Arts: the missing piece in the homelessness jigsaw

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GIVING HOMELESS PEOPLE A VOICE

Who we are

Streetwise Opera uses music to help people who have experienced, or are at risk of, homelessness to make positive changes in their lives. We run workshop programmes across England, stage critically-acclaimed opera productions, and are developing an international arts and homelessness movement, With One Voice.

We work in London, Manchester, Newcastle/Gateshead, Nottingham and Middlesbrough.

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Homelessness is not just a housing issue

Homelessness isn't just about housing. People who become homeless often face other complex issues, such as poor health, social isolation and low self-esteem.

- 73% of homeless people have physical health problems
- 80% of homeless people have mental health problems
- 28% of homeless women spend the night with an unwanted sexual partner
- 30% of homeless people commit a crime in the hope of being arrested

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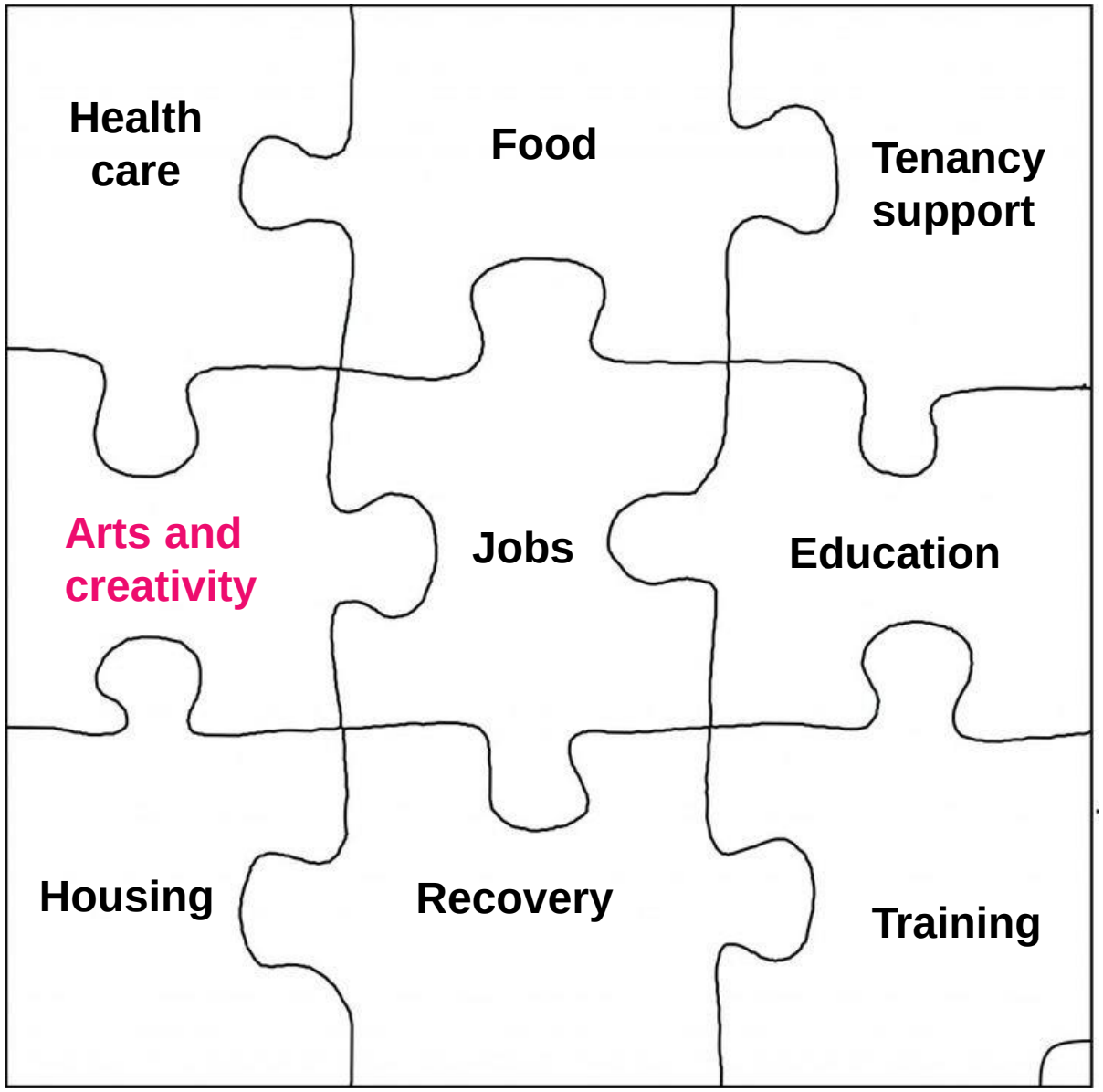
The jigsaw of homelessness support



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Our aims

- To improve wellbeing and increase social inclusion
- To focus on the capabilities and achievements of homeless people, rather than their needs
- To give people dignity and a new sense of identity as an artist
- To challenge expectations for audiences

Why we were founded

‘The homeless are the people you step over coming out of the Opera House’

- Sir George Young

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What we do

Singing and acting workshops

- Drop-in sessions in homeless centres
- Explore groups in arts venues

Performances and opera productions

- In collaboration with professional artists
- Critically acclaimed; all our productions have gained 4 and 5 star reviews in the national press

Progression

- Theatre trips
- Work placements and volunteering in arts venues
- Referral to other arts activities

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Why opera?

