all hospitals in Wales. These are now with Glamorgan Archives

Union Documents from Dr Robert Jenkins

Dr Robert Jenkins Head of Learning Disability – University of Glamorgan brought in some documents by the Union dated from 1970's through to the closure. He also provided his nurses outfit for the exhibition.

Resettlement Project

CPF has some old documentation from the resettlement process.

Ely Library and Cardiff Central Library

The Library has been a source of information and archivable materials.

Photos

A range of photos and documents were brought to the exhibition by members of the public. These have now scanned upon agreement and returned.

Research

We have several files of documents including newspaper clippings, collated during the project.

Exhibition

We have photos from the Exhibition itself, including many taken by our members, staff and some by HLF and South Wales Echo.

Lessons Learned

Lesson Learned 1 – Stories open up new areas of interest! – Think and act quickly to respond to this interest.

- Having not explored Ely stories in depth before, we did not anticipate that there would be so many layers.
- We responded to this by arranging extra workshops to run alongside the museum. They covered a range of interests and we wanted to ensure that those interested in the project could access a range of ways to find out about it.

Lessons learned 2 - Think accessibility – use the wide range of skills and abilities your team has and explore creative ways to involve everyone

- We developed a checklist to ensure that the project was accessible to the widest range of people. We asked ourselves questions such as: If I was visually impaired would I visit the project? If I was older would I visit? If I was Young would I visit? If I was deaf would I visit? If English was not my first language would I visit and would I gain a fair impression of the stories from Ely Hospital?
- The lesson learned is that we had to think creatively about the way things were presented. We also thought more widely in terms of the different types of media we could use to increase accessibility for all.
- Our members/volunteers visited the museum on several occasions to plan for the exhibition. One of the offshoots of this was that the members/volunteers were able to develop their exhibition planning skills. It was also fun.
- We were initially overwhelmed by the size of the space we had to work with but with the support of The Glamorgan Archives and The Cardiff Story, having a large space proved beneficial in terms of being able to include the vast amount of materials and information gathered on the project. We didn't have to filter out information or stories.

Lessons Learned 3 – If you are linking up with a museum, ensure people involved in volunteering at the Exhibition, talk to the museum and staff about the visitor demographics and how some people may respond.

- Several members of the public visiting the exhibition found it difficult to find the positive stories and felt upset by the negative stories. One or two spoke offensively about or to people with a learning disability, some of whom were volunteering at the Exhibition.
- Staff and members found this the most challenging aspect of the project.
- The lesson here is that within an open public setting it is difficult and not always appropriate to challenge people who have views which offend you.
- For this project in particular it was important to stress to all visitors, whatever their views, that we wanted to hear their stories, should they wish to share them and that there were opportunities to tell us or write down what they thought using the feedback mechanisms.

Lesson Learned 4 – Write down and communicate your press strategy.

- Sometimes we couldn't work within the timescales for press/publicity
- We were approached by Radio Cardiff and Wales online who wanted to cover the story. They wanted to broadcast within a time scale they set.
- Another organisation wanted to speak to real life storytellers, again within a short time frame. We were aware that some of our members needed support to be interviewed especially to tell their Ely stories to the media.
- We should have sought more support over our initial press release
- We had an unwritten strategy in place to be selective of press interest because of the risk associated with portrayal of people with a learning disability.
- The lesson learned is that we didn't anticipate as much press coverage and a written strategy may have been useful, rather than relying on ad-hoc responses, but overall, we were all really pleased with the excellent coverage we received and felt that the portrayal of people with a

learning disability was well understood by the press organisations we worked with.

- Taking time to meet with the press was invaluable and resulted in a six day feature. We sought the support of the HLF press office when needed and were very pleased with the outcome..

A lot of what we learned from this can be built into future projects.

Lesson Learned 5 – Sometimes, you must be prepared to take a risk, but make sure there are mechanisms in place if things go wrong.

