community Reporting

Capturing stories of lived experience

www.communityreporter.net

www.peoplesvoicemedia.co.uk

What is community Reporting?

We believe that people telling authentic stories about the experiences that matter to them offers valuable insight into their lives. Using portable and pocket technology to capture these stories that probably wouldn't otherwise be heard, and the Internet to share these experiences with others is exactly what Community Reporting is all about. We connect people's stories with 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.

Community Reporting is a storytelling movement that 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 of change. Through our modular-based curriculum we build bespoke, Community Reporting programmes that we offer to people, groups and organisations who want to join our movement and become an active part of our growing international network of Community Reporters via the Institute of Community Reporters (ICR). Through the ICR we have a badging system that acknowledges the achievements of our members and we provide continued development opportunities, meet-ups and much more!

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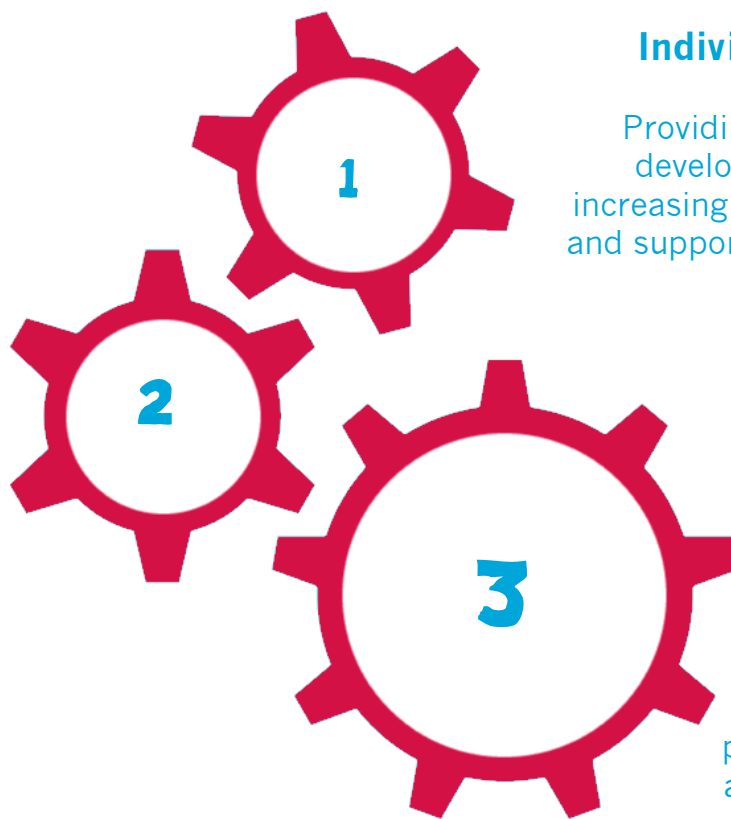
The Institute of Community Reporters

The ICR was established in 2012 by People's Voice Media and is a UK and European wide organisation that develops a network of reporters and licensees, badges Community Reporters and maintain the values of Community Reporter activity. We have adopted the Market Research Society code of conduct and have embedded responsible storytelling practices into all of our programmes.

We believe in achieving positive change for communities by bringing peoples' portrayals of lived experiences together to influence change from the ground up. Through capturing and curating stories from our growing network of Community Reporters, we seek to inform policy, processes and practice.

Our Impact

Individuals

Providing skills development, increasing confidence and support networks.

1

Organisations

Providing an understanding of how things really are so that practices and services can be improved.

2

Policy

Providing user voice and insight that supports policy development and dissemination.

3

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Our Models

There are three interlinked models of Community Reporting – Storytelling, Co-Production and Insight. Listening to people's authentic stories can shape and improve the way that things are done through creating conversations of change at local, regional, national and international levels.

Community Reporting for Storytelling provides opportunities and support for people to use digital tools to get their **voices** heard and to tell their own stories, in their own ways.

Community Reporting for Co-Production sees our Trainers collaboratively produce with Community Reporters a piece of media that creates a **dialogue** of different views on a topic that can then be used to create a conversation on the way services are provided.

Community Reporting for Insight uses digital tools to gather user voice and grassroots perspectives to ascertain key trends and inform **research** findings and service redesign.

