



All Party Parliamentary Group on Arts, Health and Wellbeing

Inquiry Meeting 4
Cross-cutting policy
28th November 4-6pm
House of Lords Committee Room 1
Chair: Lord Howarth of Newport

Attending:

Paul Bristow, Director, Strategic Partnerships, Arts Council England

Deborah Bull, Assistant Principal (London), King's College London

Professor Paul Burstow, Chair of the Inquiry Advisory Group

Professor Paul Camic, Canterbury Christ Church University

Simon Chaplin, Director of Culture and Society, Wellcome Trust

Nikki Crane, Director of Arts Strategy, Guy's and St Thomas' Charity

Poppy Jaman, Chief Executive of Mental Health First Aid

Lily Makurah, Deputy National Lead, Mental health and Wellbeing PHE

David McDaid, Department of Social Policy, London School of Economics

Professor Richard Parish, Board Member PHE

Matthew Pearce, Senior Programme Manager, Gloucestershire CCG

Synopsis of Chapter Two: The Arts and the Social Determinants of Health

The social determinants of health are defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the 'conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life'. Adverse environments are seen to cause alterations to the non-coding part of the human genome in such a way that can be passed down through the generations. But this mechanism is reversible, and enriched environments can undo epigenetic damage, which is where the arts come in. In looking at the disproportionate distribution of health and wellbeing across the social gradient, points are identified at which the arts might mitigate the social determinants of health.

Chapter two forms the theoretical basis of the Inquiry report, drawing upon the findings of the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health and the work of Professor Sir Michael Marmot. It sets the need for proportionate action across the social gradient (what Marmot calls 'proportionate universalism') against the uneven engagement that is consistently observed in the publicly funded arts. Access to the arts through health routes inadvertently conform to the principle of proportionate universalism and provides a tangible route for the arts in addressing health inequities, which is seen to form a pressing policy priority.

Synopsis of Chapter Three: The Policy and Commissioning Landscape

In order to better understand the ways in which the arts can help to meet policy priorities in health and wellbeing, it is necessary to study recent developments. Close scrutiny of the *Five Year Forward View*, published by NHS England in October 2014, shows that, in a bid to address health inequalities, attention is increasingly being paid to strategies aimed at the prevention and management of long-term conditions. This implicates general practitioners and communities and paves the way for the arts to form part of a wider landscape aimed at preventing conditions from developing, recurring or worsening. Chapter three considers the ways in which the discursive, collaborative approaches being incited at the intersection between health and social care correlate with the methods of the participatory arts, particularly where service users are involved in design and delivery.

This chapter firmly embraces Department of Health and NHS England understanding that physical and mental health are inextricably linked. A section is dedicated to current

priorities in mental health, paving the way for a consideration of routes through which arts engagement can address a variety of mental health problems. Scrutiny of policy priorities in both health and culture reveals that more work needs to be done to develop arts and health policy.

Attention is then turned to the ways in which contemporary policy is interpreted at the level of health and social care commissioning. This reveals scope for the arts to be ingrained into plans for local commissioning and takes Gloucestershire CCG as an extended case study of this approach in practice. Recommendations in this chapter are centred on the necessary steps that must be taken to ensure that the arts form an integral part of future commissioning.

Questions for discussion:

Are there any obvious gaps in the content or argument?

Are the recommendations adequately supported by the argument in the text?

Are the recommendations the right ones and to the right people?

Accessing the House of Lords:

Please come to the Cromwell Green Visitor Entrance, no. 7 on the map. Security can take up to 15 minutes. Once inside please ask to be directed to the Committee Room corridor.