- As stories were coming in, we became concerned that many were negative. Some people were initially concerned about sharing them with the Young People involved and concerned about people feeling 'sad' about them.
- As a result we purposely sought out happy stories and ensured that the widest possible representation of stories was achieved. What we didn't tell many people was that some stories were unrecordable because of their distressing nature. We didn't record them for this purpose.
- Feedback shows that more people, including story tellers involved, feel that it is better that stories are shared and in the open rather than hidden, even though many are upsetting. Many people commented in the Guest Book and in person, that 'this is the only way we are going to move on in society and not repeat the mistakes of the past. The project showed how people felt about the hospital and it was important to give a voice to people who may have been previously unheard in public.

Lesson Learned 6 - Ensure you have opportunities for people to give feedback and don't forget to record avenues for further exploration

- Our lesson here is that we provided opportunities for people to tell us their feedback and stories and people used them.
- When gathering and looking at all the feedback, we calculated that over 90% of comments were very positive in the Guest Book with many comments alongside named individuals. There appeared to be a much higher proportion of negative comments where people were not asked to leave their name – ie; on the luggage tags. It is worth bearing this in mind when providing opportunities for feedback.
- For this report we decided against re-recording all the comments in the Guestbook, but would like to make this available for viewing upon request. We have however, recorded the luggage tags and other

feedback mechanisms. We have also taken a selection of guest book comments and included this in the photographic evidence for the project.

- During the exhibition lots of people talked to us about further ideas. It was important to make a note of them
- There are so many avenues that can be explored such as the effects of institutionalisation on people. the policy framework, the pioneers, an analysis of staff attitudes and how they changed following the Inquiry, how the community responded to the hospital closure, An exhibition of pioneering work which led to the closure and much more, a more specific timeline within the exhibition – around what time did that happen? Following Ely – How Wales led the way in respect for people with a learning disability.
- We wished we could have asked the question ‘what have we missed?’ When we became aware that a few people had mentioned it, we spoke to visitors involved in things like the NIMROD project and resettlement and they expressed a keen interest in a follow-up project.

Lesson Learned 7 - Stories at every opportunity – listen to what people are saying and be ready to record – but don’t forget to gain consent

- What became clear was that nearly everybody we spoke to had something to say about Ely Hospital.
- One of the lessons we have learned is that as soon as you mention Ely Hospital to people they start telling you stories. The problem with this at the beginning was that a great many stories, again, sad and happy ones were in danger of being lost through not being formally recorded. It was then difficult to go back to people and ask them to share it again with the same level of spontaneity and lack of self-consciousness. However, we experienced this early on in the project and agreed that everyone should take a note of the stories they were being told if they had consent to do so.
- Understand that somebody may be ready to talk one day but not the next.
- One of the advantages of the exhibition is that many people brought new or similar stories to the ones that were told, recorded and unrecorded, prior to the exhibition. We were therefore able to recapture many of the stories.

Lesson Learned 8 - Make sure you are there to talk to people visiting your exhibition

- Originally we didn't envisage our daily presence at the Exhibition.
- Our original budget didn't account for costs associated with invigilation..

But

- We think people were keen to talk to staff and our members at the Exhibition
 - Being at the Exhibition enabled a more personal touch. People told us about their photographs and their experiences, something we would have lost if we had not been there.
 - We were able to cover the cost through underspend on another budget heading.
-

Conclusion

There are still avenues to explore but overall we feel this project reached it's main objective plus more.

The dvd's present a recorded history and we will now present them to The Glamorgan Archives and The Cardiff Story Museum in the first instance, amongst other organisations including The British Institute of Learning Disabilities.

In terms of what happens next we are hoping to finalise the project by working with The Glamorgan Archives to prepare an online exhibition via The People's History website. We are hoping to finalise this over the coming months.

The Ely Hospital Project has been amazing experience for us all and still generates interest. We feel honoured to have worked with so many people who have been so supportive of our project. We would like to thank them all.



