

STREETWISE OPERA'S IMPACT

2018 - 2019

Streetwise Opera is an award-winning performing arts charity for people who are or have been homeless. We run creative programmes in five regions across England and stage critically-acclaimed operas.

“ I've heard twice on the radio musicians say, in a cavalier fashion, that opera is dead. How could they? When you attend a group like this, you realize that opera isn't dead, because there's so much you can learn from it. ”

OUR AIM

Our aim is to improve wellbeing and increase social inclusion by enabling people who are or have been homeless, to make and sustain positive changes in their lives through engaging in high-quality creative activities.

WHO WE HELPED

581 Performers

63% Male

1% Transgender

36% Female



IMPROVED WELLBEING

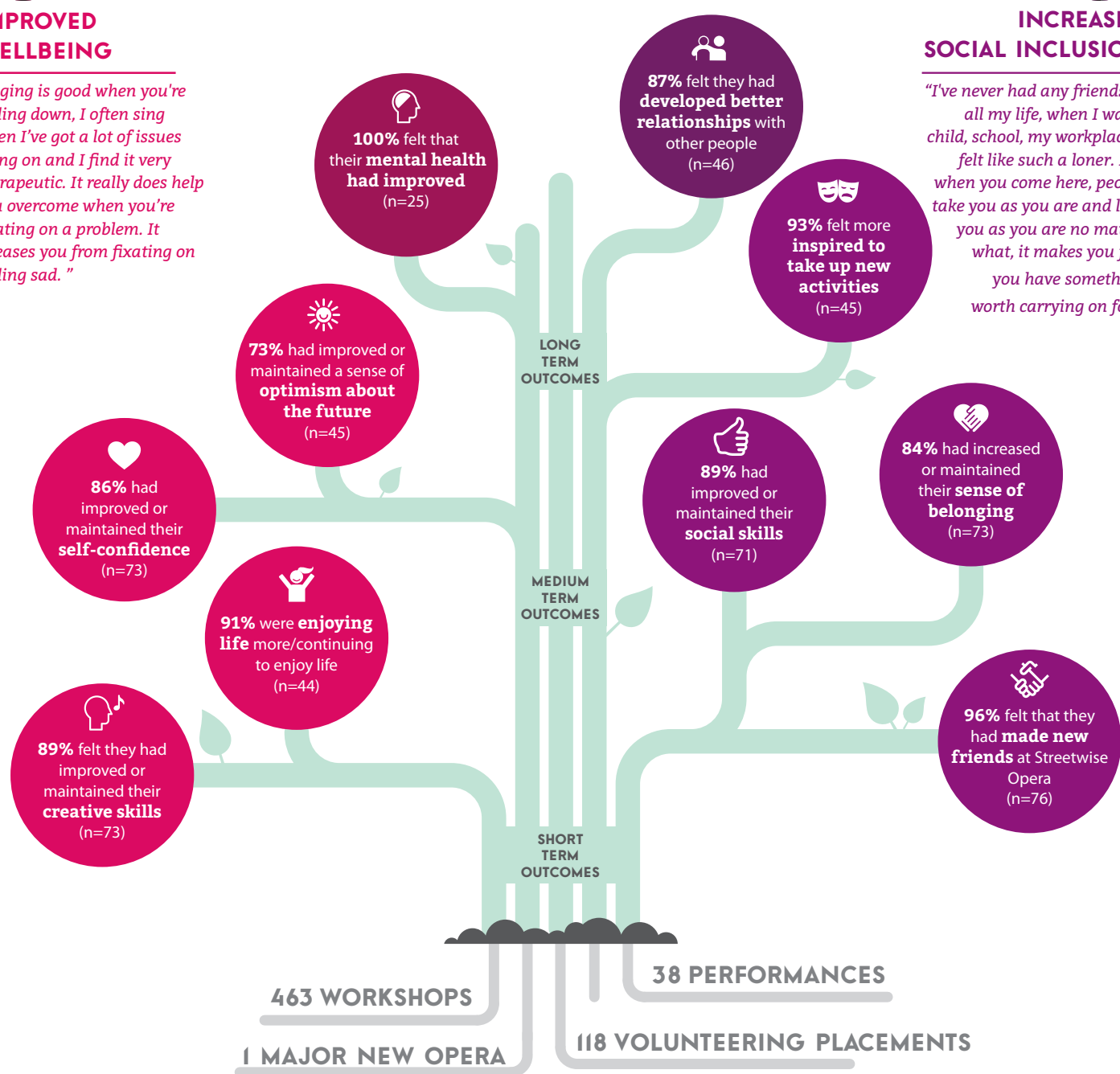
“Singing is good when you're feeling down, I often sing when I've got a lot of issues going on and I find it very therapeutic. It really does help you overcome when you're fixating on a problem. It releases you from fixating on feeling sad.”



