

Young, Migrant & Welsh



Contents

Page 3 - Introduction

Page 4 - Project Description

Page 4 - Project Aims

Page 4 - The Journey

Page 6 - Project Outcomes: People – Skills

Page 8 - Project Outcomes: People –
Knowledge & Understanding

Page 9 - Exhibition

Page 12 - Project Outcomes: People –
Enjoyment

Page 15 - Project Outcomes: Communities

Page 17 - Project Outcomes: Heritage

Page 18 - Teaching Pack

Page 19 - Reflections & Key Lessons Learned

Page 20 - Methodology

Page 21 - Acknowledgements

In these times when ‘Migrant’ has become almost a dirty word, we wanted this project to reclaim the concept and illuminate the fact that Wales is a nation of migrants. The stories and imagery captured by the young people involved has done this in an amazingly touching way. Their strength and bravery in sharing their stories enriches and inspires us all, and we are so pleased that so many have already visited the museum exhibition. We hope that the teaching resource they have produced and the booklet continues to educate future generations that ‘Life is a journey and we are all migrants’.

Rocio Cifuentes, Director, EYST

Introduction

‘Young, Migrant & Welsh’ is a youth led project involving 27 young people from ethnically diverse backgrounds shedding a spotlight on migration and youth identity. In partnership with the Swansea Waterfront Museum, the project explores and captures the unique experiences of children and young people who have migrated to Wales, or whose parents or grandparents have done so as asylum seekers, refugees or economic migrants

Over the following pages we outline the achievements of the young researchers and how the project grew to generate almost **800** hours of volunteering and potentially engaged an audience of over **58,000** people in the stories of migration in Swansea and Cardiff, shedding a spotlight on young people and Welsh identity.

Cardiff and Swansea share a long history of migration – shipping, major trade and manufacturing industries during the 17th and 18th centuries ensured a mix of minority groups and the creation of diverse workforces and communities which are still evident today.

With a BME population doubling in the last ten years from 2% to 4%, Wales is an increasingly ethnically diverse country. The BME community in Wales is increasingly young.

Children of school age
10% of Swansea’s and 20% of Cardiff’s children of school age are from a non-white ethnic background.

The term ‘migrant’ is overwhelmingly used in a negative way in current popular discourse.

Through a unique lens, the project aims to challenge and reclaim the term to improve public understanding of what it really means, through deliberately linking it to two terms with which it is not usually associated – **Youth & Welshness**.



This project has been funded by
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The Ethnic Youth Support Team (EYST) is an award-winning and unique charity set up in 2005 by and for ethnic minority young people in Wales, with a remit of helping BME young people to achieve their full potential. It aims to achieve this through providing a wide programme of culturally accessible support to BME young people aged 11 to 25 with a focus on key areas including education, employment, health, community safety and family support. EYST aims to promote a positive understanding of BME young people and communities amongst the wider public and to challenge racism and negative stereotypes of these groups.

Project Description

‘Young, Migrant & Welsh’ is a young people led project that tackles stereotypes about ‘migration’ and ‘youth’ through the development of exhibition materials and a teaching pack which will tour schools throughout Swansea and Cardiff. The project brings a modern narrative to the migration heritage of Swansea and Cardiff.

The exhibition and related materials were created by a group of young researchers alongside the host organisation Ethnic Youth Support Team (EYST) and partners The National Waterfront Museum Swansea, Obstacle 8 Films, Oxfam and the People’s Collection Wales.

The project charts the wider individual stories of young people from a wide range of diverse backgrounds, breaking perceptions associated with being a migrant and highlighting that whatever age we are, everyone is on their

their own journey in life, which may sometimes involve moving between towns, nations and countries.

Project Aims

- To positively influence the perceptions of migration in communities in Swansea and Cardiff through the development of a teaching pack and exhibition.
- To demonstrate how the feeling of ‘Welshness’ is intertwined with our identity and local heritage
- Change the attitudes of young people towards immigration and their heritage

The Journey

Following on from a previous project, ‘Chips, Curry & Cappuccino’, the young people involved were keen to build on the research they had collected about diverse food heritage in Swansea and its reflection on migration in the area. They wanted to enable young people from a range of diverse backgrounds to come together to focus on their own stories, identity and youth voice, to share with others and enable the wider community to understand their journey and who they are, and to give hope to those newly arrived Asylum Seekers in Wales and to understand what it means to be a young migrant in today’s society.