- Gives the opportunity to find a new identity through exploring a diverse range of characters, plots and music
- Has a perception as elite and difficult, so when people sing opera, they think ‘if I can do this, what else can I do?’

A glimpse into our work…

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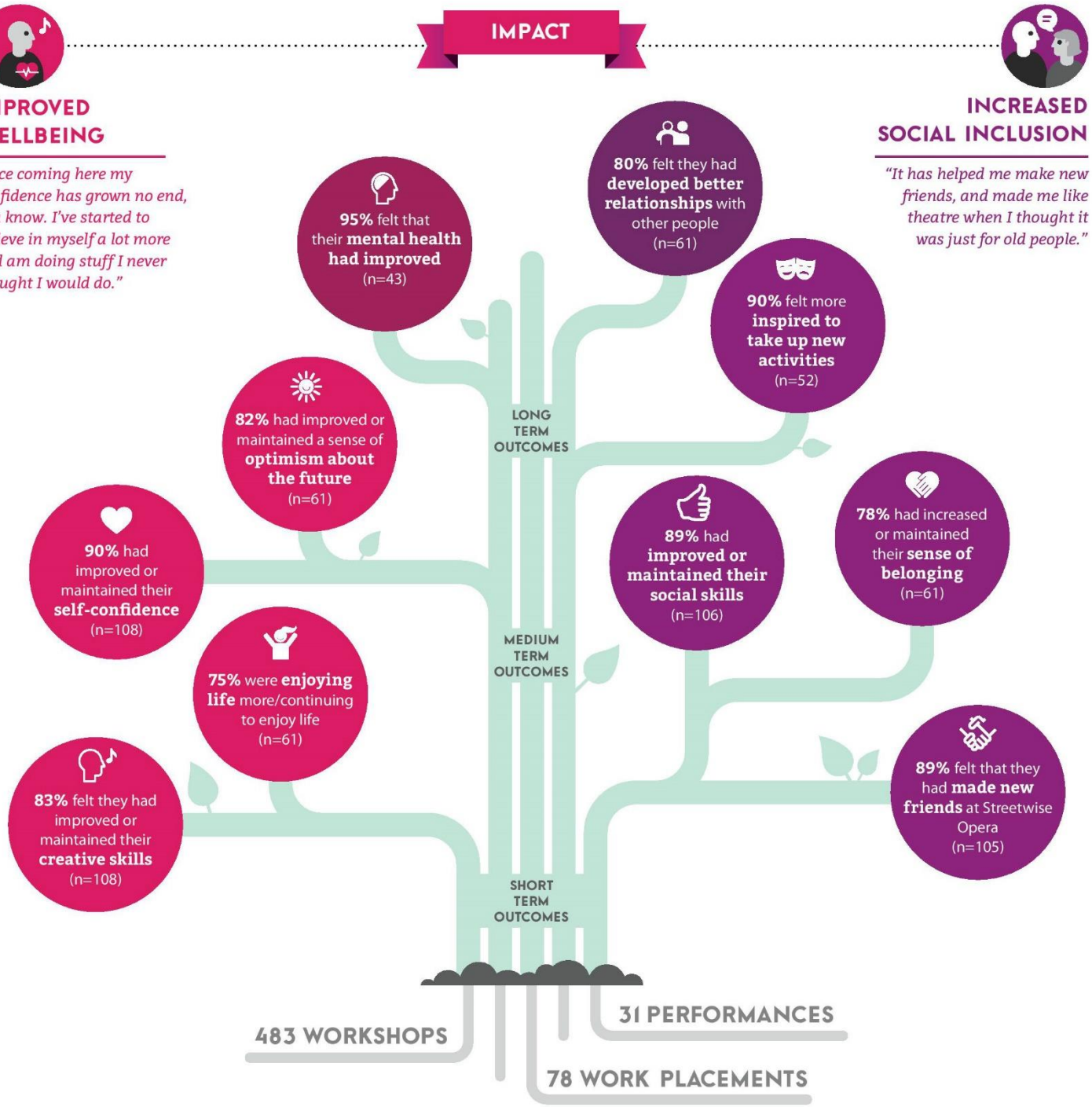
Our impact



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Don’t just take our word for it…

‘I had barely any self-esteem or confidence and just coming to Streetwise every week and meeting my family, because they are like family to me, it's just built me up so much. My confidence and self-esteem are now through the roof’
- Streetwise performer

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Audience feedback

‘A marvellous demonstration of heartfelt dedication and enthusiasm, displaying musical and acting talent which left me and others in the audience feeling humbled - and happy!’

- Audience member

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With One Voice

An international arts and homelessness movement being developed by Streetwise Opera.

- Began with a showcase performance as part of London 2012
- Continued with events for Rio 2016
- Founded as an international movement in July 2016

WITH ONE VOICE

CONNECTING ARTS AND HOMELESSNESS WORLDWIDE

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With One Voice's aims

- To strengthen arts and homelessness activity
- To inspire new projects
- To influence policy
- To increase awareness of the importance of arts for people with experience of homelessness

www.with-one-voice.com

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Questions?

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Thank you!

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