

Cross Party Group for Culture Meeting & AGM

Minutes of the meeting Fri 8th October 2019

Scottish Storytelling Centre, Edinburgh

MSPs in attendance: 4

Joan McAlpine MSP

Brian Whittle MSP

Tom Arthur MSP

Rachael Hamilton MSP

Group members in attendance: 13

Invited guests: 11

Welcome

Joan McAlpine welcomed everyone to the Cross Party Group for Culture AGM.

Joan thanked Tom Binns from Glasgow Piano Project CIC for playing the piano as everyone arrived at the meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

AGM

Joan explained that the meeting was the AGM and that some formalities would now take place to elect the co-convenorship of the group as well as the secretariat.

Jennifer Hunter (current group secretariat) explained that group members could vote whereas invited guests could not.

Joan called for nominations for co-convenorship.

Tom Arthur nominated Joan McAlpine which was agreed.

Ann Packard nominated Rachael Hamilton which was agreed.

Joan McAlpine and Rachael Hamilton accepted the role(s) of co-convenor.

Joan called for nominations for secretariat.

Sarah Cameron nominated Culture Counts which was accepted.

Collaborative Culture: Meeting the challenges of person-centred health care.

The group heard from three guest speakers covering:

- Evidence of impact of culture in health care by Katey Warren a PHD researcher for Arts and Humanities Research Council (who kindly substituted for Daisy Fancourt who unfortunately had to cancel due to ill-health)
- Barriers to provision of services for public benefit by Kevin Harrison (Artlink Central)
- Solutions to barriers to provision of services by Clare Cook from the SPRING social prescribing project

Joan thanks the speakers for their presentations and opened the discussion to the group. The group discussed the challenges to securing a strategic approach across Scotland to the provision of cultural services for the purpose of health-care. Services currently vary from one local area health partnership to the next.

Collaboration between the NHS and the cultural sector is vital. Learning and sharing information of how successful projects work in practice (such as SPRING and Artlink Central) is crucial to similar projects launching in more local area partnerships.

Voluntary Health Scotland offered to work more closely with Culture Counts to improve connections and the strategic approach between the two sectors. This offer was accepted and the two organisations will be meeting for initial discussion on 4th November.

Brian Whittle MSP made a few suggestions as to ways in which the cultural sector may get more recognition from policy-makers.

Ann Packard suggested that the group write to Audit Scotland to ask if they would be able to provide a report on where the culture spend is across government areas.

Other suggestions on how culture may gain recognition and improve the knowledge and understanding of the value of culture included:

- Writing to the Health and Sport Committee at the Scottish Parliament.
- Using the Public Petitions Committee to ask Scottish Government Cabinet Secretaries to provide a report back on what they are doing to improve the outcomes from the outcome for culture within the National Performance Framework.
- Copying the letter to the Health and Sport Committee to Cabinet Secretaries for Education and Justice.

The group agreed to write to the Health and Sport Committee in the first instance and to ask Audit Scotland to provide a report on cultural spend across the data they can access.

The group may also take up the idea of the petitions committee which will be decided by emailing group members or at the next meeting of the group on 18th March 2020.

A group member asked for the presentations to be circulated, which was agreed.