Migration is one of the biggest social and political debates and challenges of current times, and even though human migration is as old as our existence on this planet, it is still being depicted by a large section of the media and by many politicians as something new to be feared. This overwhelmingly negative portrayal of migration is inevitable leading to increasing racism which is directly affecting the BME young people living in Wales ^[1]

Whereas in fact, Wales has a rich history of migration and communities working successfully together towards the same aim of a cohesive society.

^[1] <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/education/growing-racism-among-children-wales-11911425>

“

This project has been so beneficial, not just for me, but for all the youth in Wales. We were able to have a voice and inform others about our story.

”

Alia

“

My parents were born in Bangladesh. They were brought here by my grandfather because he worked in the docks. ...There are a lot of things that shape me as a person. As a Muslim you're taught to teach people the way you want to be treated, but it's not just an Islam thing.

”

Tahirah

“

I prefer to do volunteering with organisations. Especially because when I came here they helped me. So my spare time I like to spend like that, helping people. When I came to Wales I was shocked, so many things were different. Sometimes I felt like I wanted to go home because it was new people and a new language. But after one year and three months it's like....oh, my...I don't feel like I want to go back, I feel like I belong to Wales.

”

Hassan

“

In this project, everyone found themselves in each other's stories. In the beginning of the project we were not very open to other people and sharing ideas. The project is about people's life story. In everyone's story, I found a piece of myself.

”

Shkurte

People - Skills

10

Young People gained leadership, project planning and peer mentoring skills from leading the project and supporting and mentoring other young people to get involved in the project.

26

Young People gained research and project planning, exhibition planning, presentation and communication skills from taking part in the project and receiving training

17

Young People gained film making skills from helping to make the project film and from receiving specific training on film-making

24

Diverse young people gained experience of volunteering by sharing their stories of migration and gained confidence and communication skills through the process

In order to develop their community researcher skills, the young people had access to 23 hours of directed training, delivered in partnership with the National Waterfront Museum Swansea, in addition to the 'on the job' training during the filming and exhibition creation. In total, the Young people contributed 236 hours to growing their skills. The training included;

- Identity / interview skills
- Basic film making skills
- Photography
- Question design/ interview skills
- Studio lighting
- Exhibition planning and development
- Heritage research skills

In addition, the young people attended a presentation skills training session delivered by SCVS (Swansea County Voluntary Service) and a youth arts training event called Gasgliad.

Support and mentoring provided through group discussions, steering group and planning sessions supported the Young People to develop softer and more innate skills:

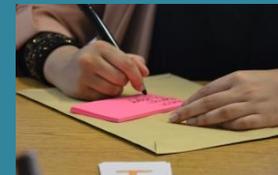
- Peer mentoring
- Leadership skills
- Communication skills

100% of young people surveyed gained external skills such as filming, taking photographs, exhibition skills

90% of young people felt their confidence had grown during the project

“ I learned how to use a camera. I also learned how to be creative in terms of presenting our project to the museum...I also learned how to communicate my ideas to society. ”

Alia, Young Researcher







People – Knowledge & Understanding

24

Young People from Swansea and Cardiff have gained more in-depth knowledge of the diverse migration heritage of young people living in Wales, as well as more in depth knowledge of how heritage organisations work and operate

24

Young People from Swansea and Cardiff have used their increased understanding of Welsh heritage by sharing it with others in their every day lives as well as increasing their visits to heritage organisations

600

* Young People from Schools across Swansea and Cardiff where the project is presented will have increased knowledge about the diverse migration heritage of young people living in Wales and increased understanding of and empathy towards this experience.

The young people undertook a range of peer interviews to explore the similarities and differences in migration stories and their ties to Welsh identity and local heritage.

Researching local heritage locations, the young people identified several meaningful film locations, including: Swansea Beach, Rhossili, Rhossili beach, Swansea Castle, Victoria Park and Swansea Marina.

The young people took part in a learning visit to St Fagans, exploring migration to Wales throughout history, Welsh history and exhibition textures, styles and themes.

Using the visit to inform their discussions and plans, the young people developed their exhibition in partnership with the National Waterfront Museum Swansea.

88% of young people surveyed heard migration stories different to their own

88% of young people surveyed now understand more about how migration has happened in their area

“ If we tackle issues such as immigration and the stigma that surrounds immigration it may lead to a future where these issues may not exist anymore. ”

Humairaa , Young Researcher

The exhibition, designed and created by the young people, was hosted by the National Waterfront Museum Swansea between the beginning of March and end of April 2018.

During this period, **48,217** people visited the museum.

The exhibition consisted of the video created by the young people, a tree of unity and photographs representing welsh identity, heritage and migration.

