Learning from the Our Museum Initiative

Here in Wales we focussed on our volunteer programme as a catalyst for wider organisational change. A team of community partners, staff, and trustees worked together to create a more socially-focussed volunteering programme which built the skills of participants and staff. From the very start the team shared decision making from recruitment to policy development. The boundaries of 'us' and 'them' became blurred. It has become a partnership in the truest sense. It is genuinely collaborative. Reflecting together and self-evaluation have become normal practice for this team and this is crucial for adapting and improving the programme together. The whole process has been underpinned by updating working practices and policies to become inclusive and accessible. We are currently working on embedding partnership work across the organisation.