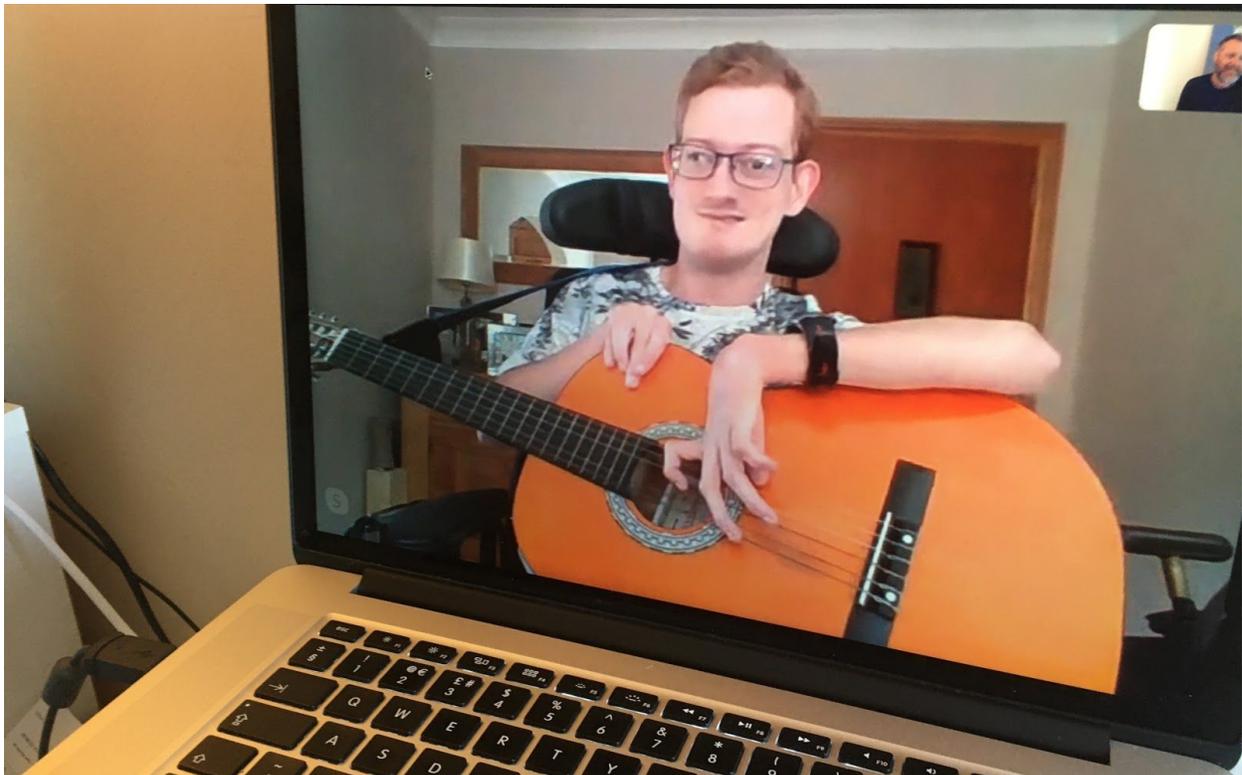




Emerge News- July 2020

We moved on-line!

Read about our current news: How our On-line Community Project began, our upcoming on-line performances and feedback on our Social Impact.



Hello from Emerge! We hope you are all keeping safe and well. We have been in lockdown for over 100 days! How the time seems to fly! Our on-line journey began when the UK government announced the 'Lockdown'. We recognised that the impact of everyone having their daily activities cancelled may lead to people feeling isolated and upset and even becoming ill with all of the changes. Thankfully in these uncertain times we are working every day to stay connected with our participants through our on-line Music and Performing Arts project in partnership with Addysg Oedolion Cymru/ Adult Learning Wales 'Community and Engagement'.



Community and Engagement On-Line

We spent Easter working hard to set up an on-line service that supported every participant we work with across all of our projects. Over 60 people, their families and carers were contacted to help set up on-line platforms such as Zoom video call and a timetable came together that consisted of our Emerge team running on-line 1-1 sessions with individuals and their families throughout the whole week. This has been working really well, with participants getting involved in singing, drumming, playing guitar, practicing their songs, writing new ones, acting, writing plays and getting together on a weekly basis for a chat. This is helping people feel involved in familiar activities and feedback tells us people really look forward to their session each week.

Multi Me and On-line resources

We have developed our on-line project even further by providing on-line learning resources to our participants. We are building upon activities that promote fitness through dance and movement activities or providing music tutorials for people who want to learn instruments. These can be accessed via Multi Me, an On-line space for our participants to connect, share interests and utilise resources. Multi Me is a secure social media platform that aims to support people who have learning differences, and for the past 2 years we have been working in partnership with Multi Me and Flintshire County Council to support our participants to access the secure platform. We are excited about the potential of Multi Me as a way for people to show what they have been achieving with their family, friends and support circle. You can watch a short 5 minute video introduction [here](#) and if you are keen to try out Multi Me and join our circle please [get in touch](#).

Events coming up in July

As we are now in July, usually we would all be busy in preparation for our end of term shows across all of our projects. Instead we will celebrate the creative work people have been doing in an on-line showcase over the Summer! We have started our 'Team Time' group planning meetings and our participants have been coming up with lots of great ideas. So....there will be a talent show, poetry reading, music and song, acting and dance. We look forward to sharing this with everyone and further details will follow. We will utilise the wonderful world of Zoom and social media platforms including Multi Me to showcase our participants creative work.



Social Impact

Did you know we recently completed a survey with all of our participants? We found that 70% of our group members across all projects do not see anyone else outside of their homes or have had very little contact with others outside of their home during the 'Lockdown'. For some we have been the only people they see all week. Feedback also tells us people look forward to their sessions, becoming more motivated before the session and for a time after. The good news is, more and more activities are becoming available on-line and our participants are gaining confidence in their digital skills.

Fundraising News

Thank you to Flintshire Local Voluntary Council who have awarded us £1,000 from the FLVC Voluntary Services Emergency Fund. This funding has supported us with vital digital funding to support us to move our services on-line.

Thank you to Ground Work UK for granting us £1,166.00 for the Tesco bags of help fund. Thanks to all our members and families and caterers for saving up the blues tokens for us. And a special thanks to Vi and Jason who saved so very many of them for us! We really appreciate all of your fundraising efforts for Emerge.

We welcome new participants



Our activities enable people to stay engaged in learning, practice social and communication skills and creative expression. Activities support self-confidence and well-being and enable people who are isolated to engage in activities with their friends on-line. People can take part in 1-1 learning and group sessions. Have fun, sing, play instruments, Act, express yourself!

Do you know someone who would benefit from our activities? Please get in touch!
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