Stories Recalled by Staff (from Cardiff People First)

Many people at the Exhibition talked about their stories to staff and members and the following stories are recalled by Cardiff People First: These are the ones staff at CPF remember:

- Woman in her 50's or older. Sat in front of Silent Minority documentary quite emotional (sitting open mouthed) went in to talk and she was saying Ely was exactly like that. She used to visit her brother. She could remember the abuse and the neglect. She noticed the way the patients all looked out for each other, dressing each other, pushing each other in wheelchairs. Brother died as young adult.
- A man who lived in community – went to primary school behind the hospital. Used to stand on wall looking into Ely yards. Was good to watch. He can remember feeling really jealous of them in the pool but then felt bad when they had to go in the winter.
- 'they exercised to keep them tired'
- A former local resident also at the primary school. Remembers a guy who used to stand and face the school and rock day in day out. A memory from 70 years ago. He also used to go to racecourse and play football. Some from Ely used to come and join them. They used to go easy on them to let them have a go and play around/join in from game. One guy who had moved on from hospital carried on playing football.
- One woman resettled a group of people. One of the men, 'unjustifiably' got called a 'paedophile' by his neighbours and had to move back to hospital.
- One guy remembered that some of the guys would come out and worked for local businesses. One really big guy worked for a coal merchant and you would see him carrying around big sacks of coal, around the Ely Estate.
- I was a nurse there. The ward I worked on had a big Jacuzzi bath which about 9 people used to share. The water was like soup by the end of bathtime.

- People shared baths – we shared baths with our sisters and brothers.
- My mother had Alzheimer's and they put her in Ely Hospital.
- Do you think the building should have been knocked down?
- Do you think Ely should have closed?
- I was a nurse there in the 90's. I loved it there was no abuse; you would be reported to the police I loved the naughty ones.
- Should be more photos of holidays etc. There were some good times! Not all but there should be photos of good times.
- It was more difficult at the end of the closure as only the staff who could not find new employment were left, with the most vulnerable people. 'That was the worst thing'.
- I loved that bit where Martin James says I made sure I was there when the bulldozer went in so that we could ensure there was the temptation never to build them again.
- I hated it at first but I got to know the patients and I loved them. We got used to things. We didn't know different at the time. There were some bad people but like everywhere, you get good, you get bad, some people - like they said in the Inquiry – a bit rough with people.
- I know xxx, I see xxx around. xxxx has got fat. Said 1 an ex-staff member.
- One woman who was very angry about the exhibition, came in several times, and challenged a staff member on the bus. She totally dismissed the results of the Inquiry; She was a record keeper at Ely Hospital. She said she shredded all the records near the closure. She also called several Storytellers 'liars'. She said everything was negative. She said there was nothing positive whatsoever (*the same staff member as above)
- I just wanted to hear.....'s story.
- One man brought in the Master Journal from the Ely Lodge (c) 1929 – 33]. He donated it to the project, and we passed it onto The Glamorgan Archives.
- The baths – people systematically stripped off and lined up for baths.

- When it was announced that it was bathtime, people automatically took off their clothes.
- I feel quite emotional
- My friend told me to come and watch 'the Silent Minority'.
- I took a group of young kids with a learning difficulty to the mainstream school cos that's what we are trying to do now. People are no longer locked away.
- People were kept clean. They didn't share water. There was only one or two of us to bath everyone.
- A woman came in as she used to be a social worker for a 9 year old child. She built up a relationship with her but she had to go to Ely Hospital. She visited on a weekly basis. She went to check that she was ok one day but ended up on one of the children's wards. She found it so distressing that she could no longer go. The child she used to visit eventually didn't recognise her. She became very ill. The children she saw in the ward suffered 'water on the brain' and were unable to sit up. They were all lying in bed.
- Lots of people said they recognised the story of the pregnant woman.
- There was lots of love in the hospital. Staff loved the patients.
- The cleaners did a fantastic job. They worked really hard and even helped out on the wards.
- A boy with downs-syndrome was locked up on a secure ward for 'so called fighting' how could you do that? To somebody with Down's Syndrome – somebody who would suffer from such isolation' me and my sister used to volunteer on a Saturday morning. We used to take people over to play football.
- I was a senior member of staff. To this day, I keep a brick from Ely on my desk so that I always remember how it was. It's a constant reminder of what not to go back to! Also talked about the closure of the institutions.
- My ex-husband was born in Ely Homes. Dreadful place. He won't tell his story. He still meets with a group of people he used to know. It

