

Community Reporting

People's Voice Media / Institute of Community Reporters (ICR)



Overview of the Project

Community Reporting started in 2007 and uses digital tools to support people to tell their own stories, in their own ways and to connect these stories with people, groups and organisations. It provides opportunities for people to find their voice, challenge perceptions, describe their own reality and create conversations for change.



Digital Storytelling is at the heart of the model and provides people with the opportunities, skills and knowledge to become responsible storytellers. It supports learners to use digital tools to tell their own and other people's authentic stories and the communityreporter.net site provides a platform for people to share these stories.

Stories are curated into online topic-based features and these features are then connected to research organisations, service designers and policy makers so that they can be used as 'catalysts of change' that inform provision and policy in a range of fields.

To acknowledge the achievements of participants the Institute of Community Reporters has a badging system that differentiates their accomplishments and skills.

Digital aspects of good practice

The Community Reporter programme covers a variety of digital media such as video, audio, photography and blogging. During these programmes people develop their digital literacies, explore storytelling practices, produce media content, meet new people, learn how to work effectively as part of a team and independently, and build their confidence.

The modular-based curriculum provides the trainer with the flexibility to design bespoke Community Reporting programmes that meet the needs of the participants.

All programmes offer post course Continued Development sessions that support the consolidation of digital skills and practice, and create sustainable peer-led Community Reporting groups at a local level.

Areas for development

The Community Reporter programme is currently exploring better ways to curate content so that stories from users can be used to inform policy and research. There are plans to add a series of modules to the programme to support Community Reporters who want to gain skills and experience in collating, curating and mobilising content.

The programme is also being developed to move from a linear to a modular approach, to make it sufficiently flexible to meet the needs of individual learners and social licencees.

In the longer term, a European Network of Community Reporters will be developed, where stories and knowledge can be exchanged between different groups of reporters and policy makers.



Which aspects are transferable?

The Community Reporter programme can be easily transferred to organisations and across different countries and regions through the Social Licence, which offers a train-the-trainer programme that teaches the Community Reporter philosophy, approach and methodology as well as supporting local activity.



Summary Points

- Community Reporting supports people to have a voice and provide insight to policy makers and researchers
- It develops digital skills in story telling using “technology in the pocket devices” such as mobile phones and tablets
- It has an accreditation system through the Institute of Community Reporters which recognises achievements through a badging system
- It can be replicated in different locations through the Social Licence model that provides train-the-trainer programmes