

A SPARC Workshop

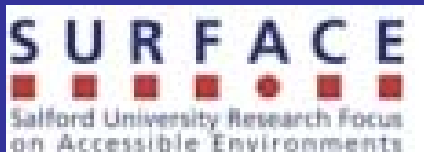
Outdoor – a step too far? Older people and mobility

14th May 2008

Hosted by

SURFACE

University of Salford



A SPARC Workshop

Outdoors – A step to far?

SPARC: an update

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Director, SPARC



Welcome



Contents

- SPARC
- Summary progress report
- Today



SPARC - a community led initiative

- Challenges status-quo in ageing research
- Early 2005 – late 2008
- EPSRC & BBSRC – modest £
 - Design and engineering research
 - Biological research
 - All areas in between -
 - bio-mechanics/ergonomics
 - muscle/bone
 - cognitive/sensory
 - Assistive Technology, etc
- Staffing – a shoestring
 - Two coordinators
 - One publicity officer (part time)
 - Two directors (very part-time)



The means

- Workshops
 - To keep close to policy, practice, beneficiaries and end users
- Advocacy
 - To ensure from research into action
- Pump-priming awards
 - To develop the skills, capacity and orientation of new-comers to ageing research



Workshops

- Workshops
 - Since 2005 –
 - 38 workshops, 2400 participants
- Past 12 months
 - For all-comers
 - The ageing brain (Cambridge)
 - The older worker (London)
 - Independence and new technology (Reading)
 - Rehabilitation (Birmingham)
 - Largely for older people
 - A walk a day keeps a fall at bay (Camden)
 - Research for a better age (Penzance)
 - Research for a better age (Hexham)
 - Older people on the move (Reading)
 - For scientists/researchers
 - New technology for support and care (Sheffield)
 - Media training (London) – just SPARC
 - Funding for research (London)
 - International events
 - Canada meets UK (Toronto)
 - UK meets Canada (London)



Planned Workshops - from May 2008

- All-comers
 - Mobility (Salford) - May
 - Health, Housing & Technology (Belfast) - June
 - Telecare (Bath) - June
 - Inclusive Design (Glasgow) - November
- All-comers plus large numbers of older people
 - Showcase Wales - July
 - Showcase BA Festival - September
 - Showcase Scotland - ?
- Scientists/Researchers
 - Frailty (Brighton) - July
- International
 - Special session (AAA, Boulder) - May
 - Senescence (Oxford) - July



Advocacy

- Making the case that:
 - older people are important
 - ageing research can and is making a difference
- Lobbying
- Developing a good track record
 - Some MPs do listen!
 - Two questions in Parliament on, Ageing Research and Older Workers
 - Ministers do listen (but Civil Servants don't!)



- » Royal Patronage
- » HRH The Princess Royal participated in *Ageing Research and Occupational Therapy: building partnerships, creating opportunities*



Advocacy

- Some highlights from the past 12 months
 - Dame Carol Black's' review – older worker
 - CSIP - leading to many and varied opportunities
 - MRC – SPARC model
 - Overseas interest
- Brochure and executive summaries
 - Developed and launched
- Many presentations
 - Ministers and senior civil servants, MPs
 - Continual lobbying
 - Many rebuffs

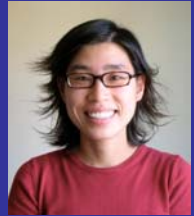


Capacity building pump-priming awards

- Small awards scheme for newcomers to ageing research
- 185 proposals total value £5.7m were considered in Summer 2005 & Spring 2006
- **34 were funded at total value £1.25m**
 - for superior scientific excellence and capacity building!



The 34 award holders



From furniture design to stem cells

- Projects
 - Furniture design, Smart homes, Adaptations to the home
 - Better recovery from hip fracture
 - Design of the workplace for older people
 - Better packaging
 - Safer more friendly streets
 - Computers that are easier to use
 - Assisting local government with transport planning
 - Keeping your car and driving safely
 - Regaining speech after stroke
 - Understanding automated telephone messages
 - Ageing eyes, Stepping safely, Following moving objects
 - Activity, Exercise, Nutrition in later life
 - Oxidative stress, Ageing cells, Stem cells, Lots of biology!



