

**Yorkshire and Humber Tea &…Meeting Notes**

**Thursday 7th May 2020, 3.15-4.30pm via CHWA Zoom**

Attendees: Sue Mackay (Thackray Medical Museum, CHWA Regional Champion), Deborah Munt (Artist, consultant, Ministry of Others, CHWA Regional Champion and Board member), Rachel Howfield Massey (Other Ways to Walk, artist and CHWA Regional Champion- East Mids), Katharine Boardman (NHLF), Geraldine Montgomerie (Leeds Arts, Health and Wellbeing Network/ practitioner), Liz Denton (Museum Development Yorkshire), Deb Collett (Artworks Creative), Victoria Ryves (Heritage Doncaster), Gemma O’Connell (Ripon Museums), Mandy Shephard (LENS), Hayley Youell (CHWA)

**NB: Notes have been made anonymous**

**Summary**

The meeting was chaired by Deborah Munt and supported by Sue Mackay.

Introductions from both regional champions- Sue Mackay and Deborah Munt. The session was set up as an informal space for people to share what they have been up to, how they were feeling and challenges they were facing with practising differently, ensuring sustainability and considering future realities.

The notes have been made anonymous and collated into overarching themes.

**Freelancer perspectives**

* Missing places of work and communal working in public spaces
* Importance of spaces to gather with other practitioners- to not feel alone, to be inspired and feel affirmed

**Emotional labour- support for practitioners**

* Gap identified around safeguarding training for practitioners and in particular, having difficult/distressing conversations with participants, including triggering subjects such as suicide
* How can we support the healthcare sector in dealing with trauma?

**Sustainable Practice**

* Worries about the funding pipeline, and the stages of “recovery”, phased return
* Many museums are facing the risk of insolvency
* Some organisations have rushed to fill the gap and indirectly providing more emotional support to participants, through telephone services etc. There may be challenges around boundaries, expectations when re-designing programmes- how can we protect participant wellbeing, retain positive audience relations and be sustainable in practice
* It was highlighted that a social prescribing service in South Yorkshire had 300 new referrals in one day- the need is growing. Potential to link with link workers.

**Representation and Inclusion**

* Parts of the sector are isolated and unheard. The voices of furloughed staff are missing in the planning of services/activities and survey responses.
* Digital exclusion- the most isolated are becoming more isolated

**Volunteers and Museum Practice**

* How can we support/train our volunteers to support the new operating models, including online and offline activities?
* How are some museums going to run that depend on volunteer roles, when most volunteers are shielding or in vulnerable groups? Many volunteers are re-evaluating their commitment in face of the covid.
* Time heavy, to keep volunteers involved. One museum professional shared how she was making 30 calls a week to support people and to maintain a relationship to support future involvement.
* How can museum services create partnerships with other organisations to support volunteers? And when?
* New health and wellbeing co-hort starts on the 18th May.

**Offline/analogue activities**

* Challenges around accessibility/inequalities- difficulty in finding funding/sponsorship for materials- as it can’t be assumed that everyone has materials at home to be creative

**Links in the Chat section**

www.thriveldn.co.uk/campaigns/zerosuicideldn/

https://www.actionforhappiness.org/media/878523/how\_to\_facilitate\_online\_groups.pdf