

The Impact of Prison Arts Foundation’s Traveller Community project 2019 on prisoner Attitudes and Behaviour: A Quantitative Evaluation

Methodology – Participants

This study measures attitudinal and behavioural changes in 9 Traveller community prisoners engaging in PAF’s ceramics project in HMP Maghaberry. Since 1st April 2019 we have delivered 17 workshops, had 107 engagements with an 88.9% average attendance rate. (Table 1) The prisoners have created individual pieces of art and worked on a group mosaic which will be placed in HMP Maghaberry visits (Appendix A).

Table 1 Workshop delivery and attendance

Month	No of workshops delivered	Number of registrations	Target No. of attendees	No. of prisoners scheduled to attend	No. of prisoners attended	Target V Scheduled	Actual V Scheduled
April	2	9	10	18	18	180%	100%
May	1	9	5	9	9	180%	100%
June	3	5	15	15	14	100%	93%
July	5	7	25	35	29	140%	83%
August	3	7	15	21	19	140%	90%
September	3	9	15	27	18	180%	67%
	17 (Total)	8 (Average)	85 (Total)	125 (Total)	107 (Total)	153.3% (Average)	88.9% (Average)

Some of these men have been involved in our project since the pilot back in 2018/19 whilst others are relatively new attending just 4 workshops to date. None the less 100% of the men said they have loved being involved in the project (Table 2), most of them said they would like more workshops and nearly 80% said that the arts matter more to them now after taking part (Table 3).

Reasons why the arts matter more to them now after taking part included -

- 🎨 “Good vibes”
- 🎨 “Interesting, helps mental health”
- 🎨 “It takes your mind off the outside”
- 🎨 “Respect the amount of work involved”
- 🎨 “More appreciation for arts in general”
- 🎨 “Learnt a lot”

Interestingly only 3 of these men have ever taken part in a creative arts activity or programme before (Table 4) and two of these men had previously engaged in another PAF facilitated residency, our creative writing group in HMP Magilligan and our Traveller community pilot project during 2018/19.

Table 2 Did you enjoy being involved in the project?



Table 3 Does arts matter to you more after this project?