INCREASED SOCIAL INCLUSION

“I've never had any friends in all my life, when I was a child, school, my workplace, I felt like such a loner. But when you come here, people take you as you are and love you as you are no matter what, it makes you feel you have something worth carrying on for.”

IMPACT



Data: Apr 2018 - Mar 2019; based on sample performer groups (n= 25 - 76) | © Streetwise Opera | Design by Data Design Studios

OUR WORK

WHO WE'VE HELPED



84%

Homeless or previously
homeless
(n=301)

73%

Mental health
issues
(n=95)

59%

Physical disability or
long-term health issues
(n=86)

HOW WE'VE HELPED

Led by specially-trained professional musicians and experienced support workers:



Drop-in workshops take place weekly in day centres for homeless people and involve fun, accessible singing and drama activities.



Explore workshops are based in arts and community venues and involve termly opera projects with a range of progression opportunities including work placements.

Between April 2018 and March 2019,
we have organised:

463

workshops

38

performances

118

volunteering placements

1

major new opera

Streetwise Opera provides a year-round programme of singing and acting workshops in homelessness centres and community and arts venues in five cities and regions across England:



54%

of performers were new
to the programme

209

performers attended 5
or more sessions



IMPROVED WELLBEING

“Coming here is a way to mould me back to being and feeling like a human being again. When you live on the street for a long time people don't respect you, but when you come here everything's excellent...this place doesn't judge...”

“The number of people with complex, multiple needs (physical, mental, substance misuse) who approach for assistance / are referred by services has steadily increased over the last several years.”*

“I didn't realize how good it is for me to be able to turn off and just relax for a bit, because otherwise it's all go and there's nothing for me, so yes, it's very, very positive.”

“I feel that my memory's improved a lot, and I think that's entirely due to the way we're taught to sing the songs, not using music, not using words, it's improved my memory, it's not a complete miracle but it's quite a lot better.”

“The things I learnt, you know, I have health problems and I even learnt to breathe properly, and someone said I look about two inches taller and I'm taking that all away with me.”

“That's what brings me still to Streetwise...it gives us a lift and keeps me motivated to get out there and not just shut myself away and do nothing with my life, it gives you that drive to get out there and just be something, achieve something.”

“I think performing definitely helps your self-esteem. You feel more positive, like you've done something, you've contributed and it picks you up no end.”

“Every time I leave the Streetwise session I have a spring in my step for the rest of the day. I feel so much better for the whole day. It's just a massively joyful place to be.”

“It's amazing, when you get to learn different things and different styles, your voice is constantly learning and adapting to what you're taking in, whether you're taking it in slowly or fast, it's just brilliant to be able to do all them things.”

100% felt that their **mental health** had improved (n=25)

78% felt **healthier** as a result of coming to Streetwise Opera (n=45)

87% felt that attending Streetwise Opera had helped them **cope with physical health issues** (n=31)

73% had improved or maintained a sense of **optimism about the future** (n=45)

86% had improved or maintained their **self-confidence** (n=73)

84% had improved or maintained their **self-esteem** (n=73)

91% were **enjoying life more** / continuing to enjoy life (n=44)

89% felt they had improved or maintained their **creative skills** (n=73)

LONG TERM OUTCOMES

MEDIUM TERM OUTCOMES

SHORT TERM OUTCOMES

Data: Apr 2018 - Mar 2019; based on sample performer groups (n= 25 - 73)

* Homelessness trends in England, The homeless monitor: England 2019: https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/240419/the_homelessness_monitor_england_2019.pdf | © Streetwise Opera

| Design by Data Design

“ I'm nearer 90 than 80 and I absolutely adore it, we sing all kind of things that I'd never have thought for a minute we'd have had a go at. I'd be on my own in the house, moaning about my aches and pains if I wasn't here. ”

INCREASED SOCIAL INCLUSION



“A major survey of single homeless people in England showed that family/relationship difficulties was the most common reason given by respondents for leaving their last settled home.”*

“I had my first Christmas home with my family in five years, with my daughters. I had a really lovely time, and my daughters said they were proud of what I'm doing.”

87% felt they had **developed better relationships** with other people (n=46)

LONG TERM OUTCOMES

86% increased their motivation to **engage in other activities** (n=71)

93% felt more **inspired to try new things** (n=45)

“I volunteer in this exact building on Thursdays, helping with the community. So it's definitely helped boost my confidence to pursue other things. I think that Streetwise has been that catalyst for that change in my life.”

76% had maintained or increased their **social contact** (n=45)

“I've been sat at home for months and that can lead to all kinds of stinking thinking, looking at those same four walls, but you've got to climb out again, you can't see it at the time but you have.”

MEDIUM TERM OUTCOMES

84% felt they had increased or maintained their **sense of belonging** (n=73)

“Streetwise has made me feel more welcome than anywhere else I've been.”

