



Building Better Opportunities Progress report April – June 20

Due to the spread of Covid -19, we unfortunately had to close the on-site delivery of our project to all our participants in line with government guidelines.

The National Lottery Community Fund and TCHC asked their partners to look at working remotely with their participants and to continue to offer support during this time.

Richard and Helen each supported a caseload of participants with each taking responsibility for their ongoing support.

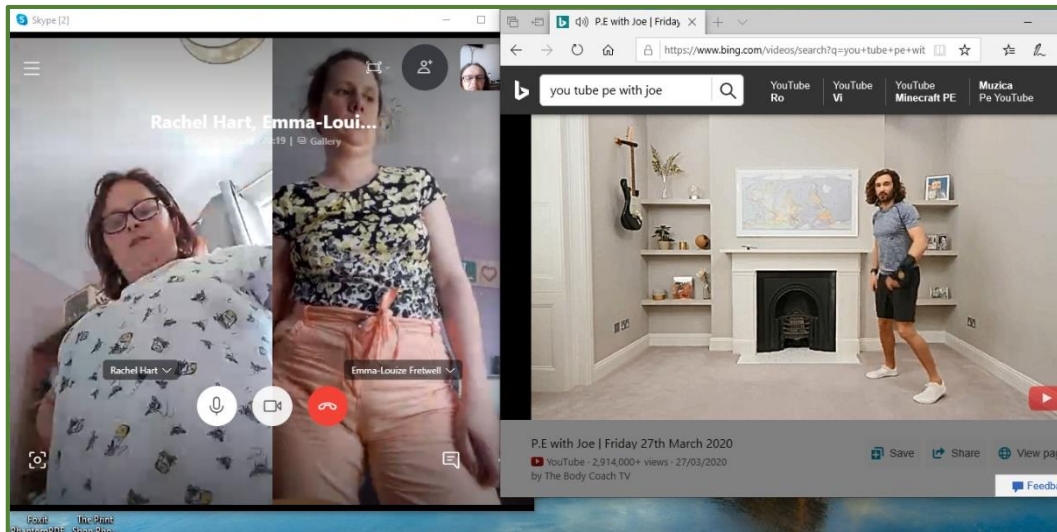
Participants and staff have learned how to use different technologies to remain in contact, this has included WhatsApp group chat, Skype, Facebook video, phone, text and email, which has increased their skill levels.



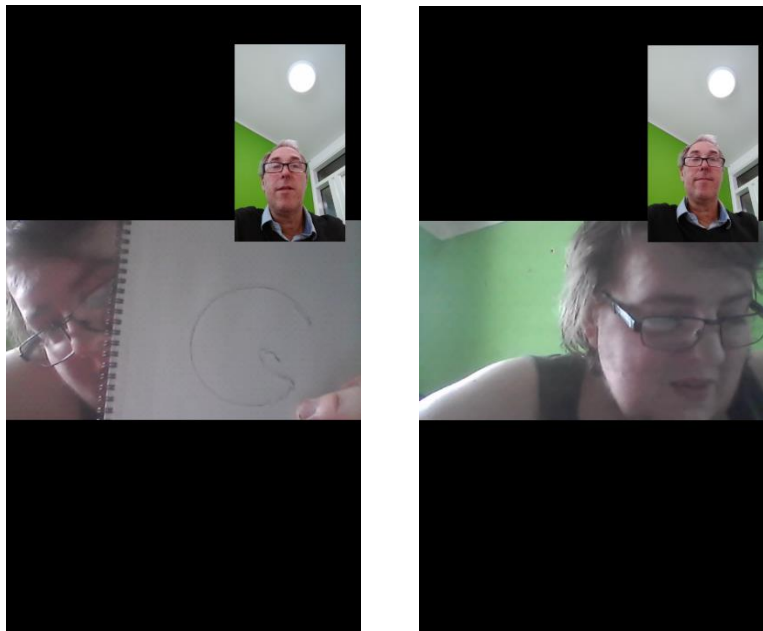
Helen set up a weekly newsletter in which participants could discuss what they had been up to, send in photos, give game, film and T.V show reviews, baking they had done, show off their artwork and give tips on how to beat boredom during the lockdown.

The newsletter has been important as it helps to keep all our participants connected and allows them to read about each other's experiences. This has been really important for everyone's mental well-being.

