



ARTS COUNCIL

Minutes of the South West Area Council held on Friday 14th July 2023 The Old Schoolhouse, Boscombe

Present: Area Council:

Helen Birchenough	South West Area Council in the Chair
Roger Griffith	South West Area Council Member
Natalie Adams	South West Area Council Member
Lloyd Coleman	South West Area Council Member
Louise Coysh	South West Area Council Member
Charlotte Bond	South West Area Council Member
Cllr Julian German	South West Area Council Member
Cllr Lawrence Williams	South West Area Council Member

In attendance: Arts Council England:

Laura Dyer	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Phil Gibby	Area Director, South West
Shirley Kirk	Senior Manager Operations
Anna Mac	Assistant to the Area Director (notetaker)

Guests: Adam Gent (Senior Relationship Manager), Carol Maund (Director BEAF Arts Co), Natasha Player (Diversity & Inclusion Consultant)

Apologies: Louise Mitchell, Bambo Soyinka, Shahina Johnson, Cllr Satvir Kaur, Nema Hart, Sarah Crown, Morwenna Fuge

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed Area Council members to the meeting and noted the apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 Area Council members reviewed the circulated Declarations of Interest report and agreed it as an accurate record, they noted no updates except from Cllr

Lawrence Williams working as part of the management of Russell-Cotes Museum.

3 Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole – the stories less told

- 3.1 The Senior Relationship Manager introduced the guests Carol Maund – Director of BEAF Arts Co and Natasha Player – Diversity & Inclusion Consultant.
- 3.2 They introduced the work of BEAF and The Old Schoolhouse, and led a discussion regarding talent development and community engagement in the conurbation.
- 3.2 The Area Chair raised a question regarding strengths and weaknesses in cultural offering in the BCP area.
- 3.3 Guests & members discussed emerging issues faced by BCP Cultural Compact.
- 3.4 The Senior Relationship Manager raised the discussion around diverse networks and their connections in the community.
- 3.5 A member praised the quality of the work with marginalised artists from the BEAF Arts Co.

4 Place Partnership Funds in the south west

- 4.1 The Area Director took the members through a presentation regarding Place Partnership Funds; he described a typical award through this fund as supporting a strategic placed based intervention intended to make a long-term difference to the cultural and creative life of the local community.
- 4.2 The presentation included the headlines in the South West regarding expressions of interest, applications funded and pending to date.
- 4.3 The Area Director also discussed the lessons learned so far and invited questions from the members.
- 4.4 An Area Council member raised a query as to how the fund works in areas like Cornwall compared to other funding streams (i.e. capital funds or Project Grants).

- 4.5 An Area Council member raised the query as to whether this was a funding stream that routed organisations into future NPO rounds. The Area Director clarified the fund is not a predetermined route into NPO funding.
- 4.6 Another member queried what the uptake was on Place Partnership funds nationally. The Deputy Chief Executive answered that it is a similar picture to the South West and a very competitive fund. The funding asks can vary but can also be very transformational. They are often long-term funds where there is a delay between investment and subsequently seeing the impact of the investment.

5 Creative People and Places National Portfolio

- 5.1 Deputy Chief Executive introduced the Creative People and Places item and took the members through the presentation.
- 5.2 This included the vision for the ambition of the portfolio, regarding targeting more people in places of least engagement and testing new approaches.
- 5.3 She explained that each project had to be delivered by a consortium, and needed to be developmental - a 10 year vision was requested from applicants.
- 5.4 The presentation included a short video celebrating 10 years of CPP funding.
- 5.5 The Deputy Chief Executive took the members through examples of the organisations and cultural work that has been supported nationally through CPP.
- 5.6 The Area Director then took the members through the impact of the CPP programme in the South West.
- 5.7 The Area Director discussed the organisations that have benefitted from CPP funding in the South West and the challenges and successes they have been facing.
- 5.8 The Deputy Chief Executive discussed the future of the programme, and the Area Director outlined eligible places in the South West for future rounds.
- 5.9 A member asked about eligibility of locations within large unitary authorities. They noted that places which might have previously been eligible as districts were now no longer eligible because of the unitary authority's overall demographic profile.

- 5.10 The Deputy Chief Executive stated that as CPP is part of the portfolio they want to ensure that Area Council members have an opportunity to feedback on applications as they would the National Portfolio Organisation round. There will be an opportunity before the organisations are taken to interview for Area Council members to provide a check & challenge moment to be involved in these applications.
- 5.11 One member asked for clarification about the parameters of what might form the basis of an application. The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that there are no parameters as long as it is culture-focused and reflects what the community might want.
- 5.12 A member asked if existing CPP recipients would need to reapply if they seek a further round of funding from this grant. The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed organisations would need to do so.

Break for lunch

6 Inclusion Review

- 6.1 The Deputy Chief Executive took the members through a presentation on the Inclusion Review, which is due to be released to staff later this month.
- 6.2 National Council decided to appoint Nous (an independent consultancy) to run the review. National Council has received the report and accepted its findings in full.
- 6.3 This presentation included the findings of the independent review and the seven primary recommendations for the Arts Council to implement over the next 1-2 years.
- 6.4 The Deputy Chief Executive also outlined the comms plan and timeline of activity relating to the report.

7 Race Advisory Group / Disability Advisory Groups - updates

- 7.1 The chair asked Disability Advisory Group member to establish whether someone from the SW Area Council team would be allowed to join the DAG as an ally even if they do not identify as disabled - will feedback on the next session as to whether this will be possible.

8 Executive & Area Director Report

- 8.1 The Deputy Chief Executive invited questions relating to the Executive report – there were no questions.
- 8.2 The Area Director took Area Council through the Area Director report.
- 8.3 The Area Director took Area Council through the circulated NPO risk register and members noted those organisations scoring 9 or above.

9 Chair's report and Area Council members catchup

- 9.1 The Area Chair noted the Effectiveness Review which had been covered at National Council.
- 9.2 The Chair confirmed the appointment of eight new SW Area Council members due to start in September. The Chair thanked current member Shahina Johnson for her help in the recruitment process.
- 9.3 The Chair welcomed Area Council members to give a brief update from themselves.
- 9.4 A member wished to note that Arts Council are revitalising the rural group network – the data for rural areas is something that will be worked on going forward.

10 MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

- 10.1 Area Council members reviewed the minutes of 16th May 2023 meeting and agreed them as an accurate record.

11 AOB

CLOSE