89% felt they had improved or maintained **social skills** (n=71)

“I've changed a lot. Now I can communicate with people, I've learnt to listen to other people as well, give people a chance and hear their point of view and we talk about our situations sometimes in private and we help each other.”

96% of performers felt that they had **made new friends** at Streetwise Opera (n=76)

“It's just a day in your life in the week, and you just look forward to that day coming, because we are a family, and we're friends. I wouldn't have had this if it hadn't been for Streetwise, I wouldn't have this friendship with people.”

SHORT TERM OUTCOMES

Data: Apr 2018 - Mar 2019; based on sample performer groups (n= 45 - 76).

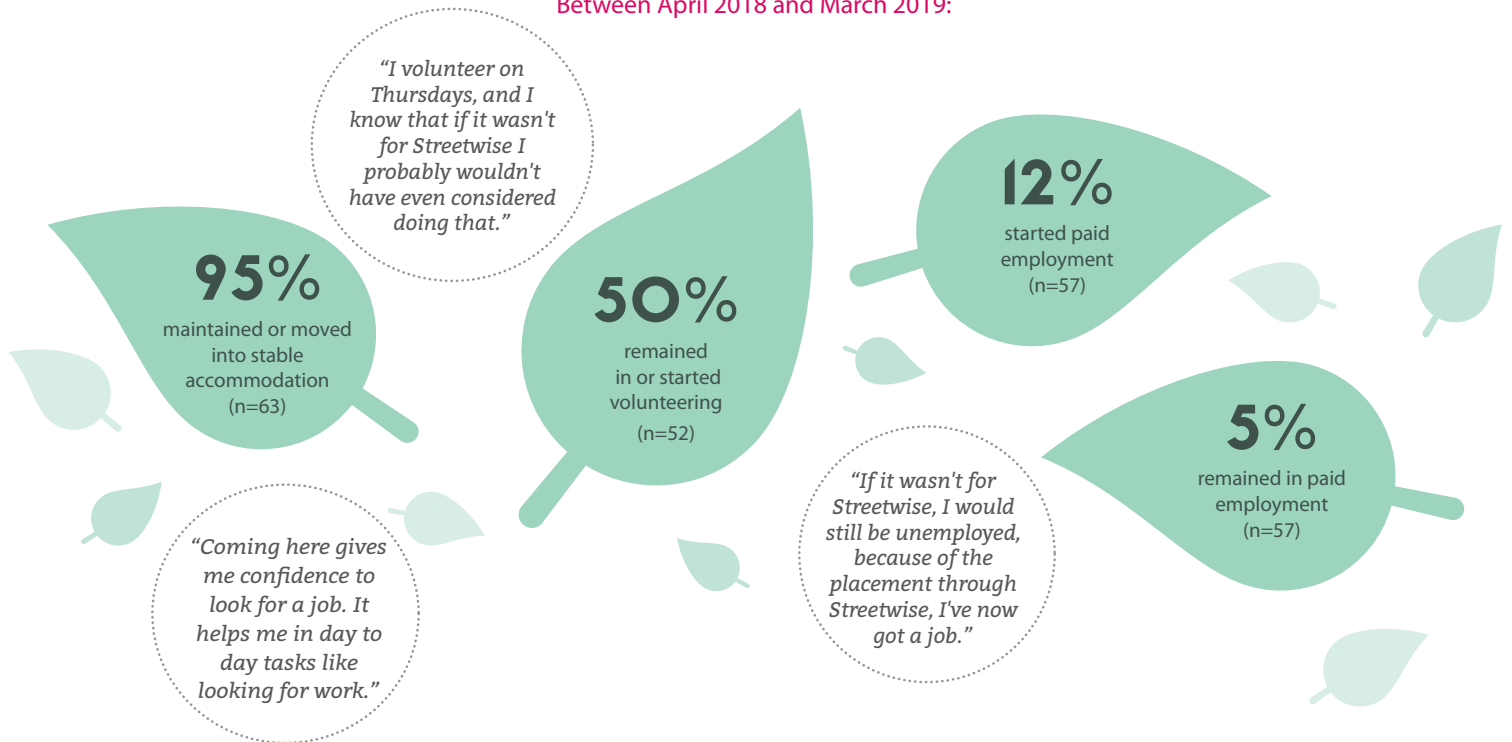
* Homelessness: Causes of homelessness & rough sleeping: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/793471/Homelessness_-_REA.pdf

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FURTHER OUTCOMES

As a result of improved wellbeing and increased social inclusion, Streetwise Opera helps our performers to make and sustain other positive changes in their lives.

Between April 2018 and March 2019:



“ I think it's great that this is taking place across the UK, that people out there who feel they have nothing to offer, that they can have a chance to come along and see what we're doing. It can change lives, you don't feel alone when you come to these workshops. ”

HOW WE MEASURED THIS

A range of data collection tools capture information to help us measure progress towards our aims. This year we collected the following monitoring data:

