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**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**

**Minutes of South East Area Council held at 13:00 on 02 March 2020 at Dance East.**

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| **Present** | Roni Brown | South East Area Council- Chair |
|  | Cllr Jacqui Burnett | South East Area Council |
|  | Celia Davies | South East Area Council |
|  | Pamela Roberts | South East Area Council |
|  | Gurvinder Sandher | South East Area Council |
|  | Stephen Crocker | South East Area Council |
|  | Sho Shibata | South East Area Council |
|  | Cllr Alan Waters | South East Area Council |
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| **In attendance** | Laura Dyer | Deputy Chief Executive |
|  | Hedley Swain | SE Area Director |
|  | Natalie Jones | Head of advocacy & comms |
|  | Heidi Mayhew | Senior Manager, Operations |
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| **Apologies** | Daniel Schumann | South East Area Council |
|  | Natalie Ibu | South East Area Council |
|  | Ann Limb | South East Area Council |
|  | Louise Blackwell | South East Area Council |
|  | Kate Adams | South East Area Council |
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| **Guests** | Claudia West | Senior Relationship Manager |
|  | Terry Adams | Relationship Manager- Diversity |
|  | Claire Toogood | Senior Relationship Manager |
|  | Jon Linstrum | Senior Relationship Manager |
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| **Note Taker** | Sola Adegbite | Assistant to Area Director |

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
	1. The chair, Roni Brown (RB), welcomed everyone to the meeting.
	2. Apologies were noted from Peter Heslip, Ann Limb, Natalie Ibu, Louise Blackwell, Kate Adams & Daniel Schumann
2. **Declarations of Interest**
	1. The paper listing members current declarations of interest were noted. All members were reminded to inform Sola Adegbite (SA) of any additions or corrections to their entry on the register.
	2. There were no anticipated conflicts of interests in relation to the business on the agenda.
3. **Minutes & Matters arising from last Area Council Meeting on 4th September 2019**
	1. The minutes were noted as being as accurate record of the last Area Council meeting.
4. **Creative Case for Diversity- National and Area Update**
	1. The officers gave a presentation on Creative Case for Diversity: providing an overview of the diversity workforce and audience data as published in the Arts Council’s diversity report and how this compared with the data for the South East. It was noted that two NPOs (museums) would need ‘met’ creative case ratings for 2019/20 in order to be eligible for the next round of NPO funding. With some small variations noted, particularly regarding ethnicity, the SE workforce and audiences are overall comparable with the national picture which shows there is more work to be done to improve the workforce and audience diversity. They also highlighted several funded projects and activities aimed at supporting diverse workforce development in the area.
	2. Area Council were concerned at the continuing high level of “not known” data. They discussed what levers could be used to shift this given that they are NPOs.
	3. Area Council strongly felt that the larger NPOs should be expected to take a lead.
	4. Area Council said that they felt there needed to be guidance for NPOs as to why the data was important.
	5. Area Council discussed issues of intersectional categorisation - are we moving our statistics on to take account of a more nuanced picture?
	6. Some suggestion from Area Council that the ‘prefer not to say’ numbers might increase given the lack of trust amongst certain demographics. Area Council noted that the ‘prefer not to say’ was higher in the SE then other areas.
	7. Area Council suggested that maybe a way to solve the problem of data submission and ‘prefer not to say’, was that there should be an anonymous system, and then it would get better responses. And that the organisations should have something in place that allows data to be protected.
	8. The Executive commented that Arts Council England was very lucky to have to have a such a strong consort as their diversity team. He informed the council that Area Management team (AMT) were talking with them about how to access all their thinking. He told Area Council that it must be something that everybody takes responsibility for, and that it was at the forefront of their agenda.
	9. Area Council felt that Arts Council England needed to utilise school roles and economic communities, utilising partnerships was the key.
	10. Area Council was impressed with the sharing of data from NPOs and felt strongly that there needed to be firmer rules around submitting data and penalties.
	11. Officers commented that Artistic Directors in nearly every category were ‘prefer not to say’, and upon further discussion it was said that was an area that Artistic Directors felt most uncomfortable with.
	12. Area Council felt that there were organisations that were very good at delivery of the Creative Case, and that there needed to be a partnering up with organisations that were not so good. Area Council felt strongly that there needed to be a formal process to follow.
	13. Officers told Area Council that Disability Online (one of our NPOs) was going out to NPOs to give talks.
	14. **Action: HS said that perhaps a conversation could be had with regards to sharing practise.**
	15. Area Council suggested that perhaps they should build new partnerships, and the opportunity to work with the government race disparity unit to help with capturing data.
	16. Area Council felt that there was no clear benchmark with regards to the data. There needed to be benchmarks to help shape the narrative, and to set goals for the future. Area Council continued that there needed to be targets in order to put pressure on NPOs. It was critical to have benchmarks in order to see how change could come.
	17. Area Council suggested looking at something quite specialised in each area of diversity and having internal conversations.
	18. Area Council strongly agreed there was an urgency to take forward an agenda that was compelling and would make a difference.
5. **10 Year Strategy**

