

**Strategic**

**Arts Council England**

Planned re-structuring at Arts Council is nearly complete with many posts being made redundant. As noted before, arts in health remains a low priority nationally despite support in some regions and the enthusiasm of some staff. From April, arts in health (alongside most community arts activity, arts in criminal justice etc) will fall under the remit of participation officers regionally and nationally. At present ACE is not in a position to advise on the likelihood or not of funding a national body for arts in health from 2011 but is focused on avoiding duplication and ensuring that any national organisation genuinely reflects the needs of the sector. Communication with Arts Council via the London regional office continues.

**Department of Health**

Correspondence and meetings with DoH (Sian Rees) have been ongoing. DoH is currently considering the ways in which it can support arts in health practitioners in communicating activity, research and key messages to clinicians and opinion shapers within the health community. Currently under consideration is the possibility of inviting researchers to discuss current research activity with the Department (January 2010). DoH is also considering support for a project to collate mapping and knowledge of the sector nationally.

**Service users**

An ongoing dialogue has been developed with Breakthrough a national organisation which lobbies and works on behalf of service user artists. Breakthrough recently staged a national event with a keynote address by Louis Appleby which emphasised the value of art in wellbeing. Breakthrough has considerable support from service user artists and together we are exploring ways we can support each other's work including the possibility of running advocacy and press workshops for small arts organisations and individual artists.

## **Advocacy**

### **Manifesto**

LAHF has developed a statement defining arts in health which is currently being circulated for comment. This statement aims to define arts and health and highlight the key ways in which the arts can be utilised to impact positively on wellbeing. The aim is for this document to form the basis of a manifesto to be circulated next spring by LAHF, but also by practitioners across the country, creating a standard which the sector can unite behind. Input, suggestions and comments on this proposed manifesto are invited from all with an interest in contributing.

### **Lobbying**

In September, Damian Hebron had a brief meeting with Andrew Lansley (Shadow Secretary of State for Health) and the value of support for arts in health was discussed with positive assurances offered. Contact is being made with other key figures from across the political spectrum to develop the profile of arts in health.

### **National Campaign for the Arts**

LAHF has scheduled a meeting with the NCA in November to explore the ways in which the arts in health sector can collaborate with and support the wider arts and social inclusion community.

### **Royal Society for Public Health**

A meeting has been scheduled for December with the Royal Society for Public Health to discuss ways in which we might collaborate to promote the role of the arts in wellbeing.

### **Advocacy training**

LAHF is planning to establish some advocacy training events for those working in the field of arts and health. These are currently being formulated but will seek to develop the media profile of the sector in a positive way.

## **Research**

### **Research Network**

An informal network of researchers working in the field of arts in health has now been established and DoH is currently considering inviting members of this network to share recent developments at a meeting in January next year.

### **Public Engagement Foundation**

A new organisation has been established by Tim Joss (Director of the Rayne Foundation) to develop the evidence base in the field of arts in health by undertaking exemplar projects. LAHF is in communication with the PEF to see how this work can support the promotion of arts in health nationally.

## **Consultation and Networking**

### **Regional events**

Damian Hebron has attended several events around the country discussing proposed plans and receiving feedback from practitioners across the country. This continues to influence the proposed work.

### **Website**

The national website is being devised partly in response to this input. The aim for the website is for it to go live in spring 2010. Among the resources the website will provide is a repository for research and evidence in arts and health.

### **International**

Conversations have been continuing with the Society for the Arts in Healthcare in the USA which is keen to develop links with partners in the UK. Guy Noble, LAHF Chair, will be joining several colleagues from the UK at a conference in Australia in November and, while there, is also scheduled to have a number of discussions with European and Australian organisations about possible collaborations.

## **Mapping**

### **PCT survey**

Naidoo Associates is currently carrying out a survey of PCTs to establish the recent level of engagement with the arts across the country. This survey has benefitted from the suggestions and input of regional partners from around the country.

### **Literature review**

LAHF is currently undertaking a literature review to draw together all relevant research and information about arts and health activity nationally. The aim of this is to draw together relevant information for inclusion on the national website and also to analyse areas where additional research may be required.

### **Practitioner analysis**

LAHF is currently in discussions with DoH about the generation of a national database of arts in health activity. This would actively seek out all organisations and individuals engaged with arts in health across the country to assess needs and identify gaps in provision. This work will be tied together with the PCT survey to provide an up to date and accurate picture of the full extent of arts in health activity, particularly identifying challenges and needs of the sector.