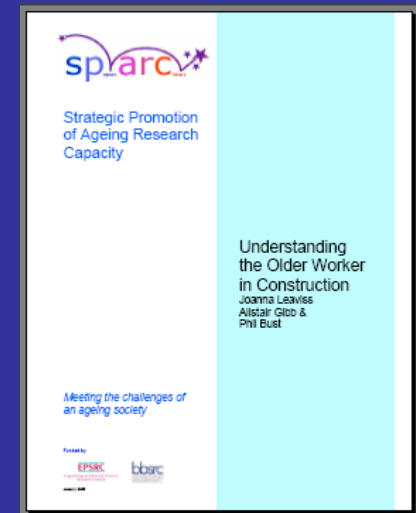
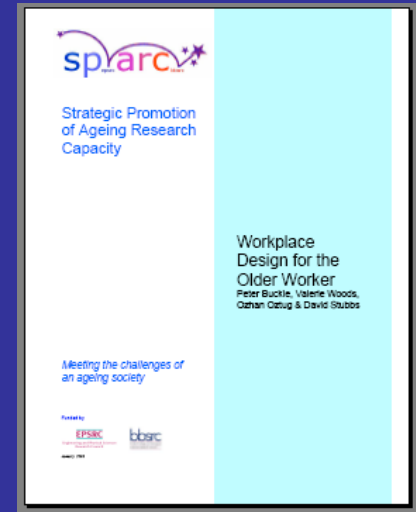
What does SPARC offer ?

- Understanding our future selves
 - Ageing cells, tissues, organs, bodies (12)
 - ageing brain and lots of other areas!
- Looking after our future selves
 - Keeping on going (5) - *previous workshop*
 - diet, health, exercise, walking
- Designing for our future selves
 - Design for Independence (4)
 - product and packaging design
 - older worker (workplace and job design)
 - Getting out and about (6) - *today's workshop*
 - urban design, car drivers, transport planning
 - Getting going again (1)
 - more efficient/effective recovery
 - Design for frailty (6)
 - home design, smart technology
 - computer interfaces, communication systems

