



Minutes

SE Area Council

Date: Thursday 18 May 2023
Time: 13:00 – 15:00
Location: Key Theatre, Peterborough
Attendees: Prof. Roni Brown (Chair)
Cllr Victoria Harvey
Cllr Jacqui Burnett
Paul Stacey
Celia Davies
Kate Adams
Sho Shibata

For Arts Council England:

Laura Dyer (Deputy Chief Executive)
Hazel Edwards (Area Director, South East)
Peter Heslip (Director, Brighton and Visual Arts)
Glyn Huelin (South East Senior Manager, Operations)
Natalie Jones (Head of Communications, London and South East)
Hannah Lake (Director, Cambridge and Touring)
Hollie Smith-Charles (Director Creative Health and Change)
Claudia West (Senior Relationship Manager)

Guest:

Christina Alexander (Peterborough Council for Voluntary Services)
Gill Benedikz (Peterborough Council for Voluntary Services)

Apologies: Gurvinder Sandher, Stephen Crocker, Bruce Leeke, Pamela Roberts, Louise Blackwell
Observers: Caroline Wallace (items 1-3)
Minutes: Megan Hogg (PA to Area Director, South East)



1. Welcome and apologies

- Tour of Key Theatre from Natalie Phillips and Jag Singh and presentation from Paul Jepson.
- Apologies from Gurrinder Sandher, Stephen Crocker, Bruce Leeke, Pamela Roberts and Louise Blackwell.
- Welcome to Hollie Smith-Chales, Caroline Wallace, Christina Alexander and Gill Benedikz

1.1 Declarations of interest

- Updates to Megan Hogg

2. Creative Health

- Presentation from Hollie Smith-Charles, Director Creative Health and Change, and Claudia West, Senior Relationship Manager and lead for creative health in the South East.
- The Arts Council's Creative Health plan was published in the summer of 2022. Creative Health covers prevention (for example dance to prevent falls), treatment and recovery (singing for mental health, books on prescription) and acute care within hospital settings (music for babies in Intensive Care Units).
- Bringing creative health into place based working.
- National Centre for Creative Health 'Creative Health Associates' programme to deliver a step change in the way creative health is delivered. Seven posts are being funded to manage the programme, working within their Integrated Care Boards but connected nationally. Posts based in NHS Norfolk & Waveney and NHS Sussex are being recruited for. Activities will include mapping and datasets, and creative health huddles.
- The Arts Council has a learning and development programme for staff and is integrating creative health into delivery programmes.
- Examples in the South East include New Anglia LEP culture board, HERA project/ Robin Hood health foundation (a new NPO), Eastbourne Place Partnership Project led by Towner Art Gallery (Leave It To Us).
- Area Council Member Comments -
 - Where does funding for community and arts groups come from? Different set ups and pathways in different places but creative practitioners should be paid for their skills. Creative Associate roles will be fundamental in ensuring this is understood. In some places, health commissioners funds groups and some Integrated Care Boards also commission specific artforms.



- Who will hold the Creative Health Associate role and what is the long term plan? Development grant from the Arts Council. It will be a higher strategic role employed by grant holder but partnership agreement with ICBs with an NHS mentor. Currently a two year programme but hope to develop.
- Where will the data come from? Health data was a factor in identifying the Arts Council's priority places, so the same sort of data will be used. We will also work with NHS to explore opportunities to share data about health and the uptake of creative health activities.
- How many Creative Health Associates in each Integrated Care Board? One in each but more of a system looking at health holistically.
- Prediction as an economic sector over the next ten to twenty years? Not known.
- Noted the All-Party Parliamentary report on Arts, Health and Wellbeing contains data on impact of creative health, for example in reducing GP appointments.
- Noted impacted of early intervention creative activity has on promoting good health.
- Noted interested MPs in the South East area.
- Noted revisiting the Arts Council's South East Area Plan which could include creative health.

