



Minutes

SE Area Council

Date: Monday 27 February 2023
Time: 13:00 – 16:00
Location: Reading Town Hall, Reading
Attendees: Prof. Roni Brown (Chair)
Stephen Crocker
Cllr Michael Gbadebo
Bruce Leeke
Pamela Roberts
Cllr Jacqui Burnett
Paul Stacey
Cllr Alan Waters
Celia Davies

For Arts Council:
Laura Dyer (Deputy Chief Executive)
Hazel Edwards (Area Director, South East)
Peter Heslip (Director, Brighton and Visual Arts)
Glyn Huelin (South East Senior Manager, Operations)
Natalie Jones (Head of Communications, London and South East)
Hannah Lake (Director, Cambridge and Touring)
Emmie Kell (Director, Museums and Cultural Property)
Collette Cork-Hurst (Senior Manager, Diversity Policy and Research)

Apologies: Gurvinder Sandher, Kate Adams, Louise Blackwell, Sho Shibata, Cllr Victoria Harvey
Not Present: Cllr Daniel Schumann
Minutes: Megan Hogg (PA to Area Director, South East)



1. Welcome and apologies

- Apologies from Gurvinder Sandher, Kate Adams, Louise Blackwell, Sho Shibata and Cllr Victoria Harvey.
- Welcome to Emmie Kell, Director of Museums and Cultural Property, and Collette Cork-Hurst, Senior Manager, Diversity Policy and Research.

1.1 Declarations of interest

- Any changes to Megan Hogg

2. Equality Analysis Action Plan

- Draft action plan compiled from evidence in the equality analysis. After Area Council comments, the action plan will be presented to National Council with the aim to publish end of March 2023.
- Each area will decide on actions and priorities as evidence will differ area to area.
- Creative Case for Diversity forms part of the Inclusivity and Relevance principle.
- Key national headlines:
 - Low number of applications from disability led, Black, Asian and ethnically diverse led organisations for NPO and IPSOs
 - Low number of diverse led libraries
- Key South East headlines:
 - Area team has started with new approach to applications prioritising support for disability led and Black, Asian and Ethnically Diverse organisations not currently in receipt of regular Arts Council England investment. Area Management Team and Relationship Managers monitoring where application rates are low.
 - Transition rate for applicants from Elevate to NPO is improving with 85% success rate (33 new Elevate with 2 new funded joiners from 39 applications from total of 45 organisations receiving Elevate funding).
 - A council member questioned why libraries don't have the same emphasis as museums.
- Area Council member comments:
 - Noted that non-executive unpaid roles lead to underrepresentation as it limits those able to take on the role. The Arts Council acknowledged it was a wider issue. National Director, Skills and Workforce is currently working on this.
 - Comment that remuneration at the Arts Council would encourage other organisations to do so. Noted there are structural issues with remunerating trustees of boards. Moving meetings to evenings will open up availability to those working.



- Questioned whether there was a country-wide database of organisations to capture the number of diverse led organisations in order to calculate the percentage who applied for NPO.
- Noted difficulty in collating disability statistics.
- Noted that although not diverse led, libraries engage with diverse communities.
- Noted lack of data for non-binary gender leadership.
- Question on how Arts Council England funded organisations compare to other sectors on socio-economic leadership. Noted sector-wide issues with gathering socio-economic data.

Action: Council members requested reporting back in 6 months when census data was available and new NPO portfolio is established.

Action: HE, CCH and PH to finalise messages back to National Council. GH looking at investment strategy for South East investment.

3. Museums Presentation

- Director, Museums and Cultural Property presented a presentation introducing the Museum and Cultural Property to the Area Council.
 - 2021/22 Museum Estate and Development funding (MEND) is the largest fund in the South East. Advocating for continuing investment.
 - Reported low numbers of applications for project grants in South East for 2022/23, possibly due to misunderstanding that museums are able apply.
 - NPO 2023-26 portfolio includes 28 new museum NPOs (out of total 82), 223 accredited museum sites and 21% increase on the previous NPO portfolio. Encouraging different types of museums to join and apply for funding.
 - Reported national trend for visitor numbers is 30% down compared to pre-covid levels. Highlighted Museum of English Rural Life's schools programmes contributed to their increase in visits to pre-covid levels.
 - Cultural Property team work on Acceptance in Lieu, the cultural gifts scheme, export licensing and Government Indemnity Scheme amongst other statutory functions delivered on behalf of Government.
 - Drive for wider diversity on the reviewing committee panel for the export of works of art and objects of cultural interest.
 - Government Indemnity Scheme moves artworks between museums for exhibitions etc. and has an annual value is £13–19bn.
 - Acceptance in Lieu panel brings objects of cultural importance into museums. Panel has current vacancies and would like a wider range of panel members to ensure a wider range of objects.
 - Museum Development Programme supports museums applying for and maintaining Accreditation standard.



