

## **Minutes of North East Inclusive Dance Network Meeting**

**Date** Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November

**Location** Dance City

**Present** Martin Wilson, Helen Moffitt, Amanda Drago, Philip Douglas, Lynn Campbell, Wayne Hooks, Emma McGurrell, Rob Huggins.

### **1. Introductions**

All present introduced themselves to the group

### **2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

A discussion was had about the note in the last minutes concerning ensuring disabled artists are included and engaged in the network. Wayne Hooks shared some ideas around best practice of inclusive ways / methods of increasing access or engagement in sessions and agreed to see if he could find some of his notes / resources he had gathered from previous projects to share.

Martin and Anna have also shared emails (had not been able to meet up physically) and have started to share some thoughts about different forums for different conversations that all run in 'tandem' and are 'equal' but allow for a broader range of sharing information and ideas. Martin and Anna hope to meet up in the New Year to continue this conversation to share with the group. Any other thoughts from network members are more than welcome.

### **3. Performance / Sharing techniques – update from Lynne Campbell / Helen Moffitt**

A sharing day will take place at Dance City on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014. The purpose of this day is for the network to develop a better understanding of each other as individual and / or as organisations in terms of what is it we 'do', why we 'do what we do' and who we 'do' it with.

To help Lynne and Helen get a sense of who would like to attend from the network and what they would like to bring to the day. The responses will help form the shape of the day.

This document was shared at the meeting and we highlighted two things that should be considered and possibly added to the form.

These are:

\*Details about the group sharing and some brief info on what they will share

\*Details on any access needs the group may have

Once these are added then the form will be circulated across the network. The date for 'initial return' is 16<sup>th</sup> December and more information will be sought in the New Year.

Once the initial information has been returned Lynne and Helen will be able to draft together the shape of the sharing day.

There will not be enough time to submit a Grants for the Arts Application to provide support for individuals / groups to attend the day. This should be considered by all individuals / groups when thinking about their attendance and level of participation in the day.

**5. Facilitation techniques – update from Rob Huggins on development of an ‘open door policy’ (\*for draft please see attached)**

Rob Huggins shared a first draft of the 'Open Door Policy' which had also been circulated by email prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the form to be completed prior to a visit could include a bit more information about each individual / organisation. Also it could give information regarding how many 'people' should / could attend and possibly a 'good practice' checklist could be circulated to ensure 'ground rules' are in place.

Following the meeting Rob and Martin discussed possibly utilising some of the sharing day for individuals / orgs to complete their information to share and even having a short time when people could ask questions of other people about what they had shared in case they needed further information. This idea will be shared with Lynne and Helen when planning the day in February. In the meantime individuals / organisations are invited to send any particular events, workshops, performances, etc they wish to share across the network with Martin and Martin will circulate the opp's across all contacts. In the short-term to help people get a sense of when to 'look out' for information, I will collate and send any information or invites out on a Friday across the network.

**6. Support mechanisms for people with a disability – update from Lynne Campbell / Emma McGurrell**

Emma McGurrell shared a wealth of information with the group with a 'report' summarising the areas of information. Emma agreed to email this to Martin and Martin will share it across the network. To add value to our sharing day in February there was some discussion about having a place where all resources could be put on a table and left for people to look at in their own time. More info will be available on this idea in the New Year.

**7. Disabled Artist development – update from Martin Wilson / Anna Hall**

Discussed at start of meeting as well as at this point in the agenda (see notes above)

One new area / idea that was discussed was looking at artists development in terms of identifying a specific 'group' of disabled artists and supporting them as a group to gain some momentum and run a 'pilot' that could explore a range of areas including practical workshops, training, advocacy, career planning, etc.

Martin agreed to meet with Anna to create a rationale for the 'group' and to then ask across the network for nominations of potential dancers with a disability to join the pilot cohort.

Martin and Anna will also think about the potential 'cost' of supporting such a cohort and how this may be resourced.

## **8. Mapping – update from Martin Wilson**

The sharing day in February plus the 'open door policy' will start to populate information that can form the basis of our 'mapping'.

Mapping can support a number of developments:

- \*Helping the network itself to identify scale, links, gaps and opportunities
- \*Help make the case and provide vital objectives / data for any future funding bids
- \*When shared publicly help potential participants / audience access our activities

Martin has been looking at a model of sharing information in Leeds linked to 'the Dance Ladder' that is a good exercise in helping us to think about what our individual offer is, highlight potential links/gaps/opportunities as well as provide information that can be public facing.

Martin will circulate an example of the model across the network and start to undertake some initial work about how it may be applicable across the North East.

## **9. Sustaining the network – update from Martin Wilson**

Baretoed Dance have indicated that they are willing and have the capacity to submit a Grants for the Arts application to Arts Council on behalf of the North East Inclusive Dance Network. This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting and our sharing day at Dance City will hopefully highlight key areas that could / should be included in any such application.

## **10. AOB**

Tracey West to update the network about a new facebook page to share information, opportunities, etc.

## **11. Date of next meeting**

No date has been set to meet as the next 'coming together' of the network will be the sharing day at Dance City on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014.