**Delivery Plan**

* 1. **Content and Timescale**
		1. The Executive informed Area Council that the strategy had been launched and the delivery plan will be published in May. HS explained to Area Council that they were currently working on the details ready for the next National Portfolio Round. HS also told Area Council that it was very important for Area Council to give feedback as it’s a live discussion.
		2. HS continued that it was important to get a portfolio that would deliver Arts Council England’s new Strategy. The delivery plan would be in three-year blocks.
		3. HS told Area Council that National Council felt that it wasn’t strong enough on Children and Young People and Diversity.
		4. HS asked if there were any questions on the 12 priorities - the Area Council had no comments.
		5. The Executive informed the Area Council that they will be delaying the publication of the Delivery Plan.
		6. Area Council expressed concern about the clarification of what ‘young people meant’, it was felt that it was too specified, and could exclude young people over 19.
		7. The Executive explained to Area Council that it was important for Arts Council England to be clear and specific when it came to young people and the age categories, as that was something that Arts Council England had been criticised for in the past.
		8. Area Council felt that there should be a moment when they see/share the delivery plan before its published.
		9. **Action:** HS told Area Council that they would share the paper with them.
	2. **National Lottery Project Grants**
		1. HS informed Area Council that there was a commitment to continue with Project Grants, and to align them with the new Strategy.
		2. Area Council asked for feedback on projects in the first phase of the delivery plan.
		3. Area Council felt strongly that it was key to link back to the priorities with all Project Grants.
		4. The Executive told Area Council that applicants for Project Grants would have to demonstrate that they are meeting one of Arts Councils England’s outcomes.
		5. Area Council questioned what support there would be for producers, artists, and theatres. Area Council also commented that as part of the communication, the rationale should be explained, and it should be clear how it is articulated.
		6. Area Council had questions around libraries, and what the funds would be used for. Some members felt that the universal offers are core library duties, and asked how the Arts Council will ensure they are not funding statutory services?
		7. The Executive explained to Area Council that the funds for libraries were not to support the core business. She told them that there was a low level of engagement, and so the funds were to help libraries add value.
		8. Area Council felt that there should be some clarity on what the local authorities are meant to do, and the priorities of Arts Council England. The idea of case studies was suggested.
		9. HS told Area Council that Arts Council England would be careful that they did not help local authorities deliver their statutory responsibility for libraries.
	3. **The National Portfolio**
		1. HS told Area Council that the Arts Council needed to recognise and support a range of activity, and that they wanted to have a real credence and value.
		2. HS told Area Council that they wanted to make sure NPOs were encompassing other strands of work- Creative People and Places (CPP) & Music Education Hubs.
		3. Area Council asked Arts Council officers what the role of Area Councils were in deciding/having input to the other portfolio strands? Do they have the same influence and decision-making power for them?
		4. Area Council asked how we shift organisations to ensure they contribute to the strategy. They asked the Arts Council to consider if they are pushing hard enough to create the change given the next NPO round provides funding that takes us to six years into the strategy?
		5. Area Council asked if new CPP applications had to be in sync with the 4-year schedule?
		6. The Executive informed Area Council that Arts Council England are currently working on a timetable that works for CPP. LD went on to tell Area Council that they would be starting with a fresh CPP 4th round from 2022. And that it would be staggered with NPOs.
		7. Area Council felt strongly that the suggested band structure may be unfair, and that it needed looking at again.
		8. **Action:** LD told Area Council that this would be reviewed.
		9. Area Council felt that touring companies should be treated differently in the assessment phase. The Executive commented that the challenge was how much tolerance they had for pushing organisations.
		10. Area Council expressed strongly that they were not sure the delivery plan pushed hard enough and fast enough.
		11. Area Council felt very strongly that the balance between London and the rest of the country is a key issue given the infrastructure & resources available to London. They did recognise however that London does have areas of high deprivation.
		12. Area Council commented that the government values hard infrastructure and felt that the conversation needed to be directed to what cities needed in a post Brexit world. Area Council stressed the importance of building alliances and engaging with cities and a dialogue was needed with both core cities and key cities.
		13. Area Council when discussing the Creative Case for Diversity felt very strongly that there should be harsh penalties if was not met.
	4. **Inclusivity, Diversity and CYP**
		1. HS told Area Council that Bridges were part of the discussion around what the next NPO would look like.
1. **NPO Process Update**
	1. Amy Vaughan (AV) gave a presentation on the NPO cycle with the dates in the schedule and the Area Council meeting dates. AV stressed to Area Council the importance of their input in the decision-making process.
		1. **Action:** The Area Chair will send a note to all Area Council Members that their attendance is required for all upcoming Area Council meetings for NPOs.
2. **Placed Based Strategies**
	1. **Action:** HS agreed that he would bring back the Place based strategies presentation to the next Area Council meeting
3. **Executive and Area Directors Report**
	1. Area Council commented that it would be good to get a sense of internal conversations in the Executive and Directors report. Area Council felt it would be good to know the thinking behind priorities.
4. **AOB**
	1. **Novation of Royal Pavilion Museum Funding agreement**
		1. HS informed Area Council that from the 1st April Royal Pavilion Museum would be a trust. Two funding agreements, Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) – NPO grant ‘NPO application’ (NPO-00039952) for the Royal Pavilion & Museums; and NPO grant ‘to Brighton and Hove City Council trading as South East Museum Development Programme’ (NPO-00032516) have been requested to be novated to the Royal Pavilion & Museums Trust (RPMT). This request has been approved by South East Area Council on 2nd March 2020.
	2. **Relocation of NPO Hofesh Schechter**
		1. HS informed Area Council that SE NPO Hofesh would be moving to London, as more and more of their work was located there.
	3. **Key Events**
		1. HS informed Area Council that his assistants were in the process of working on a system to send key events to Area Council.
	4. **Area Council 1-2-1 Feedback**
		1. Area Council Chair asked Area Council if the report was an accurate summary of their 1-2-1s. Area Council agreed they were an accurate summary.
	5. **Local Authority Representation**
		1. HS explained to Area Council that they were still currently looking for two new members, and that he was in contact with local authorities. Area Council asked if they could look at Slough and Thurrock for Councillors. **Action:** HS said he would investigate.

Meeting closed at 4:14pm.

**Next Area Council Meeting:** Thursday 4th June 2020

 Microsoft Teams

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