

Arts, Heritage and Design in Healthcare Network 2019

Date: Wednesday 12th June 2019

Venue: UCH Education Centre, University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust - Seminar Room 2, First Floor, 250 Euston Road, NW1 2PG

MINUTES

1. Welcome by the Chief Executive of UCLH

Guy Noble, Arts Curator at the host Trust, University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (UCLH) welcomed members, speakers and guests to the first meeting of the NPAG Arts, Heritage and Design in Healthcare Network 2019.

He then introduced Professor Marcel Levi, Chief Executive and invited him to formally open proceedings. Marcel underlined the importance of Art, Heritage and Design in healthcare and recovery. He said they can provide 'comfort', identity for an organisation, and were an important component in recovery. For staff, art, heritage and design can encourage a sense of pride and belonging.

He was delighted that UCLH were able to support the new group by hosting their first meeting and he wished the group well in their work.

2. Presentation: Fiona Daly, National Sustainability Lead at NHS Improvement, Sustainability and Art

Members welcomed Fiona Daly. Fiona explained she already worked closely with NPAG in a number of areas including Estates, Waste Management and Sustainability and had been thrilled to learn about this new initiative. She was passionate about art and its role in supporting recovery.

Fiona explained a little of her own background.

- ❖ 16 years' experience in EFM (mainly Hard FM) and Sustainability
- ❖ Worked in both Public and Private Sectors
- ❖ 8 Years working in a provider Trust
- ❖ Extensive PFI experience – from both sides
- ❖ Led national programmes: NHS Sustainability Day, Clean Air Day, Fuel Poverty, Operation TLC
- ❖ Established Cross Sector Partnerships to drive local and national change.

Fiona is a keen advocate for Arts and talked about the growing evidence to support the widely held belief that art can influence the health and wellbeing of patients and staff in healthcare settings. She mentioned the work of the King's Fund in this area.

There is a very strong link between Sustainability and the Arts in very many respects:

- ❖ Preserve the natural environment
- ❖ Connect people with their physical environment
- ❖ Improve wellbeing and reduce inequality
- ❖ Increase biodiversity
- ❖ Advocate for natural materials
- ❖ Connect people with topics that are important to them – ocean plastics, the changing climate
- ❖ Reduce stress on mental health
- ❖ Connect with patients and impact their recovery.

Fiona showed images of several different projects around the world that seek to embrace sustainability and arts and make a positive, visual impact. She talked about choosing the right 'language' and encouraged members to reflect on how to best to articulate the great value of art, heritage and design and to reach out to those organisations where there may as yet be little appreciation of their value in healthcare.

She would be pleased to attend future meetings, to help promote the group and its work and help make links with other related activities.

Members thanked Fiona for helping set the group on the just the right note and offered an open invitation to attend when she can.

A copy of Fiona's presentation is available with the Minutes and on the NPAG website.

3. Presentation: Mark Titchner, Artist

Guy introduced Mark Titchner.

Mark is an artist who lives and works in London. Focusing on an exploration of words and language, in recent years much of his production has been based in the public realm both in the UK and internationally. These public works have often been created from extended group activities.

Nearly all of his artwork incorporates words. His work often involves an exploration of the tensions between the different belief systems that inform our society - religious, scientific or political.

He works across a number of media including digital print, wall drawing, video and sculpture. His installations often employ motifs taken from, among other sources, advertising, religious iconography, trade union banners and political propaganda.

Mark takes inspiration from many classical and historical motifs such as Celtic knot work and Islamic interlace patterns as well as more contemporary influences such as the global map of airline routes. These, in modified forms, are often incorporated into his designs.

Mark also talked about people and ideas that have influenced him and his approach to his work. He mentioned, in particular, Helen Keller.

'Together we can do so much.'

This phrase is derived from a longer quote by author and activist Helen Keller (1880-1968) Helen Keller was an acclaimed lecturer and author despite having lost both her sight and her hearing after a childhood illness.



Mark has been active in healthcare settings for a number of years and described a few of his recent projects, including a mother and baby unit, a secure mental health unit and a current commission for Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, which is still in progress.

He described the process of the commissioning and undertaking the major project. It was important to get 'ownership' of the project from the start and everything was opened up for discussion.



The final choice was decided upon in an open and consultative manner and influenced by the words of Helen Keller, which form the heart of the new work, pictured above.

There would be an opportunity to view the work in progress following the meeting – led by GOSH member, Susie Hall.