3. Peterborough Council for Voluntary Services

- Presentation from Christina Alexander, CEO, and Gill Benedikz, Project Officer.
- Council for Voluntary Services was formed in 1980 and has 350 member organisations. Provides training to support groups and runs a volunteer centre working with volunteers.
- Aim is to create creative and vibrant communities with equal opportunities through addressing local needs such as poverty, health inequality, disability, young people's foundation, payroll and DBS for groups.
- Thriving Communities Fund was a new project which included working with arts partners including METAL. Building an infrastructure across sport, arts and environment. First time funding from the Arts Council.
- Wonder Woman project was started in early stages of post-covid for women affected by different pressures which needed separate attention. Along with partners it focused on three areas of Peterborough to create activities and participation to empower women. 163 activities were delivered, 345 contacts made. Nine micro grants for community group projects boosted confidence and skills. Single gender setting created a safe space for difficult conversations. Recruited community leader who was able to offer additional



support. Familiar venues also encouraged engagement and expanded the geographical range to create flexibility.

Cllr Jackie Burnett left the meeting.

- Greater interest in women's activities since Wonder Woman project started.
- Reported Peterborough NPOs are active in health and arts and have a greater trust within partnerships.

Action: Circulate link to short film

- Area Council member comments:
 - How long did the project run and what was the budget? £60,000 for ten months but relationships have been maintained.
 - What is the national strategy for the volunteer sector? Varies based on the local leadership in place, the cultural sector seeing themselves as part of the volunteer sector helps create opportunities.

Caroline Wallace, Christina Alexander and Gill Benedikz left the meeting.

4. Chair's Report and Members' Update

- Longer term view of Arts Council England development after the period of focussing on funding.
- Reflection from National Council meeting -
 - National Council effectiveness review intersects with Area Councils as part of the governance structure. Area Council feedback and advisory pathways are important but joining agendas, cycles of meetings and being clearer on role of National Council is a project in progress. Covid and NPO round have impacted usual flow of business.
 - Area Council's role now is to explore what the next round of NPO should look like, SE Area Plan and investing time in working together as a council.
 - National and Area Council away day is being revisited for November, previous event cancelled due to covid.
 - The chair asked how the Area Council can assist the South East team. Examples included council members working with the Area Plan, particularly CYP, and scoping sector needs to informal Area Council focus.
- Area Council Membership
 - Chair will pass on thanks to Cllr Daniel Schumann and Cllr Michael Gbadebo who are no longer Local Authority members and stepped down from SE Area Council.



- Chair encouraged members to reach out to networks for recruitment of both local councillors and independent members.
- Application deadline for South East chair is 19 May.

Action: circulate link to Area Council member advert when live.

BREAK

5. Executive Director's Update

5.1 Area Director's Update

- No RAG and DAG meetings since previous Area Council meeting
 - Drop-in for process and inclusion reviews
- Risk report included in papers. Highlighted one organisation of constant high risk due to operational difficulties, moving into phase of gradual withdrawal of funding. Encouraging affected organisations to apply for project grants and reapplication at a later date. Noted failure of investment is rare and all steps were taken to avoid withdrawal of funding.
- NPO/IPS0 Welcome Event in Brighton 17 May, 110 CEOs and Chairs attended from NPOs attended. Next Welcome Event is 19 May in Peterborough.
- Cambridge Director additional comments:
 - RMs have had their initial meetings with NPOs.
 - Reported that the new NPOs are excited to work within Let's Create. Britten Sinfonia's application for transition funding was successful, the Director of Philanthropy has met to aid fundraising efforts.
 - University Cambridge Museums Pro-Vice-Chancellor is reviewing its structure to become a greater part of the central university.
- Brighton Director additional comments:
 - The team are supporting disabled-led NPOs regarding their feedback on processes and access.
 - Reported governance boards are coming into shape.
 - Client handling groups are in place for some organisations.

6. Minutes from the last meeting

- Agreed as accurate
- Actions from last meeting
 - .1 Equality Action Plan update – overlaps with area plan. Planning targeted support to NPO boards in need. Working with BSL users for a BSL-led project grants webinar and access to all webinars in general.
 - .2 Remuneration for Area Council members – in discussion with DCMS.



7. AOB

- Nothing to report

The next meeting is 10 July 2023 – suggested venue Crawley Library

September – Southend

November - cancelled to make way for joint Area Council/National Council meeting

ACTIONS

- **Circulate link to PCVS film**
- **Circulate website link to SE Area Council recruitment page.**