“ The tree showed the growth and the unity as a family and also sharing and giving to the community, as the tree does. ”

Rudina

The young people dedicated over **300** hours to the development and creation of the exhibition.

When people visit the museum I would like to think they will become not just more informed, but more insightful about migrants.

Alia

I like that people coming to the exhibition will see people from all the different parts of the world.

Nadin

I told my college friends about this and they wanted to visit and see it which they did. They liked the project and so did my family.

Shkurte

“ Migrant – it means to me...a mix of cultures coming together and learning from one another to make a better world.

...It's cool to be from 3 places at once. (5 year old Migrant)

...Wonderful exhibition ”

Exhibition Visitors, 2018



(Contributions from the Museum visitors)

Ymfudwyr - Beth mac'n golygu i chi?

Migrant - What does it mean to you?

Someone striving for a better life

Ymfudwyr - Beth mac'n golygu i chi?

Migrant - What does it mean to you?

A migrant is when you move from one country to another. It could be to start a new life or to look for a new job.

Ymfudwyr - Beth mac'n golygu i chi?

Migrant - What does it mean to you?

Ymfudwyr - Beth mac'n golygu i chi?

Migrant - What does it mean to you?

Mankind has always traveled and should be welcome no matter what race colour, creed, ~~gender~~

Ymfudwyr - Beth mac'n golygu i chi?

Migrant - What does it mean to you?

My family came from Italy to find work. I'm third generation economic migrant. Migrant means family &

Ymfudwyr - Beth mac'n golygu i chi?

Migrant - What does it mean to you?

A mix of cultures going together and learning from one another to make a better world

Ymfudwyr - Beth mac'n golygu i chi?

Migrant - What does it mean to you?

Unique, Someone who travels and works very hard

Ymfudwyr - Beth mac'n golygu i chi?

Migrant - What does it mean to you?

I come from London, and have lived in many places. Includes Portugal and West Africa. I have only lived in Wales since last year. My parents were German and came to Britain as refugees in 1935.

Ymfudwyr - Beth mac'n golygu i chi?

Migrant - What does it mean to you?

My mother left Wales at a very early age, went into service, she met my father and spent her married life in Gloucestershire but never forgot her Welsh roots. I think of Wales as my second home.

Someone who moves from their country for one reason or another to live and work in a different country.
Great exhibition loved looking listening and reading people's stories! Should have a permanent exhibition! So interesting!!
9/3/18

Ymfudwyr - Beth mac'n golygu i chi?

Migrant - What does it mean to you?

Moving from one place to another, for new life, safety, change
... Variety of reasons.

Exhibition



People – Enjoyment

Being a young person can sometimes be an isolating experience. Young people from ethnic minority backgrounds can also face additional challenges around identity.

Fun and friendship is important for personal wellbeing and development. Sharing experiences can lead to increased confidence and self-esteem.

100% of young people surveyed had fun on the project

75% of young people experienced more confidence during the project

75% of young people experienced increased self-belief in themselves and what they can achieve in life

I have made life long friends from different backgrounds on this project. If I wasn't on this project then I wouldn't have met these wonderful people.

Humairaa

I enjoyed every part, and how we showed how different cultures are stronger when they work together.

