

All Party Parliamentary Group on Arts and Health

Inaugural Meeting

January 15th 2014 2pm

Room M, Portcullis House

MINUTES

In attendance:

Lord Berkeley of Knighton
Lord Crathorne
Lord Crisp
Alex Coulter, Director Arts & Health South West
Katie Elruger, work experience
Baroness Finlay of Llandaff
Baroness Greengross
Damian Hebron, Director of the London Arts in Health Forum
Lord Howarth of Newport
Natasha Kutchinsky, Office of Paul Burstow MP
Jason McCartney MP
Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall, Labour Peer
Sarah Newton MP
Matthew Offord MP
Andrew Stunell MP
Daniel Tye, Office of Sharon Hodgson MP
Sarah Wollaston MP

1. Welcome and Introduction

Alan Howarth welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the reasons for proposing a new APPG on Arts and Health.

The evidence is growing for the impact of the arts on health and wellbeing outcomes, both in physical and mental health. The arts can enhance recovery, improve the quality of life particularly for those with long term and terminal conditions, impact on staff experience, humanise healthcare environments and contribute to cost savings through shorter hospital stays and reduced medication.

There has been intermittent interest from governments and there is still a need to convince many clinicians, commissioners, politicians and journalists.

It is a suitable subject for an APPG as it is not susceptible to party politics and it straddles different government departments.

Sarah Newton and Paul Burstow shared Alan Howarth's enthusiasm and there has been a positive response from canvassing colleagues across all parties and both Houses. Paul Burstow sent his apologies for the meeting.

The National Alliance for Arts, Health and Wellbeing represents academics and practitioners in the field and will provide the secretariat.

The draft Terms of Reference were discussed and it was agreed to add:

- To encourage the evaluation of arts and health work and the dissemination of evidence
- To work with other APPGs on areas of shared interest including the APPG on Dementia

- To support the sharing of knowledge and information about good practice and facilitate access to arts and health provision for the general public

Action: Alex Coulter to draft revised TOR for Chairs approval

2. Election of Officers

The following were elected:

Alan Howarth, Co-Chair

Sarah Newton, Co-Chair

Paul Burstow, Co-Chair

Sarah Wollaston, Vice-Chair

Frank Dobson, Vice-Chair

It was hoped that an additional Lib Dem officer would be elected at a future meeting.

3. The National Alliance for Arts, Health and Wellbeing

Alex Coulter gave a short presentation on the National Alliance for Arts, Health and Wellbeing. The group is made up of representatives from all the regions of England and provides a national voice for the sector, dissemination of national and international research and good practice through their website and aspires to support training and CPD for arts and health practitioners.

Examples of current work are: Clive Parkinson, Director of Arts for Health, Manchester Metropolitan University, is working on the research project Dementia and the Imagination across sites in the North West, North East and Wales; Deborah Munt, Director of We Do in Yorkshire, is leading one of four national projects on the arts in residential care funded by the Arts Council and the Baring Foundation; Gavin Clayton, Director of Arts & Minds in Cambridgeshire, is developing arts on prescription across the East of the country based on research by LSE into the cost benefits.

Arts & Health South West, a membership organisation, delivered the Culture, Health and Wellbeing international conference in June 2013, attended by 390 delegates from 22 countries. Alan Howarth gave a keynote speech, which was subsequently circulated in the briefing for the Lords debate in July, on the contribution the arts can make to education, health and wellbeing.

Inspiring presentations from around the globe included national policy developments in Australia and Norway; poetry and incarcerated women in the US; environments for cancer care; longitudinal research on arts on prescription; public health and arts partnership in Derry Londonderry City of Culture; House of Memories work on dementia with Liverpool Museums; Dance for Parkinson's, an international movement that started in New York.

The UK is leading the way in innovative practice and there is a 30 year history of arts and health in this country. The draft programme is intended to reflect the breadth of activity across artforms and healthcare provision. MPs' and Peers' knowledge and experience both at constituency and policy levels will be very useful in informing it.

The National Alliance for Arts, Health and Wellbeing (NAAHW) is managed by the London Arts and Health Forum (LAHF) and Alex Coulter will provide the administration for the APPG. She will circulate minutes after the meeting and if anyone wants more information or to send out information to the group they would be welcome to get in touch.

Nigel Crisp said that it would be very useful to have a baseline for the research and evidence base and asked if a paper could be produced with a summary of the research evidence.

Sarah Wollaston proposed that the APPG could develop or support the development of a portal to allow the public to search for arts and health opportunities/services by postcode – a need to move away from patchy provision and share information better.

Sarah Newton suggested the APPG could support an application for funding to support a post in the National Alliance to develop such a web-based facility.

Action: Damian Hebron and Alex Coulter to circulate information on current information websites both national and regional; NAAHW to prepare a paper on the research baseline.

4. Draft Programme

Suggestions were made for additions to the draft programme:

Ilorra Finlay: Maternity and paediatric environments; architecture and design for healthcare buildings, particularly mental healthcare environments and including examples from other countries, particularly Holland (Kroningen); screening programmes

Genista McIntosh: Large arts organisations delivering arts and health work – particularly working with children with autism

Sally Greengross: Work with young people in criminal justice – health education using the arts; joint meeting with the Dementia APPG

Sarah Wollaston: emphasis on mental health and parity of esteem

Sarah Newton proposed a Westminster Hall Debate. The most topical issues would relate to current priorities such as Dementia, the Care Bill, Post-traumatic stress disorder and the WW1 events. These are areas in which there is money available and they would attract a lot of interest from parliamentarians.

Actions:

Ilorra Finlay to send Alex Coulter the link to the Vaccinate programme at Chelsea and Westminster to circulate.

Damian Hebron and Alex Coulter to prepare more detailed information relevant to the Care bill, Dementia and Post-traumatic stress ahead of a possible Westminster Hall debate.

5. Finance

Alan Howarth explained that the Arts Council (ACE) indirectly funds the provision of the secretariat to the APPG. ACE funds LAHF and some of that money goes to support the NAAHW, which in turn is providing the secretariat for the APPG.

Damian Hebron explained that, of the £64000 that LAHF receives from ACE, approximately £20000 is allocated to the NAAHW. LAHF reports to ACE regularly and they are fully aware of the work in relation to the APPG. At the AGM of the APPG a financial statement will be provided.

Alan Howarth pointed out that some members of the public and parliamentarians might question public money being spent on an APPG. We have to be certain that the APPG acts with complete propriety regarding the sources of funding. Damian Hebron confirmed that ACE is fully aware and has agreed to the use of ACE funds to support the APPG. Alan Howarth read out the relevant wording in the ACE funding agreement with LAHF. Members present gave their approval to this arrangement for funding of the group's activity and administration.

Sarah Newton offered some additional support from her office for the administration of the APPG.

Sarah Wollaston proposed that the APPG review whether it has provided value for money after a year.

6. Any Other Business

Sarah Newton suggested that the officers of the group should meet shortly to plan the APPG's programme.

Action: Alex Coulter to set up a meeting for the officers at an early stage.