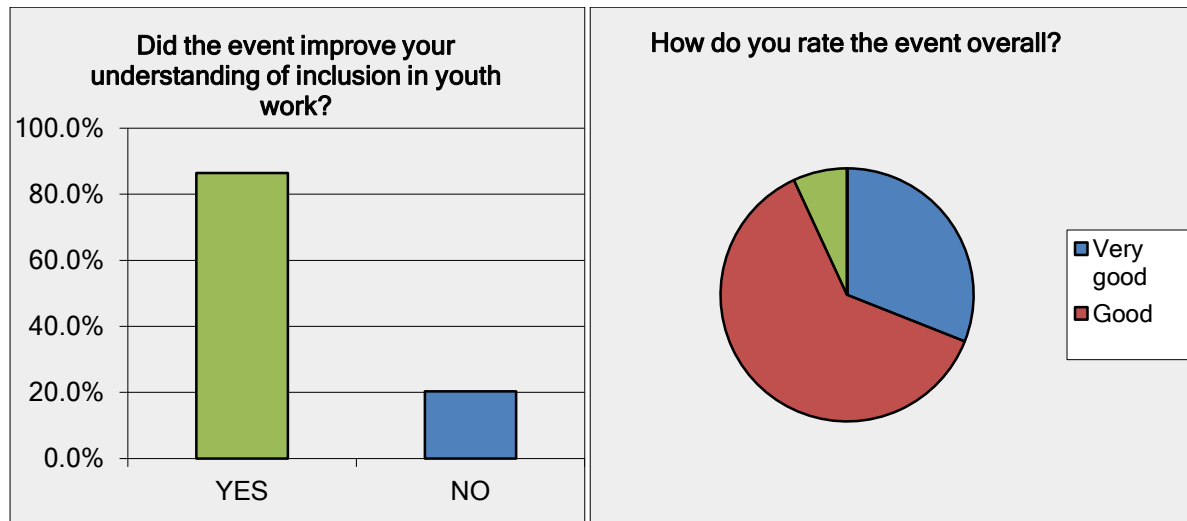


Together: Inclusion in Youth Work – Event Feedback

Feedback

Questions one and two: Did the event improve your understanding of inclusion in youth work? And, How do you rate the event overall?



86% of respondents stated that the event improved their understanding of inclusion in youth work and 93% of respondents reported that they rated the event overall as very good (31%) or good (62%).

There were some positive and clear examples of the benefit of the event from the majority of delegates who answered ‘yes’:

“Opened up my thought process about measuring success and how things are seen by the young people themselves”

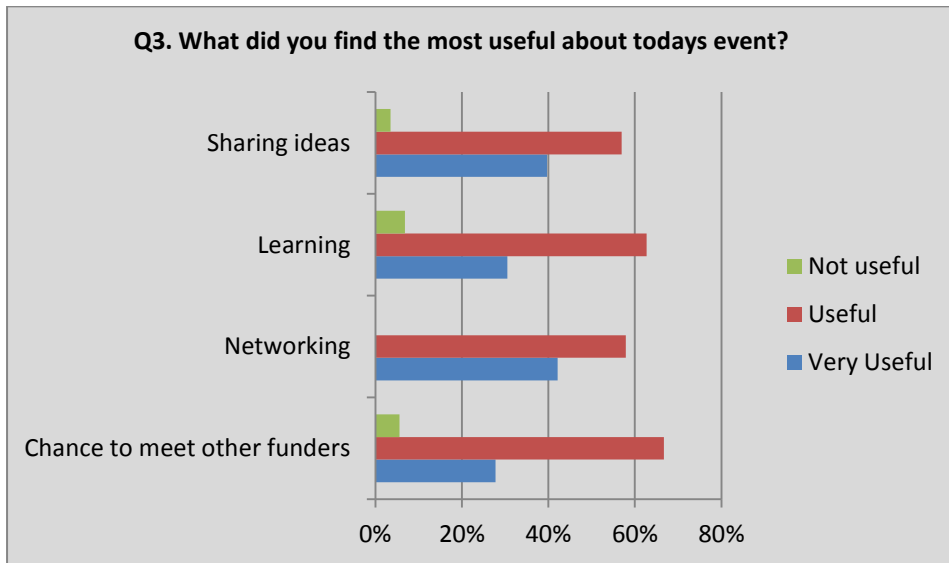
“I think it encouraged me to think about our work and how we can increase access to service, both ours and wider community and arts institutions to disabled young people.”