Shkurte

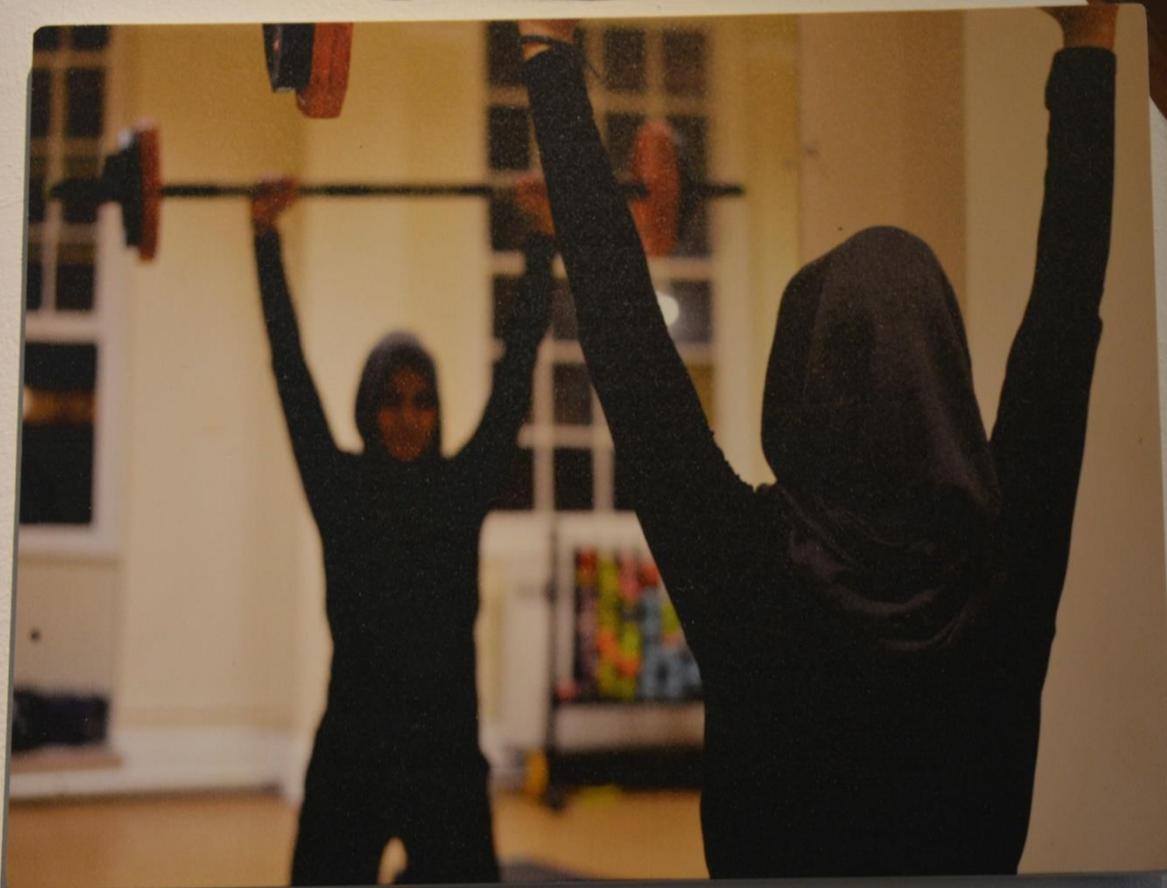
Young People from Swansea and Cardiff have had an enjoyable experience during the project, making friends, having fun and finding the experience rewarding.

24

Young volunteers from Swansea and Cardiff will have had an enjoyable experience in sharing their migration story, and will have found the experience enriching and empowering

24





Mind over Matter.

Women who weight lift inspire me!

It makes me feel empowered knowing I'm involved in such a male dominated sport.



HR

YM

ARIENNIR G LOTTERY!

24

Young researchers plus 24 young volunteers, from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds in both Swansea and Cardiff have engaged with Heritage organisations in Swansea and Cardiff

Project partners including the National Waterfront Museum in Swansea and National Museum in Cardiff will report increased diversity in their audience and deeper engagement from minority ethnic groups through volunteering or further project development beyond the one year project

The young people from **8** different ethnic backgrounds, **11** different schools, colleges and Universities and aged between **13 - 25** worked extensively with the National Waterfront Museum Swansea, developing skills and creating the exhibition.

They captured how young people from all backgrounds (including migrants, but not exclusively), over time from the Iron Age to now, forge their own sense of self, intertwining youth, culture and 'welshness', creating their own unique place and identity in the world, whatever their background or country of origin.

100% of young people surveyed felt they had increased understanding about how a museum and other heritage organisations work.

“ This has been a fantastic collaboration. Our staff have enjoyed working with this great group of diverse young people, and we’ve learned a lot. The diversity of the group both culturally and in terms of age was quite vast, that was very exciting.

We’ve most definitely had groups come into the museum specifically to see that exhibition. It’s exactly what we hoped to achieve – engaging different audiences and making them welcome. ”

Zoë Gealy, Senior Learning, Participation & Interpretation Officer, National Waterfront Museum, Swansea



Communities

“ There are a lot of misconceptions on the word Migrant. One of the problems that a lot of young people experience in Wales is the issue of not feeling accepted. Every young person should realise their part of the community and how the community is part of them. Taking part in this exhibition has allowed me, and others taking part, to reach something unique in order to strive to achieve the best for ourselves and for this beautiful country we live in.

”

Huda



Heritage

During a learning visit to St Fagans, in partnership with the National Waterfront Museum Swansea, the Young People discovered connections with historic Welsh skills and techniques that bore resemblance with those used by their parents and grandparents from their home countries and cultures now.

Undertaking a number of photo marathon activities, the Young People explored modern interpretations of history and heritage, exploring Welsh migration over the centuries.

