

Notes from Southwark Culture Health and Wellbeing Partnership Meeting @Walworth Living Room, Tuesday 24 September 2019 10-12pm

1. Who was in the room

- We had a great turnout. Over 60 people were at this meeting and over 120 came to the first event at the Tate in July. This shows that there is enormous interest in this area from a wide range of stakeholder groups including a cross-section of cultural organisations at all scales, health professionals and other stakeholders.
- We had a good geographical spread across the Borough with particular concentration in Peckham, Camberwell and London Bridge/Borough.
- It was clear that we must have greater service user involvement fully integrated into this process, including people with disabilities. How wasn't specifically discussed but will be done so at the next meeting on the 17th October
- A key challenge (related to the point above) is how do we involve people who aren't paid to be in the room, either as they are not in work, volunteering their time or because they work independently and are sacrificing paid work to be here?
- Some other key groups were missing from the discussion - particularly funders, local councilors/MP's, researchers and social care. It was noted though that a number of people from these stakeholder groups have engaged with this discussion but were unable to attend this meeting (eg Arts Council England, National Lottery, researchers from Goldsmiths and King's College London)
- How do we engage those not in the room?
- A number of people also mentioned that we should include individual art practitioners as a key stakeholder group

2. The Structure of the Partnership

- There was a very mixed discussion about the potential structure of the partnership
- Most people agreed that there is a shared vision for why this partnership should exist - i.e. that there is a recognition of the value of arts and culture in supporting wellbeing, tackling health inequalities and engaging people from all backgrounds and that people want more opportunity to share practice and find ways of working together and promoting and advocating what they do more effectively. There is a desire to work in partnership, create change and improve health and wellbeing outcomes - at all levels.
- However, it was clear at this session that attendees expressed the need for more discussion to clarify the specific purpose and mission of the partnership to help determine the structure. The overall vision is too high level and not specific enough. This will be addressed at the third engagement meeting on 17 October.
- We need to be very clear on how this work fits/overlaps with the other networks in the borough ie Community Southwark and Creative Network Southwark and with other national initiatives such as the London Arts and Health Forum (LAHF) and the Cultural Health and Wellbeing Alliance (CHWA)

3. Key priorities

- Whilst there was a general interest in the priorities, people wanted to know more about how the initial priorities had been identified - could we provide more detail at the next meeting?
- We noted that many attendees didn't attend the initial Tate event or are less familiar than others with how this work ties into national and local priorities and strategies. We need to spend time at the next meeting helping all those involved get to a similar understanding on what the priorities are and why they have been chosen. We should also document this in the overall strategy for the partnership
- We need to make sure that we dovetail our overall ambitions with local specific strategies' eg Loneliness strategy, regeneration, healthcare etc...

Lots of discussion was held on specific priorities:

- **Cultural/ social prescribing** – linking with Southwark's social prescribing network and major initiatives being developed in the borough. For example, Social Prescribing focusing on musculoskeletal conditions in Southwark, Wellcome Trust £2million programme to scale up arts and health interventions in Southwark and Lambeth, King's College London initiatives in Social Prescribing including the Science Gallery Social Prescribing Conference on 27 November
- **Arts, culture and health in buildings** - eg accessible public spaces and health centres – including libraries and Dulwich Health Centre, the planned Children and Young People's Mental Health Centre at SLaM, Old Vic and Pembroke House/Walworth Living Room
- **A focus on neighbourhoods** - creating local culture/health/wellbeing hubs bringing together local arts and culture organisations with health and other stakeholders in a local context (e.g. in Peckham or Dulwich or the Medi-Culture Quarter in London Bridge). We could then link to specific initiatives in an area such as the culture and WELLbeing event in Peckham on 9 and 10 November
- It was felt to be a good suggestion to have geographically specific smaller groups in more local/neighbourhoods to address local needs and bring together local interests
- It was noted that we needed to provide more training in various areas of Arts health and wellbeing including for social prescribing link workers

4. Connectivity - communication, information sharing, relationship building, awareness raising

- A key theme throughout the session was that people really enjoyed the opportunity to find out more about what each other was doing, discover what else and how much was going on in the Borough and to build face to face "human" relationships with other like-minded people
- Connectivity needs to be a key aim of the partnership that spans across all priorities
- People felt there was an opportunity to coordinate festivals and events better in the borough
- We could hold bespoke meetings/events around chosen themes/priorities eg social prescribing. The idea of creative huddles was suggested – terminology used by NHS is a form of this – multidisciplinary groups focusing on a specific challenge/task etc

- There were a number of ideas that we could immediately initiate:
 - Morley College radio station (www.morleyradio.co.uk) - podcasts. Morley College have a facility to record podcasts that can be played via the Morley College Radio Station. We could record podcasts relating to the partnership as well as record podcasts themed around our priorities or to highlight a particular initiative, project in the Borough
 - The Podcasts could also provide you with an opportunity to engage partners to help you with your initiative or to help you attract people to participate in your activities
 - The importance of hosting meetings across the borough and holding them in inspiring spaces or spaces that teach us something was highlighted (like the Walworth Living Room). We could start to do this immediately
 - Maximise use of the Southwark Council website (Southwark Presents) and culture newsletter
 - We could create micro site within the main Southwark Presents website for arts, health and wellbeing initiatives

5. Ways of working for the partnership

Throughout the meeting a number of important points were raised about the ways the partnership should work (i.e. values/principles). This included:

- The partnership should support and improve wellbeing (not cause stress!) for those involved. We should make it fun and engaging!
- We need to value the human element and create time to build relationships
- We need to recognise and build on what exists and don't create new things for the sake of it - We need to build on CURRENT initiatives don't keep adding more – no more initiatives!
- If we truly value equality and diversity how do we support everyone to be involved - eg, services users, people with disabilities, those that can't afford or aren't paid to be here...