caused him all kinds of mental (health) problems and physical problems. I'll come in and tell you more.

- I feel so ashamed. I never knew this. I'm going to bring my whole family (from Ely) back and show them this exhibition. I can't believe I was so afraid of the hospital, when really the people inside must have been afraid. I feel so guilty.
- I know that man (on the DVD). I just passed and recognised him. I had no idea, what people have been through is awful. I've grown up in Ely and lived there all my life. I used to walk past the hospital. We didn't know what it was. We were just frightened of people who lived there. I had no idea that all these people lived there. It's mad aint it. If (the exhibition) was on longer I would bring my friends.
- This has really brought back some memories. Those people who should never have been there. The beds weren't like that – there were rows of them. Imagine all them all occupied, the old steel types.
- I was involved in the piloting of the NIMROD project – which resettled people in houses back in the area where they came from. It was common sense really. I have lots of memories. There was some good people around but there were also some ego's involved at the time. It didn't matter about what your politics were – at the time there was a common aim – to get people out. We worked as a partnership to do this. The partnership was before the 'All Wales Strategy for the Development of Services for Mentally Handicapped People' 1983. It wasn't needed once the Strategy came out.
- I used to try and encourage people to blow the whistle on bad practice if they witnessed it but there was a very strong, sometimes ex military style, thing between staff. I'd be happy to get involved in any other projects.
- (Woman with her support worker) came up the doorway. I can't come in. No no not me. I hated it there. Glad to see the back of it. They were cruel. Some of them were sadists.
- My brother has Down's Syndrome. I used to be quite jealous of him. He used to go on trips and I didn't. I used to say 'what about me'.
- I'm interested in the Homes – I was born there. It took me years to find this photo. (Brought photo to exhibition)

- Do you think it will re-open again? (One former resident)
 - I worked there and it wasn't like that.
 - I have loads of photos at home. I will bring them in. I even have a vase donated to me by the residents. I have lots of memories of working there.
 - I want to come back and have a better look. On watching the videos. 'That's a stupid question ... Do you think people should have been there? – what a stupid question. How would he know?'
 - All those people on those video's – they don't know. What about the views of staff? There's not enough staff. I worked with loads of staff. I'll bring them back. They won't like it.
 - A health care worker came in and went straight to the research section and looked at me and said – 'there were quite a few beatings'. That's all she said.
 - One of the chefs came in and talked about the time of the salmonella outbreak. He remembered how scrupulous they were with health and safety. He spoke of his personal fears around being targeted for poisoning people – a lady lost her life. He said it was a bad egg but nothing they had done wrong.
 - A couple of members of the public spoke offensively about the project and the people involved in it.
-

Appendix 2

Project Feedback

Formal Feedback Session with YPF

Plans of Ely Hospital Session

Quotes following learning about the Structure of the Hospital

I don't think I would have liked it here – on a ward. (JC)

It was a massive place. A massive community .JC

There's not a nightclub or entertainment? .. MP – Used to be a social club and a disco for people on some Friday nights.

There was a children's ward. Were they with their families ES? The children's ward wasn't there by the time it closed.

This is where all the trouble happened (in the Teenage Ward) (CW)

I've never worked with a plan before. (JC) This shows you what kinds of facilities were there.

Is this a hospital? Is it still there?

Were there green spaces? (AS) 'Not much – but all behind were fields and we used to take people over there. They used to like it. But apart from a few verges there wasn't much green space.

