## **Flood – Victoria Dock Residents Focus Group**

## **Discussion Guide**

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| **Topic area** | **Comments / Questions** | **Timing** |
| **Welcome** | * Welcome, thanks for taking the time to come to this discussion
 | 5 minutes |
| * My name is Catherine Alexander and I’m a Research Fellow from the University of Hull, CPPI, undertaking independent research on behalf of Hull 2017 into the Flood project
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| * There’s lot to get through and the group will last for around 2 hours in total
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| * The session will be recorded to enable accurate reporting, though all comments will remain anonymous
 |
| * Please speak up and try not to interrupt each other
 |
| * Please be honest and open – there are no right or wrong answers and it’s okay if you disagree with one another
 |
| * Refreshments / housekeeping, e.g. toilets, fire exit
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| **Icebreaker** | Ask each member of the group to state their first name:**EXERCISE:** Take one minute to write down on the piece of paper in front of you an answer to the following:* What do you most like about living in Victoria Dock?
* What do you least like about living in Victoria Dock?

Can you each now read out your answers and give us a brief explanation of them.  | 10 minutes |
| **Victoria Dock as a Place to Live** | **DISCUSSION:** I now want you to think back over your time living in the Victoria Dock area of Hull, however long that has been:* Prior to 2017, how would you have described Victoria Dock, as a place to live, to someone else? Probe:
	+ Sense of community
	+ Opportunities for children and young people
	+ Visual appearance
	+ Breadth and quality of facilities
	+ Breadth and quality of services
	+ Culture and history of the area
 | 15 minutes |
| **Community of Victoria Dock**  | **DISCUSSION:** We’re now going to focus a little bit more on the sense of community in Victoria Dock.* What has enabled the sense of community to be established?
* What barriers have there been to a greater sense of community being created?
 | 10 minutes |
| **Arrival of Slung Low** | **[Possible stimulus here]****EXERCISE:** Can you now think back to when Slung Low first arrived at Victoria Dock in January 2017. Take 5 minutes to write down what your initial thoughts were when they arrived, focusing particularly on:* What excited you about the arrival of Slung Low?
* What concerned you about the arrival of Slung Low?

Can you each share with the group what you wrote and give a brief explanation.**DISCUSSION:** Having heard everyone’s thoughts and opinions on the arrival of Slung Low, is there anything further people would like to say in response to what they’ve heard?  | 15 minutes |
| **Relationship between Slung Low and Victoria Dock residents** | It has now been eight months since Slung Low took up residence at Victoria Dock.**DISCUSSION 1:** How has the relationship between Slung Low and residents of Victoria Dock changed since their arrival to now?**DISCUSSION 2:** How have Slung Low, as a company and as individuals, managed their relationship with you and other residents of Victoria Dock? Probe:* What about their approach to Flood and the residency at Victoria Dock, has worked well?
	+ Explore: have there been sufficient communications with residents; opportunities for residents to engage and / or participate
* What about their approach to Flood and the residency at Victoria Dock, could have been done differently?
	+ Explore: have there been sufficient communications with residents; opportunities for residents to engage and / or participate
 | 15 minutes |
| **The experience of having a theatre company in residence**  | **DISCUSSION 1:** How would you describe the experience of having a theatre company in residence within your neighbourhood? Probe:* What have been the benefits to the community of having Slung Low living in Victoria Dock?
	+ Explore: interaction amongst residents / neighbours; attitudes towards the area; pride in the area; increased knowledge of the area; engagement with children & young people
* What have been the challenges of having Slung Low living in Victoria Dock?
	+ Explore: has anything been inconvenient; has there been any tensions; what could have been done differently to alleviate these challenges?
 | 15 minutes |
| **The** **experience as an audience member**  | **[Possible stimulus here]****DISCUSSION 1:** Who within the group has watched one or more of the three parts of Flood that have so far gone live? For those who have seen it:* What are your thoughts on Flood, either all parts to date or the individual parts that you’ve seen?
	+ Explore: opinion of the story; quality of the production; emotional reaction to the work
* How, if at all, have the themes explored in Flood challenged your own thoughts and feelings?
	+ Explore: has it caused you to think and reflect on wider issues and events happening in the world; has it made you think about these things in a different way?
* What were your experiences of theatre prior to seeing Flood, and how does Flood compare to this?
	+ Explore: is it better or worse than previous experiences; does it challenge their understanding of theatre?

For those who haven’t seen it:* What has prevented you from watching or attending the different parts of Flood?
	+ Explore: unavailable on the dates; lack of interest; access provisions not sufficient
* What more could be done to enable or interest you in attending Flood in future?
 | 20 minutes |
| **And finally** | If you were asked to compare living in Victoria Dock in 2016 to 2017, in one sentence, what is the fundamental difference between the two years as a resident?  | 5 minutes |