Among those who answered ‘no’ (including respondents who ticked both yes and no) there were a range of responses which indicated that while delegates found the event ‘encouraging and inspiring’ and particularly valued the opportunity to meet with colleagues, they did not feel it developed their understanding or that they learnt anything new. It appeared that a lot of these respondents felt that they were already inclusive / were from organisations who had developed work in this area.

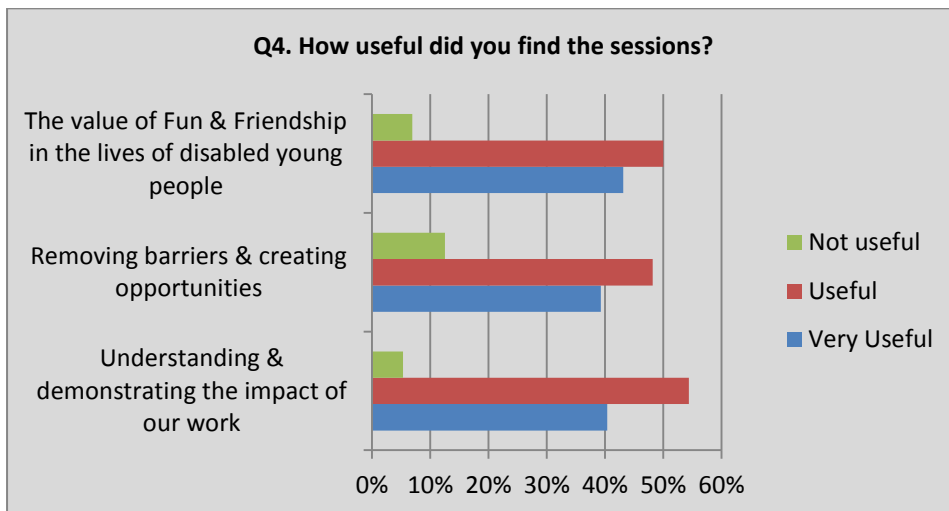
“I felt we discussed the edges and was with my professional colleagues, but I didn’t learn anything new / understand more.”

Question three: What did you find the most useful about today’s event?

The vast majority of respondents found each area either very useful or useful. Marginally more reported this for 'Networking' and 'Sharing Ideas'. This appears consistent with the feedback to question one in which delegates reported valuing spending time with other professionals.



Question four: How useful did you find the sessions?



The vast majority of respondents found all three sessions either useful or very useful. However, there were a small number of people who reported not finding individual sessions useful. This probably corresponds with those respondents to question one who were seeking greater depth or who felt they were not the audience for the level of messaging being delivered.

Question 5: Did you find the information presented clear and easy to follow?

Most respondents (89%) said they found the information clear and easy to follow. The comments section did reflect issues with acoustics in the opening set of workshops in the main hall as well as criticisms of the quality of BSL interpretation (both issues also seen in later comments).

Question 6: What learning will you take from today and why?

There were a wide range of contributions to this question. Over half could be described as generic messaging around inclusion, or positive attitudes towards disability which delegates took away. For example:

“Understanding what disabled young people go through in every day life and the impact”

“Creating a more inclusive environment is more about educating ourselves than implementing policies.”

The remaining responses could be split into the following categories, with accompanying examples, and were spread fairly evenly across all four:

Learning from others

“There is a huge network of us out there. Important to share.”

Voices of young people

“I learned that young people with disability do have a voice and can do whatever they wish to do and we as a society need to get involved and support them.”