There was a laundry room, admin department, cinema, a swimming pool, rehab building, shops, canteen, many wards, some big, some much smaller like community houses where people used to go in a practice living in the community..., (MG)

Were children born in the hospital? (ES) yes, many children were born in the hospital (MG). There used to be a children's ward but this went in the 1980's I think.

General Feedback following Project

Each member chose his/her favourite activity during the Project. Then they wrote why he/she had chosen the activity as their favourite. Some peoples chose more than one!

- "We had lots of meetings. We finished in February with our Drama (performance)".
- "Looking in the Swansea Museum and Cardiff Story Museum for Ely Hospital Project it was the biggest event in Cardiff People First history. Over 2000 people visited" (Matthew Purnell)
- "All Cardiff People First Office Volunteers..... and staff on duty" (at the museum) (Matthew Purnell)
- "We used words like 'mental case', 'insane', 'mad' 'lunatic' because that was what they called us before" (Mark Sunderland)**
-
- "I like the camera" (filming) (Mark Sunderland)
- "I interviewed people both staff and ex-residents and asked them what they thought of Ely Hospital. They thought Ely was horrible!"**
- We drew around each other. We used a projector (*for light*). We used pencils and paints" "We used silhouettes because people didn't want to be known or seen". "Anonymous" (Whole group comment)**
- "I like designing the game because I learnt to make a game".
- "We learned about when they left"

- 'I found Brians story sad – him missing his mum – made me upset'.
- "I pushed the medicine trolley to give people drugs". "Time for medicine!" "I liked shouting and acting as a nurse". (Katie Lee)
- "I was acting in the Day Room and lots of people were watching me acting. I really enjoyed it! I never acting before on TV" (E S)
- I liked doing drama because I would remind people (*make them think what*) if they had the same experience"

Then there was a group discussion about 'Why do you think the Ely Hospital Project was so important?'

MARK: "To tell people about it".

EMMA: "To show people with no Learning Disabilities not to treat people badly".

MATTHEW: "To show their experience with a Learning Disability and tell what it was like at Ely and show.... the Exhibition was a wonderful experience".

LUKE: "We learned how people were living in Ely Hospital and we learned they were treated badly"

KATIE: "I was on the Steering Group. I went to Cardiff Story. The exhibition. I took photos. It was good." (*The best was*) "the cameraman"

JACQUES: "To show people that the residents had a difficult experience. Because some of the residents wanted to be in a house of their own and now they can".

Appendix 3

Quotes from Staff

Things that went well

We never imagined so many people would visit us. It's unbelievable (MC)

I loved talking to people who came to visit (IL)

Partnership with The Cardiff Story and Glamorgan Archives. They were all really helpful and our members really enjoyed working with the staff there. Our members felt like equal partners, enjoyed the new experiences and looked forward to seeing people from the Archives and the Cardiff Story. We learned about a part of Ely Hospital that we never thought we would get to know about. The records were fascinating. The language used, the records of treatment and religious creeds are all amazing to look at. (KJ)

It's really brilliant. I didn't realise how big this thing would be! It's huge and it's attracting lots of people from all walks of life. (HD)

I am loving facilitating the research side of this project. We are finding so much. We were at the library (Ely) and we found stuff you wouldn't believe! (SS)

We didn't realise we would have to be at the museum every day but we loved it. It was such a fab place to be. We thought we would be able to work but some days we spent the whole day talking to people. (KJ)

I can't believe that this man has brought in the Master Journal from the Workhouse. You will love it. Rhian from the Archives will love it. It is amazing. He has donated it to us. (IL)

We have put together a really interesting project. We have those stories now, the short and longer versions. They can be kept forever. (MC)

The great thing is that young people and many other people in fact, now have an idea about what life was like for people with a learning disability in our past. It's important that we listen to the stories, that we learn from them. (KJ)

