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

## **Discussion Guide**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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 |
| * There’s lot to get through and the group will last for around 2 hours in total |
| * 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 |
| **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 |