



MINUTES LONDON AREA COUNCIL

Date	Friday 29 September 2023
Time	10:00-13:30
Location	Dugdale Arts Centre, London Road, Enfield, EN2 6DS
Area Council	David Bryan CBE, (Chair); Angie Bual; Lucy Kennedy; Thomas Ryalls; Imran Sanaullah, MBE; Cllr Darren Rodwell; Shawab Iqbal; Stella Kanu; Victoria Dela Amedume, MBE; Cllr Ruth Dombey, OBE
Apologies	Matt Steinberg, Cllr Emma Will, Paulette Long, Justine Simons, OBE
Arts Council	Darren Henley, CBE, Chief Executive; Cate Canniffe, Dance Director; Neil Darlison, Theatre Director; Teresa Drew, minute-taker; Natalie Jones, London Head of Advocacy and Comms; Heidi Mayhew, Senior Operations Manager, London; Sabine Unamun, Director, London; Claire Mera-Nelson, Director, Music; Rachel Victor-Sampson, Senior Relationship Manager; Hollie Smith-Charles, Director, Creative Health and Change Programmes
Guest	Wesley Pemberton, Interim Head of Culture for London Borough of Enfield

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 Declarations were noted. Everyone to keep their conflicts of interest up to date by contacting the PA to the Area Director with any changes.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 11 July 2023

- 3.1 The minutes were approved and there were no matters arising.

4. LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD ARTS AND CULTURE UPDATE

Wesley Pemberton took the meeting through a presentation on arts and culture in Enfield. The main points were:

- Issues around budget reduction
- The importance and need of data to a) inform decision-making and strategic delivery and, b) capture the effectiveness of programmes
- Future focus on Children and Young People having access to career pathways and development of the current apprenticeship offer



- The focus is on developing programmes to meet the needs and wants of the local community

[Wesley Pemberton left the meeting.]

5. PRIORITY PLACES UPDATE

Rachel Victor-Sampson explained to the meeting that the Arts Council's Priority Places are going through a review process, and that a report will be produced at the end of the financial year. The main points made were:

- Arts Council England to define what impact it wants to make in priority places, and how this will be evaluated
- Place-based working takes time
- Arts Council England to clarify, develop, and position and promote its place-based development role
- Arts Council England invests across the whole of London not just in the five priority boroughs
- The importance of making the case for arts and culture with local authorities and having sound data – both quantitative and qualitative – to demonstrate the benefits of such investment

6. INCLUSION REVIEW

Darren Henley updated the meeting on actions being undertaken regarding the recently published Inclusion Review report that the Arts Council has accepted in full:

- National Council has commissioned all this work to achieve whole organisation cultural change
- The Arts Council plans to appoint an external 'critical friend' and that announcement will be made soon
- All terms contained in the report are clearly defined and those definitions are available
- This work will be resourced with both budget and staff appointments

7. TRANSFORMING GOVERNANCE

Hollie Smith-Charles took the meeting through a slide presentation outlining the objectives of this sector-facing programme.

- The aim is to strengthen governance in the sector, and this programme has been developed to respond to the particular challenges facing boards and it is for chairs, trustees, and senior leaders and will run through to March 2025.



- The Arts Council appreciates that organisations have different structures for example such as an oversight board, rather than a board of trustees.
- Arts Council England will track diversity data as one of the aims of this programme is to diversify governance across the sector.
- Succession planning will be addressed in the planned workshops especially the development route from trustee to chair.
- The meeting raised the issue of the capacity for boards to manage risk. The Arts Council is making a universal offer to the sector so materials will be available to everyone including individual practitioners.
- Hollie Smith-Charles said she was happy to provide Area Councils with regular updates.
- The meeting raised the issue of real-time data capture, and it was suggested that Area Management Teams might be able to cover some of this.
- The Chair concluded by saying that the sector needed effective leadership and good governance in changing times.

8. NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT GRANTS UPDATE

8.1 Heidi Mayhew, Senior Manager Operations, took the meeting through a top-line slide presentation on the main changes to NLPGs to be implemented from November 2023. The four main elements of change are: application form and guidance; our priorities; advice-giving; match-funding. The meeting noted the challenges for London.

- **Action:** the Chair requested updates on a regular basis at future Area Council meetings on data relating to NLPGs.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

9.1 Public body review of Arts Council England: the meeting was informed that the lead on this was yet to be appointed. Once that appointment had been made, Terms of Reference would be drafted.

9.2 Music Education Hubs: the meeting was reminded that this funding came via the Department of Education (not via DCMS).

9.3 Incoming London Area Director, Michelle Walker takes up the post on 6 November. The meeting thanked Cate Canniffe and Neil Darlison for taking on aspects of the role in the interim.

10. RISK REPORTS

10.1 The meeting noted the risk reports.



- 10.2 The Chair requested that at the next meeting Area Council considers the issue of reprofiling for organisations.

Action: Teresa Drew to add this to the forward planner for agenda items for meetings.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1 National Council and Area Councils away day 14 and 15 November: everyone reminded to sign-up if they plan to attend.

Meeting closed at 13:30