##

## **Join us! Be part of CHWA Yorkshire and Humber Development**

## **Meeting Notes**

## **19/07/21**

### Attendees:

Laura Allan (*Ripon Museums Trust*)

Emma Baylin (*Shared Harmonies*)

Amanda Faulkner (*The Creative Rise CIC (Harrogate))*

Abigail Hall (*Musical Connections*)

Jess Hesketh (*Ripon Museum Trust*)

Jack James (*The Tetley*)

Heidi Johnson (*Hoot Creative Arts- Kirklees’ Year of Music 2023*)

Leanne Kirkham (*Northern Ballet*)

Heather Lysiak (*National Railway Museum*)

Sue Mackay (*Thackray Medical Museum and Regional Museums Champion, Yorks and Humber*)

Geraldine Montegomerie (*Leeds Arts, Health and Wellbeing Network- LAHWN*)

Deborah Munt (*CHWA Board, Regional Arts Champion for Yorks and Humber, Ministry of Others)*

Esther Hallberg *(Hull Museums)*

Lucy Robertshaw (*darts, Doncaster Community Arts*)

Mandy Shephard (*The LENs, Yorkshire Champion*)

Alexandra Woodhall ( *Researcher, University of Sheffield – also involved in* [*GLAM Cares*](https://twitter.com/glam_cares) *( Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums Cares- support network for professionals*)

Hayley Youell (*CHWA Co-ordinator, based in Barnsley*)

**Apologies:** Rachel Massey Howfield *(Other Ways to Walk*), Elaine Burke,

Victoria Ryves (*Doncaster Heritage*) and Gaby Lees (*Barnsley Museums*)

Please notes from this session have been made anonymous.

### Introduction- Sue Mackay and Deborah Munt, Regional Champions

* The regional champion roles are voluntary with the aim to explore, connect, advocate and develop the culture, health and wellbeing sector in Yorkshire and Humber. The present aim is to collectively organise, broadening representation of experience and practice within the membership.
* Last year, in response to the pandemic, there was a series of check in events to support/listen to the sector. From this the Creative Well Programme emerged to respond to the need of practitioner burnout and wellbeing. Find out more about all this work, [here](https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/your-area/yorkshire-and-humber).
* [The LENs](https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/get-involved/lens)- the lived experience network, is a sister organisation of the alliance and is organised with regional champions, similar to CHWA. Mandy Shephard is the LENs champion for Yorkshire and Humber and is keen to engage and support any activities and will provide the critical friend role to ensure that lived experience remains at the heart of any developments.

##### Warm Up Task:

Meeting participants were asked to respond to these questions in the Zoom chat.

* Questions:
1. *When you do the work that you do, what is it that you are most proud of and what difference does it make/ hope that it makes?*
2. *If you think about the future, what is your biggest hope or ambition for this field or yourself professionally?*
3. *Thinking about those ambitions, what do you think we can do in Yorkshire and Humber collectively to meet these ambitions? What will sustain us to do it?*

Link to full Zoom meeting chat [here](https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/media/915).

**Key themes/ideas that emerged**:

* The need for more collaboration and sharing of resources, vision and voice within the sector
* To learn more about each other’s work so no to displace or be isolated with the work and challenges
* Explore ways to develop more cross-sector/ interdisciplinary working to nurture understanding
* Embedding the value and importance of this work at policy and commissioning level
* Practitioner wellbeing and workforce development- valuing the work and the people that do the work
* Embedding health and wellbeing within culture of organisations

### National Update/ Context

Here is the alliance’s [road-map](https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/roadmap-building-more-equal-alliance) to a more representative and diverse organisation/alliance. This is a work in progress.

CHWA’s is currently working on developing their business plans as a sector support organisations for Arts Council NPO round. CHWA recognise the need for more capacity and resource for regional development and are working to fundraise for and to recruit paid regional development roles in 2023-2027. The work we collectively do in the meantime, will help to inform this role and also demonstrate the need for this infrastructure at a regional level.

#### Examples of regional development/organising from across England

* **West Midlands**

The West Midlands were the first region to develop a steering group back in 2019. They were keen to reflect the diverse practice and communities of the region and to create opportunities for members to be involved. The steering group set key priorities and developed task groups to deliver around these priorities (social prescribing and practitioner wellbeing).

Read more about the history of the West Midlands Steering Group and recruitment process for the new CHWA Regional Champions and Steering Group in 2020, [here](https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/be-more-involved-chwa-west-midlands).

The new West Midlands Steering Group is 10 members strong and currently includes representatives from all counties within the West Midlands and reflects a mix of practice, ranging from commissioners (Local Authority), arts and cultural organisations (across art and culture forms), people with lived experience, research and hospital arts. They are currently meeting bi-monthly to develop their model of working and determine their strategic priorities and plan.

* **East Midlands**

Following a series of events responding to the needs of the sector and curated for their members last year, the regional champions decided to focus on diversifying the membership before exploring ways of organising/forming a steering group to represent the region.

Working with Kiz Bangerh, founder of Hip Hop Heals and West Midlands LENs champion, to explore ways to reach new communities and people that were not currently represented, the regional champions have decided to step back and start with conversations. Using podcast interviewing techniques and opportunities, the champions are connecting with organisations and practitioners from across the region who historically haven’t connected or identified with the sector/alliance.

