

Community Reporter Training



ON OUR
RADAR



Introduction to Community Reporting

Part 1

Introduction to Community Reporting



Taking back power

This is about the power of community reporting and how listening to shared experiences can make society more fair and more safe.

Introduction



Our experiences are important and we all have the right to be heard.

This is very important when reporting harm or injustice.

The History of Community Reporting



Community reporting is when members of a community group play a more active role in recording or sharing news and experiences about their lives.



It is important because the media doesn't always ask the right questions or get the full story.



The strengths of community reporting are trust and access.



Communities have access to their own spaces and the people around them. They trust them and will feel more comfortable than they would with an outsider or a journalist.



Activity

Can you think of a time where you have heard someone tell their own story or share community news on TV or online?

What stood out and why do you think you still remember it?

The Power of Mobile



In the past to get and share news you needed an expensive camera and sound equipment that was not available to most people.



Since the arrival of mobile phones and internet information has started to flow from communities everywhere.



People don't need to wait for a news reporter to ask them questions.

Today nearly everyone has a mobile phone that can send texts or ring a reporting line.



Because people carry their phone with them all the time they can record news as it happens.



Activity

Think about what stories your community could get using a mobile phone.

Why would mobile phones help them to follow those stories?

Types of Community Reporting



Anyone can be a community reporter.



The job of a community reporter is to use personal and community spaces to record things that happen and to share that information with the right people in useful places.



There are 3 main ways you can do community reporting



Longitudinal Journey

This means writing a story over a long time and getting lots of different views on it.



Deep Dive

This is a long story by a person or small group.

It is a great way of looking at a news story in detail.



Reporting Sprints

These are fast reports of new stories coming from lots of different people.

These can be great when there is a big news event happening.



Activity

Can you think of a way each type of reporting might be used in your own work?



What kinds of stories happen over a long time? These are good for a **longitudinal journey**.



What sort of story would be better for a **deep dive**?



What sort of story would be good for a **reporting sprint**?

A Strength Based Approach



Community reporting offers a new way of looking at difficult problems in society.



It shares information in a powerful way that helps make changes happen in the community.



Activity

Think about a time in your life that you feel is important. Why might your story be interesting to journalism or research?

Strengths and Weaknesses



The strengths of a community reporter are **trust** and the **experience** of living as a person within the community.



They don't have lots of training. But they do know their way around the community. They know about local issues and who they can talk to about them.



Community reporting can bring risks. Personal safety must come first.



Activity

Think about groups you know in your community.

Why would it be good to work with them on a report?

Are there any problems or risks to think about when working with this group?

The importance of talking to people



Talking to people is at the heart of community reporting. Surveys or polls ask for information from people without giving anything back.



Talking to people is important for building up relationships. Someone is more likely to work with you if they feel heard and understood.



You can record conversations and use them to make your reports.



Activity

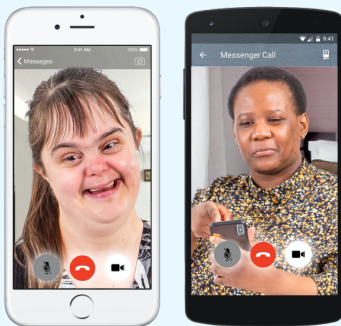
Can you think of a time in your work when a conversation with a community member has led to something important or surprising happening?

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Tools for Reporting



People now use lots of different tools to record and share news.
Text message
Phone calls and voicemail.
Video and sound recordings.



Sound and video are really helpful reporting tools.
They let people see and hear the voices of the people in the story.



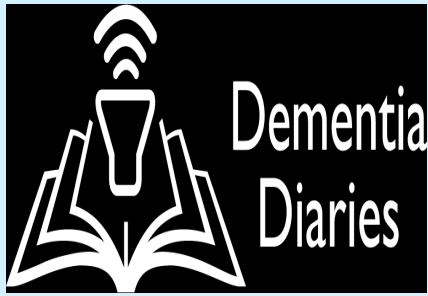
Some people might not have a smartphone.
You can set up a reporting phone line so they can leave a voicemail or ask you to ring back to get the story.



Activity

What mobile reporting tools do you think would be helpful for your community and why?

A Community Reporting Project



Dementia Diaries worked with people in the UK with dementia. People recorded their experiences of living with dementia.



You can read the diaries on the dementia diaries website
www.dementiadiaries.org/