

Tuesday 28 January 2020
Dance City, Newcastle
11.00am – 1pm

NEIDN Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Martin Wilson (MW) – TIN Arts, Rob Huggins (RH) Liberdade and Gosforth Civic Theatre, Rachel Jean Birch (RJB) – NEIDN Coordinator/Moving Art Management, Hannah Moreno (HM) - NEIDN Coordinator/Moving Art Management, Rebecca Duckworth (RD) – NEIDN Ambassador/Degree Student, Becki Parker (BP) – NEIDN Ambassador/Dance Artist, Helen Kumar (HK) – Dance City Engagement Coordinator, Alex Anslow (AA) – Dance City Interim Creative Producer and Programme Coordinator, Kate Stanforth (KS) – Dance Teacher and Artist, Vicky (surname?) Kate Stanforth's Carer, Amanda Drago (AD) – Dance Artist (Skype), Bill Vince (BV) – Senior Relationship Manager for Arts Council England.

Apologies:

Lynn Campbell (LC) – Arts Connect, Phil Douglas (PD) – Dance City Interim Artistic Director, Eliot Smith (ES) – ESC Director, Emma Dunn (ED) – Dansformation.

NEIDN Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and apologies
 - Approval of last meetings minutes (meeting took place at Headway Arts Space on 7/5/19)
 - NEIDN Ambassadors – Introduction & activity for 2020
 - NEIDN Exchange – progress update
 - Kala Premi Foundation Donation
 - Talent Hub 'Inclusive Principles For Working With Dance Artists' draft and feedback
 - Member updates / sharing of opportunities and events for 2020
 - Next meeting date and location
 - AOB
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- **Approval of last meetings minutes (meeting took place at Headway Arts Space on 7/5/19)**

Action for AD to share an update on her work with social prescribers:

I have been doing some research and because we live on the Northumberland Cumbria able to access both NHS services in different counties. Cumbria is doing it better than Northumberland with regards to social prescribing.

They have just appointed 2 link works for Social Prescribing in Copeland to join up services for people and will be rolling this out to the rest of the county in key areas. This has come from the new trust that has been formed which includes the hospital in Carlisle.

"The role will involve coproducing a "Social Prescription" with individuals on a one to one basis, providing personalised support to individuals, their families and carers to take control of their health and wellbeing; live independently and improve their health outcomes. To take a holistic approach to

addressing non-medical/social issues in their life, such as housing, debt or social isolation by introducing or connecting people to community groups, activities or statutory services."

Discussion of whether there could be a connection with TIN Arts clown doctors?

- **ACTION:** AD and MW to discuss further a connection between the social prescribing and the Clown Doctors.

• **NEIDN Ambassadors – Introduction & activity for 2020**

Since the last meeting there has been a call-out for NEIDN Ambassadors and we are delighted to announce that Becki Parker and Rebecca Duckworth are the NEIDN Ambassadors for 2020.

- Rebecca Duckworth is a 1st year dance degree student at Dance City and she is enthusiastic about gaining experience of inclusive dance.
- Becki Parker is a dancer with autism who is a member of the Talent Hub and is part of the Inclusion North Leadership Course.

Ideas for activity for the Ambassadors are: physically attending meetings, sharing online socials, articles, events and sign posting opportunities to the NEIDN development coordinators, writing reviews, insights or blogs about their dance experiences.

TIN Arts have produced some NEIDN flyers and Moving Art Management have produced badges for the Ambassadors. Both will help support the visibility of the NEIDN Ambassadors throughout their activities.

RH offered for the Ambassadors to attend Engage Platform at Gosforth Civic Theatre to review it on 27th March 2020.

- **ACTION:** RH to contact NEIDN Ambassadors to arrange them attending the Engage Platform.

Becki Parker is attending Move It Festival in London in March and will promote the NEIDN at appropriate moments.

It was suggested that we could contact organisations to see if they could offer complimentary tickets for the NEIDN Ambassadors to attend their events and performances.

- **ACTION:** HM and RJB to contact organisations about complimentary tickets for NEIDN Ambassadors.

• **NEIDN Exchange – progress update**

The NEIDN Exchange was an idea initiated at the last NEIDN Meeting in May 2019. The intention was for connecting, linking and offering peer support across the network.

A pilot scheme was developed and launched in late 2019 for NEIDN members to offer opportunities for connections or to pose questions that members could support with. We had 3 generous offers from Molly Grey, Lynn Campbell and Dance City.

The exchange activity was announced in January 2020 and one organisation has already been in touch to take up one of the opportunities. Awareness that the exchange needs to keep being boosted in people's awareness to encourage further engagement in the scheme.