Newport People First found it hard to get involved at first because of the distance and because they didn't know anyone who lived at Ely Hospital. But In the end, we found a way they could be active on the project without the need to travel so frequently. We took the project to them and brought the results - shadow theatre creations back to Cardiff.(CS)

The workshops were excellent. Informal, relaxed but very informative and delivered with sincerity and interest. Workshops by Mark Drakeford AM and Dr Robert Jenkins both provided a real and honest insight into the

I delivered training the other day to a group of Police Officers. Old institutions came up on the course. Had it not been for the exhibition, I wouldn't have delivered such a fab session. I bowled them over with my knowledge! (CD)

The exhibition was mentioned in my care work training today. I didn't know who delivered the training but he told us about the Exhibition. (Private Care Home Worker)

The range of people who came into the exhibition was so broad. We met politicians, managers, doctors, young people from Ely Hospital, other People First Groups, school children, people who lived across from the hospital, people who live on the site, relatives of people who were there, people from Australia and a man from York, former residents of the childrens home, former cooks, record officers, Paralympics contenders and many former residents and staff. (SS)

People are still coming in and asking about the exhibition! (J-The Cardiff Story- March 2012))

Appendix 4

Luggage Tags - Written Feedback

It upset me to walk around and see how bad things were but at least the place is closed now. WE MUST NEVER FORGET. Excellent Exhibition. Well done.

Really informative. But as ever here in the South, Welsh speaking people with learning disabilities aren't really considered

Really enjoyed Dr Jenkins presentation. Thank you

Excellent. Will recommend it to others.

I was a nurse in Casualty CRI when Ely Hospital closed. Ex patients started coming into casualty and sometimes spending the night with us to feel safe.

Absolutely bizarre! The exhibition feels unfinished, low budget and as though one is intruding. The majority of the content means nothing to anyone who doesn't know this random hospital.

Very interesting. It is 'nice' to be able to gain more of a feel for one of the institutions we hear so much about in university.

Really enjoyed the talk and presentation. Brilliant job! I'm sure the guys at Ely would be proud.

Very informative. Shows good and bad points of Ely. Also shows it is very much about the individuals perception of Ely Institute.
How times have changed for the better. Moving and harrowing stories (Liz and John)

Love the variety of media and the variety of ways to feed back. Liked the links I could make People I know

The Ely Hospital Exhibition is good for people to tell us about their story. It is amazing to do it.

I think that peoples bravery and honesty about Ely hospital is amazing – there's a bit to learn still about disability I hope education reaches everyone –

so that everyone can lead fulfilling lives without oppression. Thanks to all for their input. S

Brilliant information collection is a real eye opener as to how much it has changed and how much more we can do as a community supporting one another. EVERYONE deserves a right to Education and opportunity to have a go.

Thank you for putting the exhibition together. I'm a visitor to Cardiff and have no knowledge of Ely but found the stories and issues raised very powerful

Great Exhibition – Let's hope vulnerable peoples care can improve further as neglect and abuse is still present. Support worker should not be allowed to smoke over clients for example.

The exhibition was brilliant, the hard work and passion put into it was great. However, it is a reminder of a past and I hope will never reoccur.

I was a nurse at Ely and found this exhibition interesting. A lot of negative feedback and not enough good.

More like this. Very Good.

My husband was a driver with South east Wales Ambulance Trust, he was eventually the coach driver who took patients on holiday, day trips etc. I accompanied him in the summer of 1994, when 40 patients went to Longleat. The carers were cheerful and caring. For some of the incontinent patients carers took one on each arm to the toilets at the entrance before we started the day. My husband said they deserved medals.

Very interesting. Glad it won't go back to them times.

The video was good. Nice to hear memories.

Negative - of concern is the manipulation of individuals to give a negative picture of activities they enjoyed. Has this been validated. Very disappointing.

Very interesting. Thank you. I work with people who spent 45 yrs as residents.

Very negative.

A wonderful and touching exhibition. The images from the shadow theatre are beautiful.

