

The Galaxy Choir: Exploring the Impact of a Choir for Adults with a Learning Disability: Promising Findings and Ways Forward

Abstract

This webinar focuses on the first ever known evaluation of a participatory choir for adults with a learning disability partnering with East Kent Mencap. It presents detail on how the choir was set up and managed, key findings from the project, as well as possible next steps. We will also incorporate a video made by East Kent Mencap which enables participants to see the choir from the participants' perspective and to hear their voices.

Daniel Marsden is the webinar discussant and has both practice and academic expertise with people with a learning disability. He has recently joined Canterbury Christ Church University.

Recently published: Moore, J., Phillips, J., Tallent, J. and Coren, E. 2021. Impacts of participating in a choir on health and wellbeing of adults with intellectual disabilities. *Journal of Music, Health and Wellbeing*. 2020 (Winter): [Click here to view journal article](#)

Bios

SPEAKERS: Esther Coren, Assistant Director, Julia Moore, Research Fellow, and Jacqueline Tallent, Research Fellow Sidney De Haan Research Centre for Arts and Health, Canterbury Christ Church University.

Esther Coren's background is in child protection social work with a lifelong commitment to social justice. Working in an evidence informed way, she has more than 20 years' experience of editorial/author roles in both Cochrane and Campbell Collaborations. Her research interests are: social inclusion, social justice and inequalities locally and globally, impacts of participatory arts/music on health and wellbeing, and child and family welfare. Esther led the first known evaluation of a participatory choir for adults with a learning disability, breaking ground for this group. Esther is Reader in Evidence Informed Policy and Practice and is Assistant Director of the Sidney De Haan Research Centre.

Julia Moore is a Research Fellow at the Sidney De Haan Centre for Arts and Health. She worked on the East Kent Mencap project which assessed the impacts of a choir on the health and wellbeing of people with learning disabilities, and, as part of the project team, has published papers discussing the research. Julia is near completion of a PhD.

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Jacqueline Tallent works as a Research Fellow at Canterbury Christ Church University, splitting her time between working at the SDH centre and the School of Nursing, where she is currently working on her PhD in Forensic Mental Health. Jacqueline developed the protocol for the learning disability project before taking maternity leave in 2018.

DESIGNATED ACADEMIC: Daniel Marsden, Senior Lecturer – Learning Disabilities, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work, Canterbury Christ Church University.

Daniel Marsden is a qualified RNLD and has practiced a variety of health, social care, and education settings, currently working as an academic and Independent Consultant Nurse. Passionate about person centred and practice development research, Daniel has several funding awards and publications and is a committed community developer, founding several organisations including WeLDNurses and Kent Surrey Sussex Learning Disability Community of Practice.