Community Reporting for Storytelling

Voice

Community Reporting for Co-Production

Dialogue

Research

Community Reporting for Insight

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community Reporting for Storytelling

Storytelling is at the heart of what we do and this model provides people with the opportunities, skills and knowledge to become responsible storytellers. It supports them 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. We curate individual stories into topic-based 'features' and then connect them with the people who can use the perceptions that they provide to improve that way that things are done.

Lyndon's Story

Lyndon participated in a Community Reporting for Storytelling programme on which he told his story of settling in to a new area. Using the video function on his phone, Lyndon described how the people at a community centre helped him to meet new friends through games of mahjong and bridge. Lyndon is now a Silver member of the ICR, has developed both digital and transferable skills with us and continues to post stories on communityreporter.net

community Reporting for co-Production

Using digital media to present a range of perspectives on a subject matter can create a dialogue between different opinions, perspectives and understandings. Through providing a space in which an array of stories on a particular topic can be captured, interact with one another and then presented to others, our Community Reporting for Co-Production projects initiate new ideas and new ways of doing things!

Young Adults' Renal Clinic Film

Young outpatients from Salford Royal Hospital used video to explore why so many of them were missing their renal clinic appointments and what could be done to minimise this. With a set of recommendations co-produced via Community Reporting practices, a filmmaker then worked with the group to record interviews with young outpatients and healthcare professionals, creating a video conversation between the two perspectives. The recommendations were also put into practice by the clinic...Success!

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community Reporting for Insight

People's stories provide valuable accounts of their lived experience. These stories can add rich qualitative data to projects, providing research teams and organisations with insights that they can use to identify key themes, inform findings and conclusions, and positively impact on policy, service design and local agendas. Our Community Reporting for Insight projects collect a diverse range of 'user voice', providing organisations with audio and/or video compilations on different issues.

Voices of Britain Project

Community Reporters up and down the UK went out on the streets to find out about what pressures people were facing and how they were being supported through them. The project was run in collaboration with the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) who combined the stories gathered with rigorous analysis in order to identify key trends that they could use to inform public policy. The stories were made publically available on an online video depository that had search functions based on geography and topic.

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Our Programmes & Reporter Development

Community reporting provides opportunities for people to have a voice, describe their own realities & challenge perceptions. Our international storytelling movement is sustained through the ICR that offers on-going training & support to all of our members, as well as providing online & offline networking & sharing opportunities.

Our programmes cover a variety of media such as video, audio, photography and blogging and use basic digital tools to support people to tell their own and other people's stories. 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 team and independently, and build their confidence. Our modular-based curriculum provides us with the flexibility to design bespoke, Community Reporting programmes that meet the needs of the participants and specific project briefs. We also have Training-The-Trainer packages available. All of these can be accompanied by post-programme Continued Development sessions that support the consolidation of skills and practice, and create sustainable, peer-led Community Reporting groups at a local level. To acknowledge the achievements of our members, the ICR has a badging system that differentiates between their accomplishments and skills. Successful completion of our Silver and above programmes provides people with accounts on communityreporter.net so they can continue to post stories and be a part of our online community.

Bronze Reporters: These programmes cover basic ICT skills, such as knowledge/awareness of Internet usage and practices. People can attend a Bronze programme in order to **develop the digital literacies** that they will need to create and share stories as part of one of our Silver or Gold programmes.

Silver Reporters: People who attend one of our programmes and learn about storytelling using **one media-type** become Silver members.

Gold Reporters: People who attend one of our programmes and learn about storytelling using **multiple media-types** become Gold members.

Platinum Trainers: Community Reporters, Social Licensees and Facilitators who attend our Training-The-Trainer programmes become Platinum members and can run **their own programmes.**

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Join our movement!

Social Licensee

If you are an organisation, you can join the ICR by becoming a Social Licensee and help to drive this movement forward, and deliver Community Reporter programmes in your area.

Support Partner

If you are interested in the aims of the ICR then you can also become a Support Partner by supporting our research activities, partnering on a project or by exchanging content and skills with us.

Community Reporter

If you are an individual, you can join one of our ICR approved programmes that will give you the skills and confidence to become a Community Reporter. You will be provided with an account on our site, a badge and certificate.

Independent Member

If you already produce content, you can join as an Independent Member. After agreeing to our responsible storytelling practices you will be provided with an account on our site where you can post your stories.

Want to be a part of the ICR?

Then drop us an email on enquiries@peoplesvoicemedia.co.uk

Find out more

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