Mark's presentation highlighted a number of issues and in the debate that followed these points were raised:

Q. How did you get approval to paint on the walls? Were there any Health & Safety / Infection Control issues?

A. No, the work was sealed with a varnish, similar to that used on floors in healthcare settings.

Q. How do you protect yourself from trauma – especially when working in secure units?

A. In a way I seek out those settings – the meaning of the work is in the making of it.

Members were keen to develop this theme and asked how, as commissioners, they can 'protect' artists working on their sites. Some had developed a 'toolkit' that could be used when engaging contractors, but it was felt artists may be a special case.

ACTION POINT: Ruth to share a document 'Artists Practising Well'.

Mark was asked what particular commissions he would like to undertake and replied by saying that work often comes to him by word of mouth / recommendation and that he is not always sure how it actually does come. He enjoys working with people who do not always share his point of view.

He welcomes feedback – did the finished work turn out as a client expected? How is it viewed over time?

In summary Mark said that his work often becomes a catalyst for bringing people together - art can be used to 'soften aggression', especially in an environment when people often have to *wait* for a service.

Members thanked Mark for a thought-provoking session and wished him well in his ongoing projects.

4. John King, NPAG Facilitator – Explanation of NPAG and background to the new Network

John briefly described NPAG's origins as a DH-funded project, recent history and current role and purpose of supporting managers across the NHS in the *continuous improvement* of their services.

Among the variety of services in NPAG's portfolio, the most popular is the best value group or national networking group, of which Arts, Heritage and Design is the newest of about 20. The expectation is that the new group will work closely with other established networks such as Sustainability, Estates and Facilities.

John also outlined the support members would receive including the NPAG *Network*, the library of information on the NPAG website and support from himself as Facilitator and from Victoria Combes as the group's Coordinator.

Turning to The **General Data Protection Regulation** (EU) (GDPR) a regulation in EU law on data protection and privacy for all individuals, John outlined NPAG's approach. Members agreed to:

- ❖ share their own contact details with each other
- ❖ undertake any benchmarking in an open way with identities of contributing organisations included

- ❖ decide on a case-by-case basis what information to share with external speakers.

5. Introductions: All present

Members introduced themselves, briefly outlining their current projects and hot topics, areas of especial interest and challenges. These included:

- ❖ Funding for art and design
- ❖ Loaning art to trusts
- ❖ Articulating cost / benefits
- ❖ Staffing issues - apprenticeships
- ❖ Working with partners - in healthcare and beyond
- ❖ Relationships with charities
- ❖ The hospital as a 'cultural space'
- ❖ The overall 'patient experience'
- ❖ Art as a catalyst to innovate, engage and inspire
- ❖ Ensuring art and design are included in all capital projects
- ❖ The breadth of arts – performing arts, musical programmes, landscaping, green spaces, etc.
- ❖ Cataloguing and maintaining the Trust collection
- ❖ Patient and staff participation in arts

John asked all present to check their details on the Attendance Sheet and to add, amend as necessary.

ACTION POINT: John to update the membership details and circulate the list to members.

6. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Both Laura Waters and Guy Noble had been active in setting up the links with NPAG and in launching the new Network. Both had expressed an interest in jointly chairing for the first year. Put to an informal vote, this was unanimously agreed.

Joint Chairs for 2019 / 20 - Laura Waters and Guy Noble.

7. Presentation: Laura Mitchison, Heritage in Hospitals

Guy introduced Laura who has been engaged to support UCLH in moving services from an old long-serving building to a new facility.

Laura is co-Director of a small, not for profit cooperative called 'On-the-Record'. They work to uncover untold stories. Laura is an Oral Historian and has worked on oral history, heritage and arts productions for all manner of organizations, including the V&A Museum (oral history, dramaturgy, and research), the Women's Library (audio guide), Eastside Community Heritage (oral history interviewing, training volunteers, delivering intergenerational workshops, etc.).

Through their projects, On-the-Record amplify and preserve the voices of those who are otherwise 'hidden from history.' They seek to give under-represented voices the opportunity to be heard. They work on a broad range of histories and areas.

Laura explained a bit more about what oral history is and why telling stories matter - the importance of dialogue between writer and interviewer and storyteller. The interface between public and private particularly interests Laura.

She talked about her work at UCLH, which included accessing 'hidden rooms' and speaking to members of staff, affected by the coming move, about their experiences and how they could be

preserved in some way in the new environment, not simply lost in the move. Oral history provides a structured space with a listener to 'tease out the tale.' It can help to increase people's self-confidence, well-being and skills.