At a recent national steering group meeting, the East Mids champions reflected that this slow approach of listening and developing new connections felt more organic and mutually meaningful and affirming for all involved.

The podcast series will be released shortly and shared via the CHWA website.

Read more about previous activities in the East Mids, [here](https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/your-area/east-midlands).

* **Greater London**

The regional champions decided to set up a Stakeholder Group rather than a steering group in the Greater London Region, with a focus to bring key players from across arts, heritage, culture, health, local authority and lived experience to explore ways to collaborate and strengthen strategic impact around the culture/health and wellbeing agenda.

* **North East**

The North East champions regularly gather members for meetings to move forward with their agenda. They have yet to constitute it as a formal steering group with representatives.

In the past they have worked together to aggregate and promote the collective.

In 2019, the group created a brochure for Creativity and Wellbeing Week, promoting activities from across the region, with the aim to amplify the regional offer and promote the broader message about the potential and impact of the creativity on health and wellbeing.

They have considered sharing the champion role more widely, and recruiting champions based in different parts of the region to reflect the different political/social landscapes and to share the workload.

### **Meeting Task**

The attendees were split into breakout groups to explore key questions about regional development:

1. *What do you/your organisation want or need ?*
2. *What might “it” do?*
3. *Who is it for?*
4. *How might it be organised/ what might it look like?*

##### Focus Areas/ Issues

* ***Why aren’t more people accessing galleries, libraries and museums for their own health and wellbeing? How do we widen participation?* *How do we also develop parity in organisations and nurture more understanding of all the arts and culture workforce, including volunteers and freelancers, so that all contributions are valued?*** Idea proposed to create a charter for welcoming arts and cultural spaces for Y&H to outline strategies around developing audience and workforce experience to create culture and belief changes
* A call for **a peer support group about commissioning-** ***how do we mainstream the work within public health, CCGs, ICS***? ***How to we share the pathways that others have already forged and generate potential new solutions?***
* ***How do we change cultures within organisations? Embedding health and wellbeing within organisations, not just projects****?* Share real examples of how to do this.
* There is **a gap in offer of support for Senior Leadership level** within organisations working in the culture/health and wellbeing space. How can we support people more? Could we create a resource or peer support model?
* ***How can we get health more engaged?*** All arts/culture are represented today. Stakeholder model might be a good idea, actively looking for health/social care involvement and identifying key people. It would also help to evolve the shared language. There was a reminder to keep in mind, *what are we asking a health professional to do? And what can we offer in return?.* It was proposed that we could identify some health professionals to run events as part of the *Do it yourself together* programme.
* ***How can we promote culture, health and wellbeing and the work of CHWA members?*** Scope for joined up messaging around culture/ health and wellbeing. This links to CHWA thinking at Board level.
* **CHWA Charter- manifesto** – *how we are becoming better at creative health as practitioners and organisations*?

##### Ideas for Resources to support the sector

* **Regional Resource for new workers/freelancers:** demystifying words/codes, who are the organisations, key contacts.
* **Language:** List of different networks and acronyms- so not to isolate.

##### Ways of organising:

* If there is a steering Group (centralised) they need to have a wider role in keeping conversations with the broader membership, and to listen.
* **Discord platform:** for sharing resources, keeping in touch and broader member involvement. Weekly voice café/zoom call/ live video chat. This could support local, regional and national work.
* Group interested in potential for a stakeholder group that brings together wider sectors to support strategic development and awareness of C/H/W- similar to London model.
* Smaller focus groups branching from main steering group around targeted work would be more productive that bigger network groups. Leeds Culture Educational Partnership was recommended as a good model.
* Meetings to have clearly defined purpose- why we are there and what we get from it.
* Build in wellbeing and time for peer support within meetings/events and development approach.

##### Do it Yourself potential offers:

* There was a call to get together in person, alongside digital events and meetings. A suggestion to meet at each other’s venues, to see each other’s work in action and to help mission to advocate for each other’s practice.
* Lucy Robertshaw has invited people to darts (Doncaster) to explore a support/action group around commissioning from/in health
* Gaby Lees from Barnsley Museums- a potential event a Cannon Hall Museum, linking with the Other Ways to Walk Wellbeing work. Offer via email, not present at meeting
* *Event exploring Charter on ‘Welcoming Spaces’ / How do you make a welcoming space?:* Working group- Geraldine Montegomerie (LAHWN), Jack James (Tetley). And Jess Hesketh (Ripon Museums) would also be interested in supporting in the future, once settled into post. JJ has offered Tetley as a venue, GM has offered opening discussion of successful public spaces and valuing the people who deliver experiences for audiences.

**Be part of the conversation- complete our survey!**

Please complete the survey below to add your ideas and thoughts into the mix.

<https://forms.gle/N8mDAafEhyeR7dvz7>

**Deadline: Friday 20th August**

##### Next Steps

* Mailout out to all of the Yorkshire and Humber members with a survey asking the questions above- CHWA
* Follow up with possible *Do It Together events*- Deborah, Sue and individuals listed