A fantastic exhibition in a fantastic venue – reminiscent of the style of old institutions .

This exhibition has left me with mixed emotions. Sad at the stories told but glad to hear them in a way so we don't forget and continue to make sure people are granted the same options as us all

God bless your caring hearts! Jane from Hong Kong 18th Feb 2012

Very emotional. However, would have liked some happier items as well as I do remember some.

I feel very sad. How could this happen.

There was much love care and compassion – family feelings – therapies – lots of positive relationships as well as negative. The exhibition dwells as the negative – where's the positive – there were lots of things wrong, but also lots of good.

Very interesting exhibition . Very well put together. You did very well

Great work by all and something for everyone.

Very informative and an unusual subject for an exhibition but well worth doing as things like this should not be forgotten.

Brilliant exhibition. Really captured the essence of the hospital. In some respects we haven't moved on at all

Too negative. I was a child of one of the nurses's at the hospital and never saw anything but good people working there.

Sio media iawn. Dim patrwm na dylyniant rhwng yn adrannau gwahand.
Ychydig iawn o luniau i ddangos sut oedd yr ysbyty un edrych yr holl wth yn 'random' iawn.

The Speech bubbles

While working at Ely I remember on a few occasions getting residents ready to go on a bus trip, then being cancelled because of staff shortages on another ward. Had to take the residents back off the bus and some were upset.

'The price of freedom is eternal vigilance!

There was a boutique in the hospital but it only sold two colours of clothes.

If I was angry they would lock me in a room.

My sister lived at Ely Hospital till it closed. She died in 2009.

Hello, my name is Nicoletta and I want to be a doctor at Ely Hospital when I grow up.

My sister was there as a resident in the 1969 scandal. I worked there the treatment was awful.

Hello, my name is Megan and I want to be a baseball player!!

Hello my name is Hope and I want to be a doctor when I grow up

Ely Homes, Ely Hospital, Ely Cardiff Thursday 16th Feb 2012

Friday 20th Jan – Great hospital for the community. Good for food Canteen, etc etc,

People stole my fags

Dr Who is cool.

Most staff were great when I worked there but there's always one or two.

We felt like a family.

I lived there for 31 years. I shouldn't have been there. They were nice in the day. It was in the night they were nasty. Liz

Taking residents on holiday

I am going to see Alvin and the chipmunks.

Tuesday 17th Feb – I pop in Ely Hospital for Sunday Dinner in the canteen in Ely in Cardiff.

Sad

The worse feeling ever

Hello, my name is Amy and Kiera. We would like to help in Ely Hospital when we are older.

My name is Lily and I live where Ely Hospital used to be.

I worked in Ely in the 90's. Any form of abuse would be reported to police.
I made life-long friends at Ely Hospital

The fire alarms went off all the time

If someone tried to run away, the whole ward was locked

I made cakes but only the staff ate them.

I joined a group which helped me say how I felt.

Any problems were dealt with and our residents were valued.

I worked in the kitchen

I joined a group which help me say how I felt.

Appendix 5 - Selected Quotes from Guestbook :

A distressing reminder of times past – but not so long ago. My Aunty Joyce H Robinson, started a swimming club for young ‘patients of Ely Hospital. It was called the ‘Chameleons’.

Fascinating. Society has moved on so much in the last century. Depressing surrounding and life for these people.

...the residents witnesses were particularly interesting.

I didn't realise what was going on in Ely. Just thought it was like the Heath. I lived in Cardiff all my life

The Story of the lady who was put into Ely because she was pregnant, I was involved in resettling her..

Learnt something today about a hospital I had never actually seen.

Cardiff has changed for the better since we lived here in 1963.

Better times now for people in there own homes. But enjoyed my time working there.

Sad but interesting.

Fascincating hidden history of Cardiff. Sad but not angry. People should see this to remind themselves of those who fall through the cracks,. Thank you to CPF society for running this.

Aren't we lucky to have been born later>

It's very good these things shouldn't be forgotton.

