



**All Party Parliamentary Group
Arts, Health and Wellbeing**

Inaugural Meeting

Thursday 16th July 2020

2-2.30pm

Minutes

Present:

Tracy Brabin MP
Rachel Hopkins MP
Rt Hon. Lord Howarth of Newport
Baroness Meacher
Rt Hon. Baroness Morgan of Cotes
Ben Spencer MP
Baroness Young of Hornsey

Alex Coulter, Secretary to the APPG
Hannah Mumby, General Manager of Arts & Health South West

Apologies:

Baroness Andrews

1. Welcome

Lord Howarth welcomed everyone to the meeting which was held on Zoom

2. Election of Officers

Lord Howarth nominated the following officers:

Baroness Andrews as Treasurer
Tracy Brabin MP as Vice-Chair
Rt Hon. Baroness Morgan as Vice-Chair
Ben Spencer MP as Chair and Registered Contact

Baroness Meacher seconded the nominations and they were duly elected.

Tracy Brabin MP nominated Lord Howarth as Co-Chair.

Baroness Meacher seconded the nomination and Lord Howarth was duly elected.

3. Terms of Reference

The existing Terms of Reference were reviewed and agreed

4. Secretariat

The secretariat is provided by Alex Coulter, Director of Arts & Health South West, on behalf of the Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance. Both Arts & Health South West and the Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance are core funded by Arts Council England.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group doesn't currently hold any funds. In the past Wellcome and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation have funded the work of the APPG, in particular the two-year inquiry which resulted in the publication of the *Creative Health* report in 2017.

The ten recommendations in the *Creative Health* report have guided the work of the APPG since 2017. Good progress has been made against all the recommendations. Recommendation 2 is particularly relevant to the work of the APPG and calls for the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, Health, Education and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, to develop and lead a cross-governmental strategy. There has been engagement between DCMS and DHSC but less involvement with DfE or MHCLG.

Baroness Morgan noted that it could be a very good time to work across departments with the greater awareness of the value of the arts and culture during the last few months. The APPG can stimulate discussions between ministers in those departments.

Tracy Brabin agreed that it is the right time to make the case for the arts in relation to wellbeing and that we have seen it in action during the pandemic and the impact on loneliness and mental health.

Lord Howarth identified healthcare staff and care homes as priority areas.

Ben Spencer said that there is potential to dovetail the opportunities that the arts and cultural sector offer with the community response. They have come together during the pandemic and we need to consider how that work can be continued.

Rachel Hopkins talked about the powerful symbolism of the rainbows in windows and how they are evidence of people wanting to take part and be creative, to feel part of their community and to create community connectedness. Developing artistic practice can feed into the equalities agenda.

5. Programme of work for 2020-21

It was agreed that the programme of work should respond to the current situation and increased awareness of the value of the arts and culture. We should also re-visit the recommendations and monitor progress.

Tracy Brabin said that her team has made a submission on the role of arts and culture to the Doreen Lawrence review into the impact of coronavirus on black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

Lord Howarth suggested we could invite Doreen Lawrence to speak at an APPG event on the subject.

Ben Spencer proposed that we consider the role of the arts and community groups in relation to HIV and AIDS.

6. AOB

No other business was discussed