Community, Design & Engagement.
Project partner(s).
Sheffield City Council, Catalyst Festival
ADRC

Funder(s).
Sheffield Institute of Arts, Sheffield Hallam University, Catalyst Festival
ADRC
Context.

Page Hall is a small suburb in the north of Sheffield that has been a centre of inbound migration for many years. Recently there has been an influx of Roma people from eastern Europe. The lifting of work and travel restrictions in 2014 have seen a big rise in the number of Roma people travelling to the UK.

The influx of Roma has caused social pressures within the area becoming a real concern for local agencies. The many press reports, from across the media along with a recent TV series have brought the problems faced in Page Hall to wider public attention.
Community, Design & Engagement.
(The project)
42 Postgraduate Students from 6 disciplines exploring opportunities for co-designed solutions to community issues. Studying in cross disciplinary groups designing with and for the community, supported by staff from 2 faculties (Design and Health & Wellbeing) along with staff from Sheffield City Council, Community Development Officers, Health Improvement Office, Environmental Protection, Policy Improvements Office, Inclusion & Learning Services and the Public Service Transformation Network.
The design process.

How can co-design offer a medium to enable people living in transient multi-ethnic ‘villages’ communicate with each other and build understanding across cultures and generations?

Working with members of the community, key service providers and supported by experts, over the course of 6 weeks students produced proposals for projects that tackle some of the bigger issues facing the local population.
There are an estimated 25 – 30,000 Roma living in Yorkshire & Humberside and in Sheffield between 2 – 4,000 with 1,500 living within the small suburb of Page Hall. There are many barriers to integration within the area with the City Council attempting to provide workable solutions. Working with members of the local community, experts from local support services and design + health researchers at Sheffield Hallam University, co-designed solutions for their individual requirements.
The projects were designed with the community and support services. The work to date is just the start of a much longer process of involvement with the Page Hall community. Since starting the work, the student’s work has mapped against Sheffield City Council plans for development work in the area – the student’s projects are designed with the community and follow a bottom-up asset based approach.
This project brings together the community with the City Council and external experts with staff and students from Sheffield Hallam University. The premise is that those involved form an ‘open’ community to work together to identify, conceptualise and refine responses to community and council issues - working together, bringing people together to strengthen the community through understanding and ‘improving’ local issues.
Sheffield Hallam University’s Art & Design Research Centre and specifically the Lab4Living has been actively working on projects that bring together researchers from design and healthcare. Lab4Living’s aim is to propose creative strategies for the development of future living environments in which people of all ages and abilities re enabled and empowered to live with dignity, independence and fulfillment. This project brings together members of the Lab4Living with Sheffield citizens to co-design; the results of which can have real impact on individuals, neighborhoods and the city.
This project elicits responses that serve the specific needs of individuals be they dementia suffers, their carers, local community members. The focus is on locally made and where possible modified solutions that through their making bring people together.
This project brings together students from 8 different courses along with external experts and stakeholders meaning that the participants worked in multidisciplinary teams, combining competencies, understanding and skills. As a result of this students developed new personal skills which they were able to put into practice during their time on the project.
This project develops understanding in students (and other stakeholders) of the wider employment/entrepreneurship possibilities open to graduates through local, small scale activity over larger at length activity that almost always divorces the designer from the user.
The audience is varied with design and health students, stakeholders in the broad area of design & health, local authorities and such like so photography, video and presentations have been the main dissemination tools for the project. A sample video can be accessed here: https://vimeo.com/126396168
www.shu.ac.uk

www.shu.ac.uk/sia

r.bateman@shu.ac.uk
c.claire@shu.ac.uk

Sheffield Hallam University
SIA DESIS Lab
United Kingdom