- **ACTION:** HM and RJB to keep highlighting the NEIDN Exchange scheme to members.

- **ACTION:** HM and RJD to consider ways of capturing the NEIDN Exchange activity.
- **ACTION:** HM and RJB to look at opportunities and contacts to cast the net of NEIDN information beyond the NEIDN Members.

Kate Stanforth (KS) was in attendance at the NEIDN meeting for the first time. Kate shared with us that she is a trained professional ballet dancer, has a teaching qualification and she teaches dance to students of all ages and is a wheelchair user. Alongside her dance work Kate is an activist and advocate for inclusive practices. Kate is passionate about developing more opportunities for wheelchair dancers in the region and is keen to work across the dance industry to break down current barriers. She mentioned the Rollettes as an inspiring group in America

<https://www.rollettesdance.com>

Kate highlighted specific barriers that need to be considered when supporting wheelchair activities - parking, accessible facilities, disabled toilet equipment and safety, carers time allocation. HK from Dance City, MW from TIN Arts and RH from Liberdade are interested in connecting further with KS and her work. Interest in developing wheelchair dance workshops and CPD training opportunities.

- **ACTION:** HK, MW and RH to connect directly with KS and it was agreed that HM and RJB could pass on her contact details.

Dance City have fundraised and are currently delivering Inclusive Training with MW for all staff to build confidence in their offer.

Acknowledgment that there isn't currently as much expertise for physical disabilities in the region. Great to have KS involved as a member to offer her experience and knowledge.

RD asked if workshops are ever offered where participants can experience the movement in wheelchairs and KS is really passionate about this and the opportunities this can offer for learning so is something that could be considered when delivering workshops.

• **Kala Premi Foundation Donation**

The NEIDN have received a generous donation from Kalapremi which we are extremely grateful for. The amount is for £500 and this was an opportunity to start conversation and suggestions on what this money could be contributed towards. Kalapremi haven't made any stipulations on how or when the fund need to be spent.

- AD is working with the Newcastle Mela engaging with South Asian Artists on a mixed and inclusive programme. The donation could be used as match funding leverage.
- RH suggested a platform opportunity for regional artists as the current regional offer has decreased due to the programming changes of Best Foot Forward. Suggestion that there could be a focus on the Tess Valley and Annabel Turpin would be a good contact at ARC.

There was a discussion about the use of this money as cash leverage to further bids but due to the unconstitutional set up of the NEIDN it means that all members are acting independently and fundraising opportunities will already be focused towards each company's own activity. The NEIDN is currently supported by TIN Arts through their NPO however this may change from 2022 going forward depending on TIN Arts remit of activity.

- **ACTION:** Further discussions and development needed to decide on how the donation will contribute to NEIDN supported activity.

- **Talent Hub 'Inclusive Principles For Working With Dance Artists' draft and feedback**

MW delivered a session around Inclusive Principles for Working with Dance Artists that TIN Arts are currently developing with Corali, Stop Gap and NYDC. They are using Diverse Cities previous work as a template.

An element of the Talent Hub is to trial and learn about the right conditions for dance artists with Learning Disabilities to develop.

The aim is to develop a legacy for the language around dance and inclusion.

MW share the 5 principles and the progress so far. He was seeking to gain feedback from the members in the room and so working in small the principles were passed around the room and feedback was given.

- **ACTION:** MW to share the principles including the member's comments with HM and RJB to share with the group.

- **Member updates / sharing of opportunities and events for 2020**

AD is offering activity as part of her Secret Garden Project. They are delivering a residency at Gosforth Civic Theatre.

RJB met with May McQuade from Mind the Gap who are working with Northern Stage:

Northern Stage is one of six theatres across the country who are partnering with Mind the Gap on Staging Change & Engage. This is a three-year project, in its final year which aims to increase opportunities, aspirations and visibility of learning disabled Artists, participants and audiences. This year we are going to be supporting NS to host an inclusive programme launch each season and working together to fill a matinee performance of a little space, Nov 2020.

New film from TIN Arts called Footprints <https://vimeo.com/387752499>

Nicole Viven Watson, Surface Area Dance, in partnership with Chris Fonseca have been awarded funding from Greggs Foundation to purchase subpacs <https://subpac.com> for her new performance work. They will be trialed at the Dance City Season launch on Tuesday 11 February. Possibility to have these sub pac available for Dance City to use as a resource for other performances in the building benefitting D/deaf audiences in the North East Community.

Arts Council England have just launched a new strategy <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/letscreate>

- **Next meeting date and location**

- April/May 2020?
- South of region?

- **ACTION:** HM and RJB to announce next meeting date once decided.