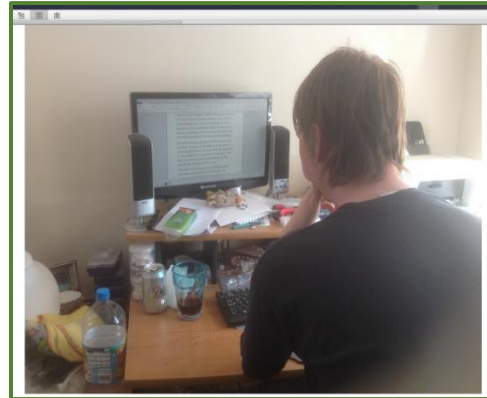
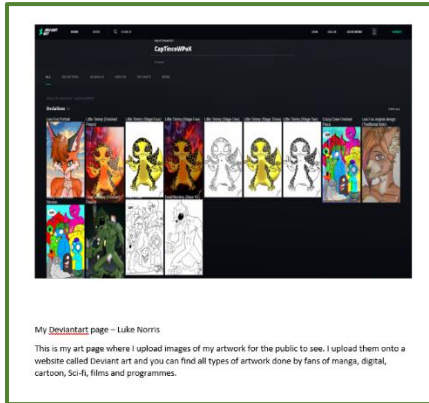
Rachel and Emma asked if Helen could set up a Skype account as they wanted to do some exercise. They are now taking part in twice weekly Joe Wicks fitness sessions.



Christian asked if Richard could support him through weekly Facebook video sessions so he can show his artwork and ask for advice on how to do different artwork.



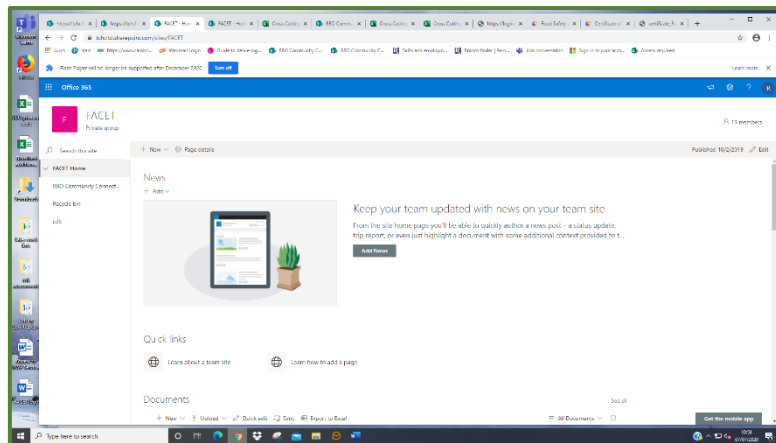
All of our participants have engaged in some way and have contributed to their support through cooking, art, gaming, social media, exercise, walking, gardening and helping out with home DIY projects.



Andrew decided he did not want to continue on the project as he had completed his goals and exited the project in May. He gained lots of practical skills in woodwork and I.T and gained an Entry level 2 qualification in Enterprise.



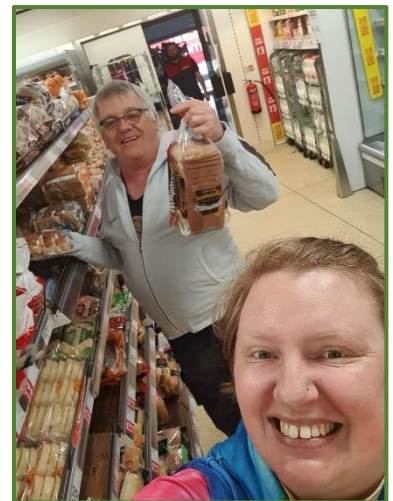
Richard has worked on the admin side of the project, making sure all the correct paperwork has been kept up to date and uploaded for our main partner to collect.



Aimee joined the BBO project during the lockdown period to provide additional support to Robert at his home for 3 mornings a week. This was to enable him to remain on the project during lockdown and for us to continue to support him in the most effective way.

Robert received support to access the community safely, to go shopping, take regular walks and to be able to talk about the current situation which helped to alleviate his concerns and support his well-being.

Robert was also supported to set up his own small garden project at home where he could take responsibility for growing his own flowers and veg.



As the weeks have progressed and restrictions to the lockdown have started to ease, we did a survey with our participants as to when and if they would like to start returning and on what basis. This would be in line with the government guidelines and having robust risk assessments in place to ensure safe working.

Our project opened up to participants who wanted to return in mid-June. We have looked at supporting participants in as normal as setting as we can and started to re-introduce normal routines.

