



An invitation to collaborate...

Making Change, the Culture, Health and Wellbeing national conference

Dates: 11-13 October 2023

Venue: Various, Barnsley Town Centre

This is an in-person event with digital tickets

To find out more the conference click [here](#)

Accessibility is important to us. Find out more [here](#).

LISTEN to this call out [here](#).

Could your work inspire others to reimagine practice, grow alliances, or change policies?

Why

Our structures and systems are failing people and the planet. We know we need change. We believe creative health has an important role to play.

We invite you to collaborate with us to create a space for conversation and creativity and to collectively answer these questions:

What is the change we need to make?

Where is our collective energy best placed?

What people, alliances, tactics and policies do we need to support this change?

Who

We would love to hear about people, projects and places that are creating the conditions for change, or growing new ways of working to change their own practice, organisation or system.

We want to hear and learn from different voices and practices that promote good health and wellbeing or are addressing health inequalities through creativity.

We want to help those who don't see themselves represented in the sector be seen and heard.

We recognise that people whose work combines creativity / culture with health and health inequalities don't always:

- identify with 'creative health'
- use the language we use to describe the work
- see themselves represented in the sector

We invite **you** to take part and please also invite others to take part, too.

What we are looking for

We are looking for ideas to cultivate conversations and nourish attendees across the conference days and beyond.

We will be discussing important topics from across the sector - including:

- lived experience,
- practitioner wellbeing,
- health systems and inequalities,
- funding,
- frameworks and training,
- co-creation, and
- climate justice

We also want to create a space where people can reconnect and refresh. We'd like everyone who's part of it to feel they have had a chance to rest and recuperate; and to go away inspired.

There are two opportunities to offer contributions to the conference:

1. Cultivating conversations (short talks or panel contributions)

We invite you to submit a reflection, provocation or activity to get people talking and thinking afresh.

These will either be included in panels in the main space or as a slightly longer talk in a breakout space (we won't have any solo presentations in the main space). Either way, more than one person can be included in this.

Tell us about what change you want to make and how you are going about it

We want to hear about your aims, process, and approach, rather than simply showcasing your practice or findings.

We're interested in failure and risk - tell us about what hasn't worked as well as what has...

Time available:

- 10 minutes as part of a panel discussion; 20 mins for a talk in a breakout space
- Up to 1 hour for an activity/ workshop

Submit your idea, [here](#)

2. Creative nourishment (for breakout spaces, or the main space)

Fostering wellbeing is part of creating the conditions for change. **Our aim is to create as much space as we can for creative, disruptive and embodied activities.**

We know that people are looking for opportunities to connect, refresh and make together.

Do you have something you would like to offer to help create a nurturing and inspiring space?

This could be:

- a creative workshop or activity,
- a performance (this would need to be relatively low-tech) or,
- an imaginative approach to bringing people to together

Submit your idea, [here](#)

Things to consider for each contribution:

- Breakouts will be 1 hour in length. For the main space performances may need to be limited to 30 mins.
- Audience/numbers: Breakout spaces can house up to 100 people but you can tell us if you'd prefer to limit the numbers; and delegates will choose from a number of breakouts prior to the day. If this is intended for the whole conference, it would be for up to 250 people in the main space. These activities could feature as breakout or part of the evening offer.
- Accessibility is important - is your idea accessible? How can we help you achieve this?
- Venues: We have access to a range of spaces - some with technical support, others are public spaces and rooms.

How we will include your responses...

We will work with our conference working group to decide which proposals we can bring into the event programme.

Please note due to limited time and space, we will not be able to accept all responses. We will be looking for a mixture of work at different scales and based in different parts of the country.

However, we can (with your permission) include your Cultivating Conversations proposal in a case studies resource on our website. We are often approached to profile or share examples of practice - this will be a way we can continue to advocate for your work.

What we can offer in return...

If you are invited to be part of the programme, here is our offer:

- All contributors will be offered **one free conference** ticket for your group/representative. We can also provide a ticket for someone to accompany you, such as a carer or support worker.

- Freelancers, unsalaried people, and people from small organisations for whom this represents a significant cost will be offered a stipend of £150. We regret that we do not have the resources to cover any additional costs. We will provide a downloadable letter of support template that successful participants can use to help with match funding.
- Performance groups' fees will be agreed separately.
- Additional material costs for Creative Nourishment ideas will be provided up to £50 per session.
- Any access costs for contributors can be agreed separately.
- You will have an opportunity to connect with 200-300 delegates from across the creative health sector.
- Your work will be promoted via the CHWA website, social media and conference programme.

How to Apply

Submit your ideas via the google forms here:

[Cultivating Conversations](#)

[Creative Nourishments](#)

Instead of text, you can send us a video or audio file response to any of the options above.

Please get in touch at admin@culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk, if we can:

- **support you in the process of applying,**
- **provide the forms in a different format,**
- **answer any other questions**

We will aim to get back to you within a week of receiving an email.

Important Dates and Deadlines

- Open for submissions: Friday 12 May 2023
- Close for submissions: 12 noon, Monday 5 June 2023
- Applicants to be contacted with decisions, Monday 26 June 2023

Background

What we want to talk about and why?

We know that creativity and culture are essential parts of a healthy society. All of us have witnessed this work in action and seen the impacts on both individuals and communities.

We know too that health is inseparable from equity, climate change, social justice.

The question we want to ask is: What now? What needs to happen at a personal, organisational, and political level to bring creativity and health together, and to break down the barriers that have separated them?

For example, this might be about efforts to:

- improve support for practitioners and trauma-informed approaches
- nurture collaboration and co-production
- grow radical ways of organising, both in alliances and within organisational structures
- explore funding models or sharing resources
- join the dots between (e.g.) health inequalities, the economy, climate, creativity
- change policy or legislation

We hope that this conference will deepen our understanding of the structural inequalities and injustices that impact our work and how we can use our convening and collective power to amplify these conversations and instigate more collective action.