

# Arts for Health Partnership Programme



## Steering Group - Terms of Reference

### Context

**Arts for Health Partnership Programme is based in West Cork and provides a managed and integrated arts programme for older people in healthcare settings.**

The programme takes place in twelve geographically widespread rural locations including Uillinn West Cork Arts Centre, five Day Care Centres: Bantry, Castletownbere, Clonakilty, Dunmanway, Schull, Skibbereen; five Community Hospitals: Castletownbere, Clonakilty, Dunmanway, Schull, Skibbereen; and Bantry General Hospital, Care of the Elderly Unit.

The delivery of the programme is through an Arts for Health artists' team managed by West Cork Arts Centre. They have established a close, professional working relationship with the staff and management of each care setting. The artists, each with distinctly different practices, have developed their professional expertise in working with older people and numerous individual and collaborative projects have been undertaken since it began in 2005.

### Arts for Health Partnership

Arts for Health, West Cork is based on an inter-agency partnership between West Cork Arts Centre, Cork County Council's Arts Office, Cork Education & Training Board and Cork and Kerry Community Healthcare. Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (Health Service Executive, HSE) is represented by Cork Arts + Health Programme, Communication Department, the Nursing Directors of Community Hospitals and Social Care, specifically the Day Care Centres, West Cork.

The make-up of the partnership demonstrates the commitment of regional arts, education and health organisations working together, with the HSE and West Cork Arts Centre playing the two key significant roles.

These agencies work together as equal partners, bringing to the programme their own area of expertise, creativity, responsibility and financial support. Each of the four partners has a different remit and rationale; life-long learning, access to arts, excellence in arts, health and fulfilment.

The programme is managed by a central body, West Cork Arts Centre. The centre based Programme Manager manages the programme, operate the budgets with the Finance Officer, advocates for the programme and supports the artist team.

## Values

Arts for Health (AfH) Partnership collectively:

- *recognises the importance of a participant-centred approach based on principles of partnership, inclusion, life-long learning and quality*
- *sees the arts as essential for a healthy and flourishing society. We respect the right to cultural access for all healthcare service users specifically recognising the unique needs of residents of the Community Hospitals*
- *are committed to a progressive, flexible and developmental way of working to achieve a sustainability and a high level of quality*
- *Integrity at all levels is integral to the programme.*

The Arts for Health Partnership Programme adopts Participatory Arts Practice in Healthcare Contexts: *Guidelines for Good Practice commissioned by the Waterford Healing Arts Trust and the Health Service Executive South Cork Arts and Health Programme with financial support from Arts Council Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon*

## Governance and Delivery

Arts for Health Partnership Programme is managed by West Cork Arts Centre, through the Programme Manager, post.

The interagency Steering Group made up of representatives from each partner organisation, is the body responsible for developing and implementing the programme, monitoring and reviewing to ensure high standards and a clear vision is maintained.

The Arts for Health Artist Team are responsible for delivering the programme through best practice methodology and maintaining a creative connection with the participants. Healthcare professionals are responsible for patient care, ensuring excellent communications on site and allowing necessary support for the delivery of the programme.

### **Function of the Interagency Steering Group**

Partnership will remain the cornerstone of the programme with the steering group taking the lead to ensure this.

- Implement and continue to develop AfH programme in line with the policy objectives of partner organisations
- develop and promote the AfH partnership programme
- Continue to strengthen and build a strategic and sustainable programme
- reflect on and evaluate its work on a regular basis

### **Meeting arrangements**

The group meets four times a year February, April, September and November to agree budgets for the following year

### **The make-up of the Steering Group**

Uillinn WCAC Programme Manager, Arts for Health,

Cork County Council - Arts Officer

Cork Education & Training Board, Adult Education Officer

HSE Director of Nursing: Community Hospital

HSE West Cork Director of Public Nursing, West Cork

HSE Cork Arts +Health Programme, Principle Community Worker

### **Role of the Chairperson**

The current Chairperson shall convene the AfH Steering Group meetings. Elections for Chair take place every two years by group consensus. Each steering representative will be prepared to take their turn in this role.

### **Role of the Steering Representatives**

The programme will maintain a role orientated governance where each agency representative is responsible for maintaining their position on the steering group, ensuring a replacement in their absence.

The steering representatives are responsible for:

- representing their agency and agenda to ensure an equitable cross section of interest in programme delivery at steering group meetings.
- ensuring the programme remains relevant to the objectives of each partner organisation.
- commitment to resourcing the programme as set out in the budget annually.
- lend their expertise and time in ensuring the delivery of the programme to the best standards

In addition the steering group will apply for external funding for specific once-off projects which enhance the participants experience and offer experimental and developmental opportunities in keeping with programme aims as opportunity arises.

## Partnership Acknowledgement



**Arts for Health** is a partnership programme based in West Cork implementing a managed arts programme for older people in healthcare settings. Managed by West Cork Arts Centre, Arts for Health runs all year round and is delivered by team of professional artists from different disciplines. It takes place in five Community Hospitals, Bantry General Hospital Care of the Elderly Unit and five Day Care Centres throughout West Cork. The partners comprise West Cork Arts Centre, Cork County Council, Cork Education & Training Board and Cork Kerry Healthcare, HSE. The HSE is represented through the Cork Arts + Health Programme, the Health Promotion Department, and the Nursing Directors of Community Hospitals and Day Care Centres, West Cork.



The Arts for Health partnership gratefully acknowledges the local support towards the programme with special thanks to **West Cork Older People's Network** and **Friends of the Day Care Centres**.

[www.artsforhealthwestcork.com](http://www.artsforhealthwestcork.com)

[www.westcorkartscentre.com](http://www.westcorkartscentre.com)

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## Document Control

### Version and Distribution History

Version No.	Date	Brief Comments on Change	Author
0.1	2002		
0.2	2013		
0.3	2018		
0.4	2021	Draft for approval 26.1.21	