



Storying Sheffield... A student and service user from the Storying Sheffield project

GOVERNOR UPDATE

Brendan Stone

In the past couple of years, I have lead or contributed to various initiatives focused on supporting the ambitions of service users. I work as an academic at the University of Sheffield, and several of these have grown from my interest in education and the arts.

The Storying Sheffield project, for instance, gives long-term service users a chance to register as university students and to participate in this storytelling and art course, alongside undergraduates. Most service users who have taken the course are now undertaking further educational opportunities.

The Storying Sheffield model has attracted considerable interest. I have been consulted by a high-secure unit on running a similar narrative and art project, which is currently ongoing.

I've also worked with a service user group on developing training materials for clinicians about the

experience of depression, and helped them to develop digital and narrative resources which vividly evoke the people behind the diagnosis. In addition, I've worked with CAST (SHSC's Creative Arts Steering Team) to stage an exhibition for World Mental Health Day in a University exhibition space. I'm now facilitating a collaboration in which undergraduates are helping CAST stage a display at Weston Park museum. I've also presented on arts and mental health in various forums, including to the SUN:RISE network, and have visited service users to discuss art and education in various settings including the Longley Unit at the Northern General. And I've been working on arranging exhibitions of work by individual service user artists at the University.

These are a selection of projects – if people have ideas for new collaborations, please do get in touch at b.stone@sheffield.ac.uk or 0114 222 8495.