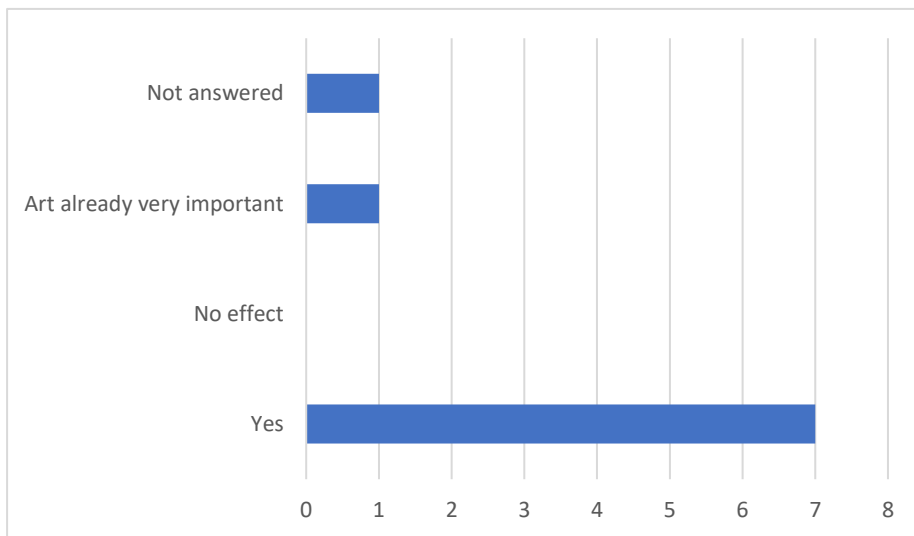
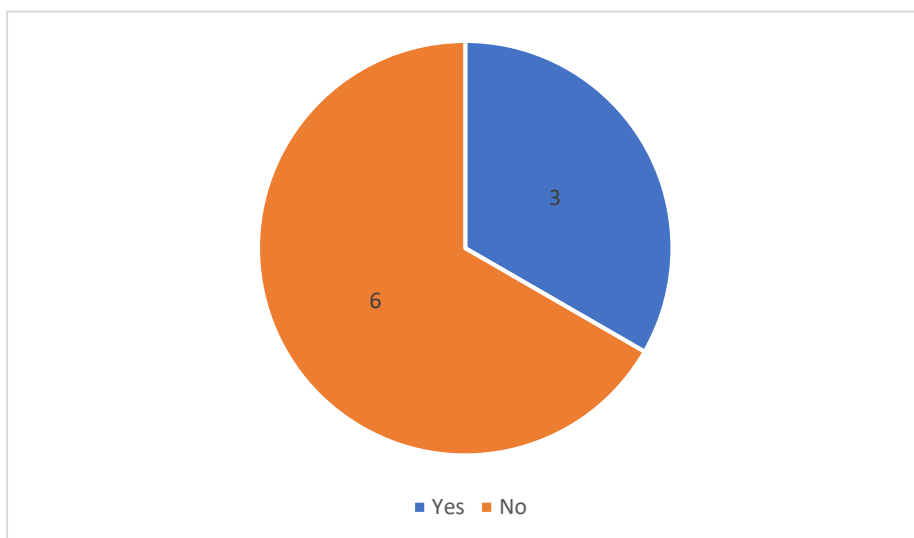
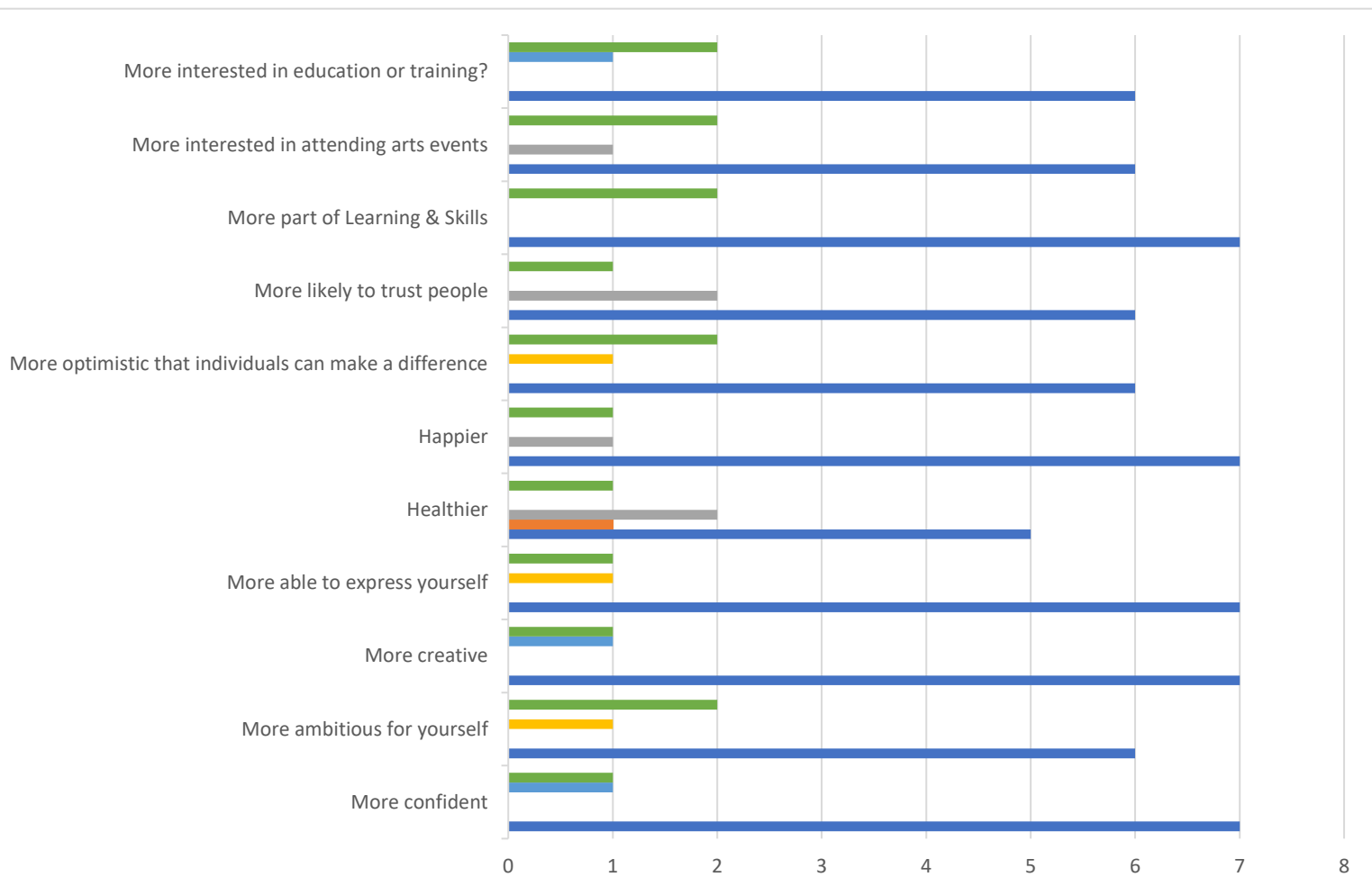