Good exhibition. A great reminder of our past and why we do what we do today.

Excellent snakes and ladders.

The swinging sixties not happening for these people. Sad and shameful

Need to keep fighting stigma.

It is of cultural, social and historic significance – well done for dragging this out of the shadows. Some stories are chilling. The bed says it all.

Thank goodness we are in more enlightened times.

Interesting and informative. I have lived in Ely all my life and feel dismayed/distressed learning about the inhuman treatment of such a vulnerable group.

Well done CPF for your outstanding work. You should be proud.

Hard hitting and very well presented using all the senses.

Unbelievable that all this happened in recent history.

Brings back so many memories and a fantastic piece of work by all in CPF.

Enjoyed exhibition and meeting new people will bring people I support who were at Ely Hospital.

Very powerful. I'm shocked and don't understand why places like Ely Hospital ever existed.

Hopefully this place (Ely Hospital) won't become popular again

Shocked by how personal accounts made me feel.

A fascinating insight.

After working at the hospital for many years I was disappointed that the people involved in the stories haven't signed them.

Very interesting. I remember listening to stories about Ely hospital when I first arrived in Cardiff.

Ely Hospital was a great place to work.

Very interesting and informative, particularly in relation to how attitudes and the care aspect has changed over time.

Some very sad stories. – A lot of work has gone into the Exhibition.

Very interesting - although quite disturbing.

Essential that we remember the past in order to ensure we never make the same mistakes,

I had reservations when I knew the exhibition was taking place as I know a number of people who lived there and wanted to forget, but I think its a very powerful exhibition

Brought back memories, both good and bad at my time working there. However, I still see institutionalised practices in smaller homes ie; Minimum staffing not allowing one to one quality time for resident's trips.

What a look back. We have come so far.

How wonderful, how sad – each and every staff member working in the field of learning disabilities should come and take in this information and reflect on how it was for people and how it is now.

Came all the way from Herts to see, very well set out.

How we treated people in the past was terrible.

Very pleased to see what you are doing in Cardiff to record the history of people with learning disabilities in Bedford, we recorded the history of Bedford Mencap in conjunction with the OU.

Brought back a lot of memories. I used to take a friend to visit the mother in Ely Hospital.

I know nothing. It was fascinating and surprising to see that wa place with such an old fashioned attitude was still open till comparatively recently. The recreations of parts of the hospital very effective.

A really revealing account of how things used to be. Only pleased that enlightened attitude have changed things and the people have been given their dignity.

Made me feel ashamed that people were treated like this.

All should see it.

I worked there and found people were well treated. Any problems were dealt with.

Still working with people with LD. Worked at Ely. Lets remember that Winterbourne was reported in on 2011. I've worked in this area for 38 years - there is always good and bad.

Lovely to see how well former residents are doing.

Brave decision to mount this exhibition.

Thank you for sharing your history with us. It is important to remember how people with a learning disability were seen as different. I hope the world has moved on.

It made me cry.

The historical information educates people for the future, informs people for the present and reminds people of the past. I wonder how people will look back on social care in 2012 in the future.

Gwen enjoyed being part of the Ely Hospital Project. After having a look round and reading all the information it has been a real eye opened to the lives that have been affected.

I am happy in Rhiwbina

Sad to think that some people were kept institutionalised for the wrong reasons.

These stories have to be kept telling and telling until someone up there is listening.

Its sad to know so many lives were wasted in an institution they need not be part of. Although very informative exhibition, the more we can integrate. .. Thank god for the DDA.

This has been a revelation to me. I had no idea as a resident of Cardiff that these attitudes were so prevalent.

Thought provoking exhibition. We continually have to be aware of not falling back into similar practices.

Shocking, sad and enlightening. Thank you for all your wonderful efforts.

Provokes lots of emotions of a worthwhile project that helps me understand more about societies response to learning difficulty.

Brilliant exhibition but will be very sad to see it go too quickly. Great work.

Appendix 6