- Issues facing the sector include flooding in historic buildings, energy cost increases, wage inflation and reduction in Local Authority investment.
- Looking ahead:
 - Climate change impact on collections and buildings
 - Diversity and inclusion
 - Ethical and financial impact of continuing to grow collections
 - Supporting the sector, particularly those museums reliant on Local Authority funding
- A council member asked what the difference was between visual arts and museums. Museums own a collection whereas Visual Arts house temporary collections. Some NPOs do both. Some funding is dependent on Accreditation.
- Museum and Cultural Property Integration Steering Group review last week gave an assessment on progress.
- A council member asked where funding for updating user and audience experience comes from. Funding for relationships and roles comes from the Arts Council. National Lottery Heritage Fund often supply capital funding in partnership with Local Authorities, with the remainder through fundraising.
- A council member asked how the reinterpretation of collections agenda is developing. Museums are building long term relationships with local and diaspora communities to better understand their collections. Research is a core part of programmes.

4. Chair's Report and Members' Update

- Recruitment update – in 2023 Cllr Waters will be stepping down in May, Cllr Jacqui Burnett and Kate Adams terms end in December, and Roni Brown in November.
- Aim to appoint these roles before the next chair comes into post. The chair encouraged members to use their networks to advertise these roles.
- Three members' first terms are coming to an end, the chair will discuss with those affected. Waiting for ministerial approval for the chair's role. The chair, again, encouraged members to reach out to their networks when the chair recruitment opens.

Collette Cork-Hurst left the meeting

BREAK

5. Executive Director's Update

5.1 Area Director's Update



- RAG and DAG highlights
 - Feedback opportunity on NPO process for whole NPO
 - Equality Analysis Action Plan
 - DAG UK-wide access scheme
 - Internal inclusion review has commenced
- Remuneration for freelance area council members is awaiting sign off from DCMS.
 - Council members asked for clarity on the definition of freelance and whether councillors are considered as such. Also asked for general advice on whether they are considered self-employed.

Action: Clarify with DCMS for councillors.

- Council members were supportive of remuneration for freelance members
- To be discussed at National Council
- Funding agreements
 - Final stages of completing funding agreements with NPOs.
 - One organisation from South East withdrew from their offer due to personal reasons. 134 organisations will receive their funding agreements this week, some will have additional conditions on their payments.
 - Council member asked whether they get sight of funding agreements.
 - Council member reported conversations with opera audience and whether there will be transparency from NPOs to publish funding conditions.

Action: Chair to take to National Council

5.2 Risk Report

- Risk report included in meeting papers
- Slight increase in organisations with major risk in this quarter, almost all based on financial risk which has resulted in an increased workload. Risk is reported to Area Management Team monthly with in depth discussion.
- Council member raised cost of living crisis and asked what steps the Arts Council is taking in response to climate emergency and capital programmes. Risk report takes note of energy crisis and adjustments have been made to NPO activity plans in recognition of financial status.

6. Minutes from the last meeting

- Agreed as accurate record



7. Cllr Waters

- Cllr Alan Waters reflected on his time with Area Council in this his last meeting. The chair thanked him for his support and bringing his expertise to the council over the past eight years, and for being an advocate for the arts and culture in his roles with Norwich City Council and the National Centre for Writing.

8. AOB

- Nothing to report
- July meeting in the South East, Sept in the East locations to be confirmed.

The next meeting is 18 May 2023 – suggested venue in the Peterborough area

ACTIONS

- Council members requested Equality Analysis Action Plan report again in 6 months when census data has been received and NPOs are settled.
- HE, CCH and PH to finalise messages back to National Council. Clarify with DCMS whether councillors are considered as freelancers.
- Chair to take comment on opera audiences and publication of NPO agreements to National Council