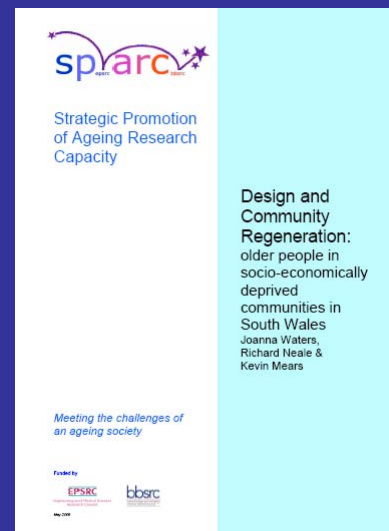


Final reports

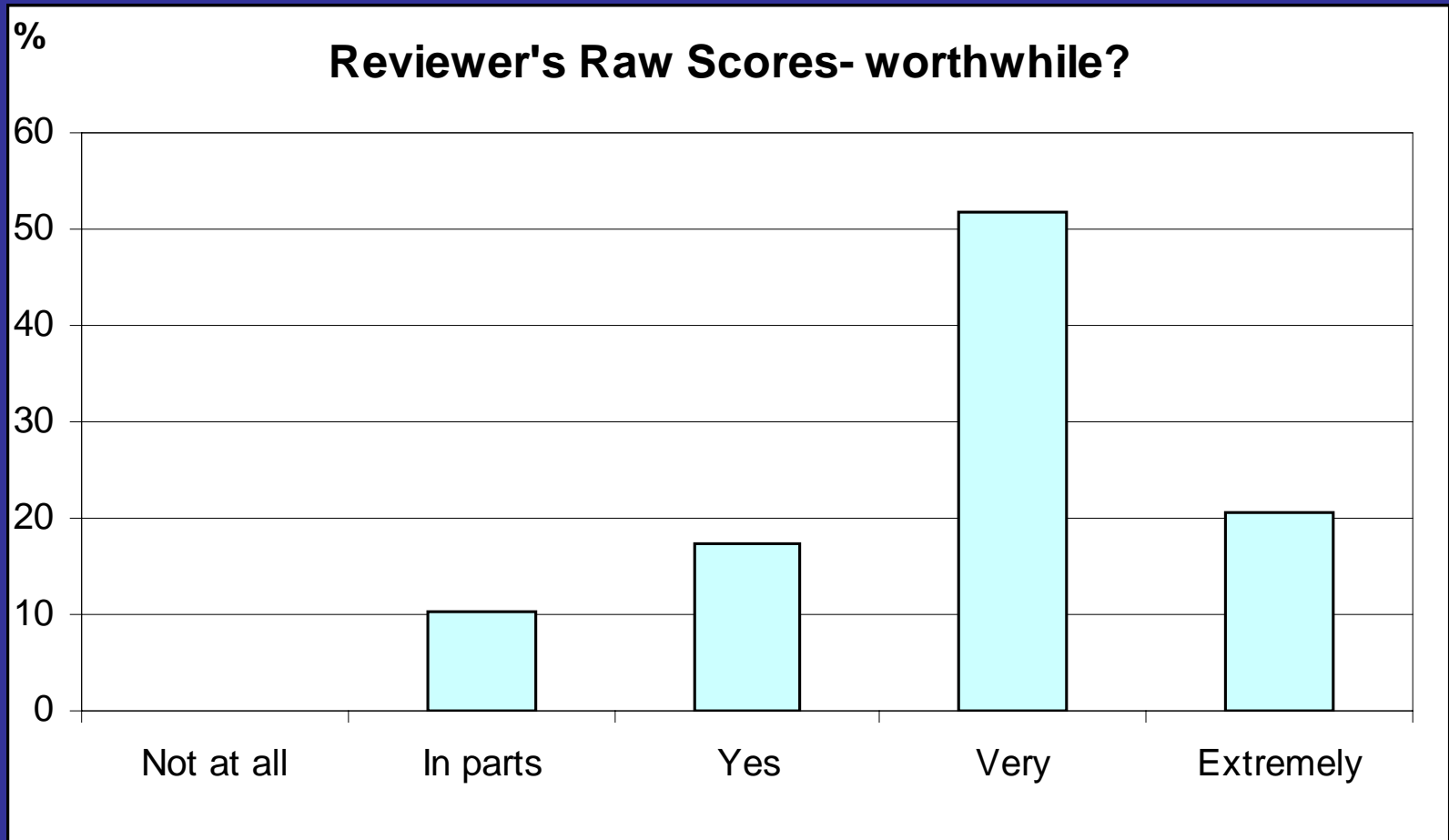
- 34 Awards
- 30 Final reports received so far
 - 19 reviewed
- Reviewers
 - Ratings mostly very favourable
- Executive summaries
 - Published – 11
 - Later in May - 5
 - Only 18 more to go!
 - Available on web



Final reports launched today!



Are the projects worthwhile?



Continual stream of good news

For example, recently



– Paul Chamberlain

- £450k RC award for bathroom design for older people (multidisciplinary, industry participation)
- Collaboration with Taiwan on 'Living Rooms'



– Alistair Gibb

- £180k RC award design of an ageing suit to study ergonomics in construction



– Faustina Hwang

- Major player in NDA SandPit Award on nutrition



– Christos Vasilakis

- Significant appointment at UCL

– Etc etc



Website



- Much visited – typically 1000 hits to 4000/day
- After older worker workshop
 - 6600 hits/day for several days!
- Most visited pages are
 - Funding opportunities
 - Forthcoming and Recent Workshops
- Google UK – top site for *ageing research!*



Our community

- Membership
 - ever upwards - 1600
 - Considerable increase in number of practitioners from the health professions
 - Major increase in social services professionals
 - Large increase in scientists



Today

- A unique experience
 - Lectures
 - Briefings
 - Lots of Networking
 - academics, practitioners, older people
- Designed to bring everyone together



Outdoors- a step too far?

Older people and mobility

- Fundamental requirements of mobility
 - Walking
 - Mobility needs in all its forms
 - Planning to meet mobility needs
 - Community mobility
 - Better green spaces
 - Better urban spaces



But today is a special day

A day for Marcus

- First steps
 - EQUAL
 - Major player
 - Pioneering participative and inclusive approach to research team membership, and to education and training
- Second step
 - EQUAL Network
 - Major player – encouraging and advising
- Third step
 - SPARC
 - Major champion of inclusive, multidisciplinary approaches
 - Keeping our feet on the ground



Thanks!

- Today's Presenters
 - The Chairs
 - Our Generous Host and Partner
 - You, the Participants
-
- And, of course, EPSRC and BBSRC

www.sparc.ac.uk



The ultimate aim