The Young People researched different areas of Swansea to identify meaningful locations for filming, including; Swansea Marina, Rhossili beach, Swansea Castle, Victoria Park and Swansea beach.

The Heritage discoveries made by the Young People have been better recorded; The mobile exhibition, the website, a presence in national archives and the Teaching Pack has ensured these discoveries are shared with a much wider audience and made available for many generations to come.

“ ...it has given me and others the fantastic opportunity to document and research our experiences of coming to and living in Wales. ”

The experience and heritage of migration to Wales from a child and young person's perspective have been better recorded and documented both via traditional and online media, preserving it for future generations.

The experience and heritage migration to Wales from a child and young person's perspective has been better interpreted and explained through the medium of youth-friendly exhibitions, a teaching pack and a film which will be made by and for young people in Wales

This heritage will be more accessible to a wide audience in Wales by creating a mobile exhibition which will be seen by an estimated 30,000 visitors to museums, plus at least 600 young people in schools who will see the film and be taught via the teaching pack

Huda

Teaching Pack

Developed in partnership with Oxfam, the teaching resource includes 7 lesson plans for exploring diversity, identity and migration for Key Stage 3 pupils. The teaching pack and associated video is being shared with schools across Wales.

The teaching resources leads learners through a journey of;

- Exploring identity
- Understanding the word 'migrant' and its positive and negative connotations
- Learning useful explorative questioning techniques
- Understanding why migration happens; from and to Wales
- Hearing young people's migration stories
- Knowing what it means to be a 'school of sanctuary'
- Creatively explore what it means to form an 'identity' through a photo marathon
- Understanding how we can support people in our communities on a similar migrant journey

“ The opportunity of a teaching pack is amazing. Young people will feel that they will belong more in a community. Having that education is vital to a child's development and emotional wellbeing. Moreover, the young people can then have the opportunity to inform their parents about what they have learned. ”

Alia

“ Through the teaching pack I think children and young people will learn about different cultures and will be understanding when they're older. ”

Humairaa



Key Lessons

The 'Youth Voice' adds a powerful perspective about migration and the challenges of redefining identity whilst setting up home in another country. Sharing stories is important in understanding shared heritage.

The website, exhibition booklet, mobile exhibition and the Teaching pack provide a strong legacy for the project, ensuring the sharing of migration stories and increased understanding of migration can continue to challenge stereotypes and provide a focus on Welsh identity and heritage across Wales for years to come.

The Challenges

Working across two cities presented unexpected challenges. Stronger existing relationships and partnerships already developed in Swansea propelled the work forwards quicker than in Cardiff. Intensive time and energy is needed to support young people to unpick the layers of their identity and make sense of deep and sensitive issues – taking time to build good relationships and dynamics proved important. This project has identified an obvious need for work focused specifically on Cardiff heritage and identity.

Young People's lives can be chaotic and stressful, this presented challenges of retention. Presenting activities in a way that young people could be present for the whole project or were able to contribute in a meaningful way whilst dipping in and out proved beneficial and supported the Young People to balance their other cultural, family and learning commitments. Using modern communication methods such as WhatsApp increases participation.

The Opportunities

Involvement in this project was able to be tied into additional volunteering opportunities, such as the Erasmus project where some of the Young People gave an additional 203 hours of volunteering. The focus on volunteering enabled the young people to develop a unique skills set and knowledge base, increasing the accessibility of the sector.

Young people supported by an organisation like EYST are provided with a useful 'buffer zone', helping young people to make sense of the jargon and professionalism, making museums more accessible and bringing youth expertise and heritage together.

During the project the Young People identified a number of similar issues affecting migrants through history. Gender roles had some similarities through history, but also some significant differences (women in power during the Iron Age for example), and changing rights through time. The Young People also acknowledged that heritage and sociological changes are happening now, and there are similarities and differences with migration stories in these areas over time too.

By diversifying heritage collections and exhibitions, museums are able to speak to a different range and age of audiences.

Reflections & Key Lessons Learned

Methodology

The evaluation for this project was gathered using the Heritage Lottery Fund's basic principles of good evaluation. Methods included:

- Observing young people during activities such as the photo marathon
- Surveys
- Roundtable discussions
- Group interviews
- Exhibition visitor contributions / feedback
- Partner organisation interviews
- Participant focus groups
- Visitor numbers to the Museum

Acknowledgements

We have achieved so much by working with others who share our vision and mission for raising awareness of diverse communities in Wales and increasing community cohesion.

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