Culture, Health & Wellbeing Alliance, North East Regional Meeting

May 2021

Present: Clare Elliot, Bruce Davenport, Dulcie Alexander, Richard McMann, Elaine Burke, Michael Cunliffe, Yitka Graham, Steve Bishop, Katie Mitchell, Jill Cole, Mark Burns, Stephen Armstrong, Caron Kirkham, Adam Harland, Lyn Kileen, Sarah Kemp, Alison Cleland, Katherine Goda, Kate Parkinson(Chair NE Regional Rep CHWA), Sophie Mitchell (NE Regional Rep CHWA)

1. Introductions and recap of previous meeting Jan 27th 2021
2. National Updates from CHWA – clips from the 2021 CHWA Conference are now accessible via the website. Two new case studies focusing on those shielding and supporting those in institutions throughout the pandemic are also accessible via the website. CHWA (National) is in the process of becoming a charity and has ambitions to apply to Arts Council England (ACE) to become an NPO (National Portfolio Organisation).
3. Dulcie Alexander, Thriving Communities Fund Programme Manager (NASP/ACE) gave a presentation on the national picture for Thriving Communities. The Programme Priorities are to: Raise Profile, Shape and Share an evidence base, Increase Diversity, Increase Geographic Spread, Increase range of activity. Delivery will run from March 2021-March 2022. There are 37 programmes nationally. We have 3 of those programmes in the NE in North Tyneside, Sunderland and South West Durham.
4. Update from North Tyneside Thriving Communities Project from Steve Bishop. The Project is called ‘Better Connect’. It will focus on supporting carer’s in the community by establishing pathways to equitable access across a variety of services and opportunities. Helix Arts is leading an alliance of local partners including North Tyneside Council, North Tyneside Art Studio, Age UK North Tyneside, Family Gateway, North Tyneside Carers Centre, First Contact Clinical, VODA, The Family Gateway, Meadow Well Connected, North Tyneside Primary Care Newtwork
5. Update from Sunderland Thriving Communities Project from Stephen Armstrong. The Project is a collaboration between Sunderland Carers, Sunderland Culture, Sunderland GP Alliance and Equal Arts. The aim of the project is to broaden the scope and quality of socially prescribed ‘arts on the doorstep’. The project has a wide audience and aims too engage with a range of people from children to older people. There is a hope that Thriving Communities is an opportunity to broaden out the audience across the city rather than over represent clusters of people by age group or geographical area.
6. Update from South West Durham Thriving Communities Project from Jill Coles. This project is a partnership between Jack Drum Arts, Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services and Upper Teesdale Hub. SW Durham has created a steering group that work and delivery are joined up and are currently doing a call out for artists to be involved.
7. Jenni Reagan from London Arts and Health Forum (LAHF) demonstrated the Partner Up tool. This is a digital tool developed by LAHF to connect creative practitioners/organisations, Health and Care Professionals, community organisations etc to each other. Organisations take responsibility for their own information. It was agreed that the NE CHWA group would be interested in creating and road testing an equivalent to the Partner Up tool.
8. Richard McMann from the LENS (Lived Experience Network) updated, the LENS is for people who have lived experience of health and arts. LENS is looking for new members and are hoping to reorganise into a charity and appoint a director. The frequency of meetings are approx. every quarter and the North East and Yorkshire LENS is linked to other national LENS groups and CHWA networks.
9. Elaine Burke spoke about the National Centre for Creative Health (NCCH) and Integrated Care Systems(ICS). NCHH is working with ACE to create an overview of ICS. This is a progression from the ACE funded ‘Cultural Commissioning’ project 2013-2017. Elaine wanted to know more about - What is happening in our area? Why has it happened? What are the barriers? How can we do more? The group discussed these questions and the problems around short term funding and real sustainability in the Arts. Members of the group agreed to speak to Elaine in more detail and we would like to invite her back to share her findings in the future.
10. Kate Parkin did a call out to see if anybody would like to become a future CHWA champion? We would like to diversify the role across sectors and art forms.
11. Next meeting – aiming for an Autumn Meeting, suggested topics include funding/commissioning services for Culture, Health and Wellbeing, research and the potential for collaborative research across the group.