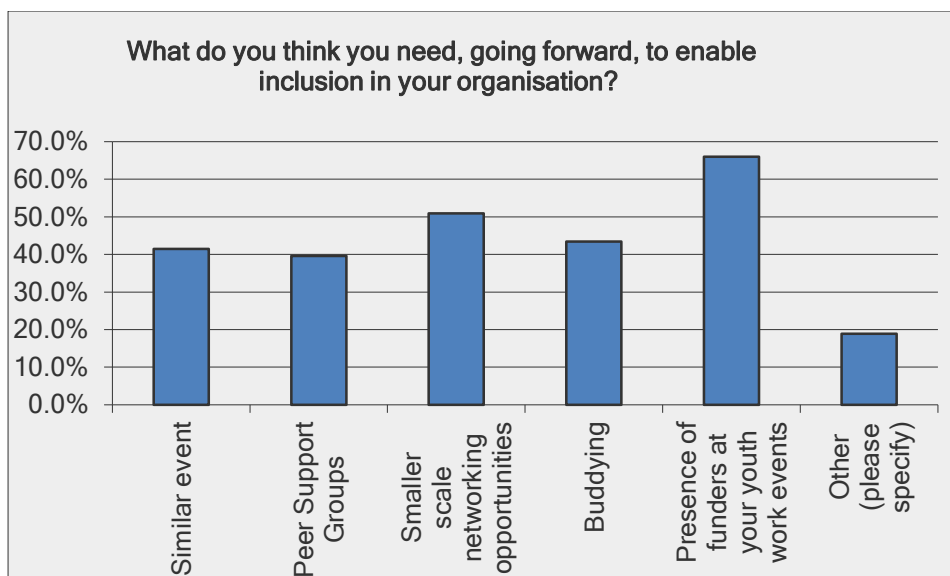
Fun and friendship

“How to remain open and engaging to empower others to build friendships, as well as achieve / strive towards personal goals.”

Impact

“Thinking about how we can measure social isolation before a project starts.”

Question 6: What do you think you need, going forward, to enable inclusion in your organisation?



As indicated above, responses were fairly even across all the options provided. In the case of those respondents who specified other support, most responses were general comments (repeating remarks in other comment sections) or comments reinforcing the options already presented. Nonetheless, there were a small number of more specific suggestions / requests:

“Training on inclusion and more video material to show to young people that are mainstream.”

“Opportunities for young people to be involved in decision making also to involve young people without obvious disabilities (mental health) to have their say in how the services are shaped for them.”

“More promotion of effective and easy to use evaluation tools.”

“Build better partnerships with organisations supporting and working with YP with disabilities - space to talk about borough level working, find excellent organisations to model. If a similar event - possible to split west london, south london etc.”

Questions 7 and 8: If we ran a similar event again, do you have any suggestions for improvements? And, any other feedback?

Comments in both of these sections broadly reflected the feedback received in response to the preceding questions. There were a number of comments on improving the acoustics, both specifically in the case of the two sessions run in the main hall and with regards to the other sessions. There were also some requests for smaller workshops. Similarly, there were a range of comments from people seeking more depth, practical examples, or direction as to how to make a commitment to inclusion a reality. There was also an evident appreciation of the role and involvement of young people, and a number of respondents wanted more of this from future events, as well as suggesting more in depth involvement of young people in shaping content.

One theme which came out from this section which was not evident in earlier answers was a desire for more interactivity and time for Q+A in the workshop sessions. In addition to this, there were a small number of people who would prefer to have more choice of workshops – without having to

mandatorily attend all. This probably reflected those people who felt that some of the workshops were pitched at a level not relevant to their expertise and were seeking more depth.

It is also important to note that this section highlighted a small number of specific complaints:

- One respondent reported feeling uncomfortable with the 'Removing Barriers, Creating Opportunities' session, which they felt used an inappropriate tone and language towards / about the disabled young people involved. This complaint was relayed to staff on the day.
- There were also a small number of remarks about the quality of BSL interpreting and the fact that not all videos used on the day contained subtitles.
- One respondent pointed out that there was no kosher food.

Finally, a large number of delegates chose to use these two sections to thank the organisers and praise the day:

"Personally my highlight always is hearing amazing success stories, because it reminds how much I want to do this and how big of an impact it has on so many lives. Thank you so much."

"Speakers (youth) were amazing and inspiring. Their stories were amazing and I have tremendous respect for them."

"Meeting so many organisations that support disabled people has been humbling to experience."

"Well done, it is good to be having this conversation with youth workers. This is a great thing for funders to be doing. Events like this drive the conversation and bring groups together."

"We need more of this event. Very useful and good to see the different funders coming together to discuss issues with organisations and to see what works well...very positive but need more of this type of event."

Summary

The event was a success, with the core aims achieved: inspiring and encouraging delegates to think about how they can make their youth settings inclusive for disabled young people and sending a clear message that funders are interested and engaged in and committed to funding work in this area. Nonetheless there are clear lessons that can be taken, to inform next steps, including any future events delivered in collaboration or independently:

- 1. Pitching content:** The variety and number of delegates and organisations made it difficult to pitch the level of content in such a way to satisfy everyone. The original plan to use more experienced organisations more actively as facilitators or 'buddies' may have helped with this.
- 2. Logistics:** The acoustics in the venue were not ideal for the delivery of workshops and this was compounded by the size of the workshops. The size of the workshops also limited the ability of facilitators to introduce interactivity and Q+A which delegates fed back they would like more of. Smaller workshops, and more suitable rooms would help with this.

- 3. Practical lessons:** It is testament to the quality of the event that delegates were left wanting more. Following up the event in an appropriate and timely way will help address their requests for more depth / practical support. However, for any future events it may be a good idea to build in a clearer idea of core, practical points for delegates to take away on the day.