Table 4 Have you ever taken part in a creative arts activity or programme before?



When asked what effect, if any, the project has had on them a significant majority 71%, regardless of the number of workshops they have attended to date, said they felt more confident, creative, and able to express themselves, happier and more a part of Learning & Skills in HMP Maghaberry. A number of men also reported that art has helped them become more interested in attending education, training or other arts events. (Table 5)

Table 5 What effect, if any, has the project had on you? Are you:

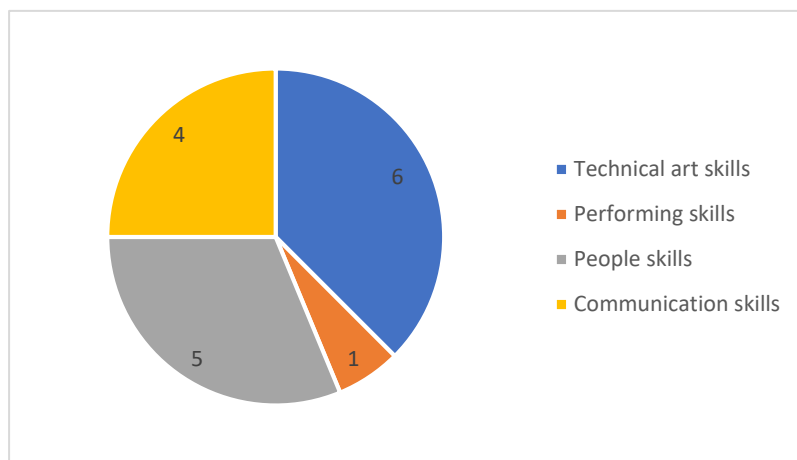


	More confident	More ambitious for yourself	More creative	More able to express yourself	Healthier	Happier	More optimistic that individuals can make a difference	More likely to trust people	More part of Learning & Skills	More interested in attending arts events	More interested in education or training?
■ Not answered	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2
■ Strongly disagree	1		1								1
■ Disagree		1		1			1				
■ Neither agree nor disagree					2	1		2		1	
■ Agree					1						
■ Strongly agree	7	6	7	7	5	7	6	6	7	6	6

When asked if their behaviour changed while taking part in the workshops just over half of the men said they gained both people and communication skills. (Table 6) When asked if there was anything else that they gained from being involved in this project answers included

- ✚ “Involvement”
- ✚ “Self-purpose”
- ✚ “A music book”
- ✚ “Completing a project”
- ✚ “Getting off the landing”

Table 6 Have you gained skills in any of these areas as a result of the project?



We are encouraged by the findings in this report. They confirm the results of many other evaluations of prison art programmes and interdisciplinary research on the relationship of arts education and human development. Although the sample size for this study is small, we will be expanding the study to include all of PAFs residencies, across all 3 prison establishments – both men and women.

Long term we would like to work with Northern Ireland Prison Service and Department of Justice to include a recidivism study to see if there is a reduction in the rate of recidivism for prisoners who have engaged in PAF’s programmes compared with others who have not. Ultimately the goal of any rehabilitation programme is to prepare prisoners for a successful reintegration into society.

Appendix A - Other images of the project





(Some of the prisoners with their finished group mosaic)