

**Arts and Health Cross Party Group Meeting 26 September 2018**  
**12.00 mid-day, Conference Room A, Ty Hywel,**  
**National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay.**



**Present**

Jayne Bryant AM (**Chair**)  
Bethan Sayed, AM  
Maddie Rees, AM Support Staff  
Kate Eden, Council, Arts Council Wales  
Sian Tomos, Arts Council Wales  
Angela Rogers, Engage Cymru  
Nesta Lloyd-Jones, Welsh NHS Confederation  
Sarah Goodey, Aneurin Bevan UHB  
Prue Thimbleby, ABMU Health Board  
Simone Joslyn, Cardiff and Vale UHB  
Rhian Webber, Cwm Taf UHB  
Andrea Davies, Art Therapies BCUHB

Rebecca Parker, Office of John Griffiths AM  
Rhiannon Tapp, Office of John Griffiths AM  
Helen Williams, Arts Council of Wales  
(minuting)

**Apologies**

Elizabeth Aylett, Betsi Cadwaladr UHB  
Phil George, Chair, Arts Council of Wales  
Sally Lewis, Portfolio Manager, Arts Council Wales  
Ann Evans, CEO & Powys Teaching Health Board

**Welcome and introductions from Chair, Jayne Bryant (JB) AM**

JB welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everybody for attending. JB expressed gratitude to Eluned Morgan, the former Chair of the group, who had made good progress in taking forward the work of the group in its initial stages. Heartfelt thanks were also expressed to all members for their patience whilst the group was being reconstituted with its new slimmed-down membership. JB noted that the Arts Council of Wales would continue to provide secretariat support for the group.

**Re-affirming the Purpose, Terms of Reference and revised membership of the Arts & Health CPG**

JB stated that the purpose of the group moving forward, was to raise awareness of Arts and Health activities amongst the AMs, especially the health and wellbeing benefits of engaging in the arts, and therefore enabling the group to become more politically influential. JB noted that it was a critical moment in time for Arts and Health with the shift towards the prevention agenda within the health sector and the move to one seamless service between health and social care. There was clearly a current appetite to explore alternative ways to contribute towards improving people's health, wellbeing and quality of life. JB stressed that the group would not duplicate in any way the work of the Wales Arts for Health and Wellbeing Network, which has a completely separate agenda.

Kate Eden (KE) thanked JB for taking up the chairmanship of the group. This was very much appreciated by the sector and Arts Council of Wales. It was encouraging to have the re-formed group established and be in the position to push forward with influencing policy and profile raising for the excellent work happening in arts and health in Wales. KE noted that the Arts Council had launched its new Corporate Plan and that the arts and health agenda was central to its work in the next planning phase. The Council was also implementing the recommendations from the Mapping Report. Key themes and emerging priorities include:

mental health, social prescribing, strengthening the evidence base and raising awareness of the wellbeing benefits of engaging in the arts. Sian Tomos (ST) noted that arts and health featured strongly as part of the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act and that the Arts Council were working towards these goals and sharing best practice with other public bodies where possible.

### **Arts Council of Wales/Welsh NHS Confederation MOU and key actions**

ST stated that much had already been achieved in the last 12 months including the sign off of the MOU between the Arts Council and the NHS Confederation. This partnership continues to work well. Both organisations meet monthly to report on progress and achievements and are working towards the objectives set in the joint work plan. Nesta Lloyd-Jones (NLJ) added that they are particularly targeting loneliness and raising awareness around this area and are beginning to get the message across to AMs.

### **Health Board Developments**

Each representative from the Health Boards present gave an update on developments in their areas. JB thanked all for their input and noted how encouraging it was to hear about the arts and health work going on in Wales. It was agreed that these could be presented in writing as part of the papers for the next meeting so that they can be shared more widely.

### **Sector Developments - WAHWN**

Angela Rogers (AR) updated the group on developments around the WAHWN group. The group currently had 170 members and met 3 or 6 times a year and receives strategic funding from the Arts Council. The group provides individual online platform for the network to share best practice and information. Training opportunities are also offered by the network and will be held during November and December 2018. JB thanked AR for her input on the WAHWN.

### **Agreeing priorities and key opportunities for the CPG for 2018-20**

Bethan Sayed (BS) noted that a survey was currently live to ask the people of Wales what they felt was an area of priority for Culture Committee to enquire into. The results should be available around the 10 October and the aim is to publish a document for this group to consider. The areas to choose from within the survey included:

- Literature in Wales;
- Teaching of Welsh history, culture and heritage in schools;
- Community involvement in protecting the heritage of Wales;
- Supporting traditional and unique Welsh art forms;
- Improving diversity in provision and uptake of arts and culture in Wales;
- Using the Arts to improve health and wellbeing;
- Welsh in the digital world

In terms of future meetings, Maddie Rees (MR) noted that the current arrangement was that the group meets 3 or 4 times annually with an annual general meeting. All agreed to this structure. MR will distribute meeting dates to the group.

**Action Point: MR to distribute meeting dates to the group.**

JB suggested that a theme be set for each meeting depending on what issues were current at the time and how possibly people who had benefited from arts and health initiatives could come and give evidence or showcase their work to the meeting. It could possibly be

implemented at the next meeting. ST suggested the possibility of working with the NHS Confederation to set agenda for the next meeting.

**Action Point: ST to discuss possibility agenda items with the Chair and the NHS Confederation for the next meeting.**

JB thanked all for attending today's meeting and looked forward to working with the group in the future.

The meeting ended at 13.25.

*Minutes prepared by Helen Williams, Personal Assistant, Arts Council of Wales: [Helen.williams@artswales.com](mailto:Helen.williams@artswales.com)*