

PRESS RELEASE

Arts Council England Announce Sector Support Organisation Status for New Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance

The National Alliance for Museums, Health and Wellbeing and the National Alliance for Arts, Health and Wellbeing are pleased to announce that from April 2018 we will be merging to become a new Sector Support Organisation, the Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance (CHWA). Funded by Arts Council England as part of the National Portfolio Fund 2018-2022, the new organisation will be led by Arts & Health South West.

Alex Coulter, Director of Arts & Health South West says: *We are extremely grateful to Arts Council England for recognising the importance of supporting arts and cultural organisations to embed health and wellbeing in their work. The Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance will work towards a national infrastructure to realise the potential for the arts and culture to contribute to creating a healthy society.*

CHWA will combine the complementary strengths of the two sectors and will have a strong emphasis on the potential of national strategic developments that can be activated by strong regional and local place based working. CHWA will work with the sector to develop training and advocacy, methods and platforms for sharing evidence, as well as opportunities for networking between the cultural and health sectors. It will provide the secretariat to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Arts, Health and Wellbeing and be a key partner in delivering the recommendations of the APPG's 2 Year Inquiry to be announced in parliament on 19th July.

Prof Helen Chatterjee, Chair and Co-Founder of the National Alliance for Museums, Health and Wellbeing says: *We are delighted to be able to take forward the work of the Alliance in collaboration with the arts and health sector, which has been a source of inspiration for museums. In turn we look forward to sharing the museum sector's experience of engaging audiences with the nations heritage to benefit the wider cultural sector.*

The new alliance constitutes the biggest alliance of culture and health organisations and practitioners that there has ever been and this represents a major opportunity for both the culture and health sectors, as **Deborah Munt**, Chair of the National Alliance for Arts, Health and Wellbeing explains:

'The culture, health and wellbeing sector safeguards a particular set of values, perspectives and ambitions in relation to human health and flourishing and its workforce overflows with great imagination and bold ideas. Through CHWA we can help create the conditions in which this gains more traction, greater visibility and deliberate development so that ultimately more people can actively choose culture in shaping their own wellbeing.'

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For further information about this press release contact:

Laura Bedford, Project Coordinator for the National Alliance for Museums, Health and Wellbeing, UCL Culture, T: +44 207 679 2211 /
E: l.bedford@ucl.ac.uk

Notes for editors

1. ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND MUSEUM NATIONAL PORTFOLIO FUND

Arts Council England is the national development agency for arts, museums and libraries whose mission is to provide great art and culture for everyone. Sector Support Organisations have a focus on supporting and facilitating services in the museum, arts, or libraries sectors in order to enable them to deliver key goals in their strategy [Great Art for Everyone](#).

[NATIONAL PORTFOLIO FUND](#)

2. NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR MUSEUMS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The National Alliance for Museums, Health and Wellbeing was established in 2015 and brings together expertise from its board and partners which include universities, museums and other sector support and advocacy organisations. It is a place where information about museums and health can be shared; to improve existing practice, help build resilience and provide resources and support for those individuals and organisations working in this area of activity.

[NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR MUSEUMS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING](#)

3. ARTS & HEALTH SOUTH WEST

Arts & Health South West is an information, support and advocacy organisation for everyone who believes in the value of creativity in enhancing health and wellbeing. Whose aim is to encourage the development of the arts and health sector across the region and support good practice through providing high quality resources, information and support. In June, they delivered the Culture, Health and Wellbeing international conference which brought together over 400 people from 22 countries to celebrate this vibrant and dynamic international field.

[ARTS & HEALTH SOUTH WEST](#)

4. NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR ARTS, HEALTH & WELLBEING

The National Alliance for Arts, Health & Wellbeing launched in 2012 and aims to provide a clear, focused voice to articulate the role creativity can play in health and wellbeing. The Alliance seeks to act as a hub for information and research on arts and health work in England and further afield, advocate on behalf of this work, encourage the use of the arts by health and social care providers, and to raise standards in this sector.

[NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR ARTS, HEALTH & WELLBEING](#)



National Alliance
for Museums,
Health & Wellbeing



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