Laura played some short clips of interviews with staff members and a recording of staff talking openly about their feelings and attitudes to work and the organisation.

There were a number of discussion points. The relationship between more formal history and Laura's work which seeks to *amplify and preserve* the voices of those who are 'hidden from history' was considered. The *mistrust and anxiety* that sometimes surrounds art and design in hospitals was also discussed. There was also a discussion about how to archive and preserve all of the views and comments that come about in a project of this kind and how they can be made available – including use of media and technology.

Members thanked Laura for a fascinating talk and wished her well with the project.

Laura's presentation will be available on the NPAG website shortly.

8. Members' Exchange (facilitated by NPAG) - Discussion on the Challenges / Barriers to Art in health, Split into groups

Members' Exchange is a key feature of NPAG groups enabling members to highlight issues, ask questions and share successes and so on.

For this first meeting Members split into two groups. Key issues that arose from the discussion were:

- ❖ Design Standards
- ❖ Looking outwards beyond the hospital and healthcare
- ❖ Sharing resources
- ❖ Thinking about *People* not Patients
- ❖ Scoping / mapping
- ❖ Collection Management – standards, auditing, good practice
- ❖ Better evaluation of the impact of Arts
- ❖ Getting Art and Design into the early stages of new building project planning
- ❖ Supervision and training of Artists *
- ❖ Recruitment of apprentices

*NB Snape Maltings in Suffolk offer 'Supporting Artists' workshops.

9. Feedback, current hot topics, sharing good practice, policies, board papers, etc. Topics / speakers for future meetings

The above issues would drive the group's Agenda over the coming year. It was agreed that Laura, Guy and John would work on developing future presentations slots and speakers.

ACTION POINT: Laura, Guy and John

The relationship with and support from NPAG were again touched on and the cost of membership was discussed.

It was reported that some members of the wider network had indicated they may not be able to afford annual fee. The option of a second level of 'associate membership' was considered but at this early stage dismissed as it was felt the current fee was very reasonable for the support and services offered.

John explained how the different NPAG offers worked including try-before-you buy, attending as a paying guest for individual meetings and discounts for joining more than one group and for actively recruiting additional members.

10. Dates & venues for next meetings

Meeting 2 / 3: 9 October 2019 at Bristol / Western Super Mare

This meeting will commence a little later at 10.30, to allow members travelling on the morning a little more time for the journey. There are plans to offer optional visits to other hospitals in the area and details will follow.

Meeting 3 / 3: 12 February 2020 TBC

15:30 Close



Amisha	Karia	Paintings in Hospitals	Yes
Anna	Farthing	University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust	Yes
Daniel	Regan	Free Space Project / Kentish Town Improvement Group	Yes
Donna	Baber	North Bristol NHS Trust	Yes
Griselda	Goldsbrough	York Teaching Hospital NHS FT	Yes
Guy	Noble	UCLH NHS FT	Yes
Hetty	Dupays	Art at the heart of the RUH (Royal United Hospitals NHS FT)	Yes
Karen	Janody	Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity	No
Karen	Taylor	Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity	Yes
Kate	Pleydell	Imperial Health Charity	Yes
Laura	Waters	University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS FT	Yes
Laura	Bradshaw	UCLH NHS FT	Yes
Lisa	Harty	Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	Yes
Liz	O'Sullivan	Guy's and St Thomas' NHS FT	Yes
Lucy	Zacaria	Imperial Health Charity	Yes
Marie-France	Kittler	Guy's and St Thomas' NHS FT	Yes
Mir	Jansen	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS FT	Yes
Natalie	Ellis	Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Yes
Paula	O'Malley	Aintree University Hospital - Partia Department	Yes
Penny	Calvert	Artcare	Yes
Peter	Shenai	Art in Site	Yes
Rosie	Dow	Breathe Arts Health Research	Yes
Ruth	Charity	Oxford Hospitals Charity (Oxford University Hospitals NHS FT)	Yes
Ruth	Sidgwick	North Bristol NHS Trust	No
Saskia	Delman	CW+ (Chelsea and Westminster NHS Hospital)	Yes
Susie	Hall	GOSH Arts	Yes
Tom	Cox	Oxford Health NHS Trust	Yes
Trystan	Hawkins	CW+ (Chelsea and Westminster NHS Hospital)	Yes
Vivienne	Reiss	GOSH Arts	Yes

