

# Doorbells - Impact Case Study



*Doorbells: Dreaming for the Future* is a humorous and moving performance inspired by the latest research about national housing issues. Featuring live music and original songs, the theatrical performance explores the critical decisions we make about how and where we live as we grow older. Originally created in 2015 and featured as part of the Edinburgh Fringe, *Doorbells* has been developed and adapted in response to new research and global changes.

In 2020, in response to the pandemic and making the performance more accessible to audiences, *Doorbells: Covid 19* was developed and re-staged as a short film. It premiered as part of the Centre for Translational Research into Public Health FUSE seminar series and included two webinars with Q&A and discussion. In October 2021, a newly revised version of the performance toured to eight venues across Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead engaging 200 new audiences. Each performance was followed by a short Q&A and the opportunity to take part in a discussion about housing, access to information, changes in policy and information to help decision making about where to live when you or your loved one grow older hosted by Northumbria University and Elders Council.

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## Outputs/Outcomes

- 9 x performances in cultural and community venues reaching nearly 200 in COVID conditions.
- Provided an accessible and safe place to engage audiences in meaningful conversations around housing options as we grow older.
- Attracted support by Elders Council of Newcastle, Care & Repair England, Northumbria University, Rayne Foundation, Well Newcastle Gateshead and Arts Council England.

## Impact

- Developed strategic partnerships with Elders Council, Northumbria University, Care & Repair England to gain relevant research and support vital messaging around national housing issues. Performances, touring and film screenings of *Doorbells* have been successful in finding new, and engaging ways to provide information for audiences to help inform and influence decisions around housing and where they might live in the future.

## Feedback

*The performance made me realise that I am not the only one struggling to cope with the issues highlighted in the play and that someone out there recognises the difficulties that many people are faced with. Thank you Skimstone Arts. Thank you Elders Council. Thank you Northumbria University. Thank you Care and Repair England. Thank you Chopwell Community Centre!"* **Audience Member**

*"I think this film is a fantastic way to engage people in talking about age, loneliness and social interactions during lockdown. I think this film is far more powerful to people than a Powerpoint."* **Audience Member**

*"Covered a wide range of issues delivered in a clear and thought-provoking and imaginative manner. Covered practical issues. Music and singing excellent... The political backdrop broadcast on radio was very good and pertinent."* **Audience Member**