

Dance Network North West

Your / Our Priorities

Proposal (Dec 2015)

Open for Debate until End Feb 2016

# Dance Network North West

## Your / Our Priorities

### Proposal – Open for Debate until End Feb 2016

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## Who's the network for?

'A professional network that seeks to engage a broad range of dance artists, dance professionals and dance related (non-dance) professionals, either living, working, studying or with an interest in the region. While not public facing the network will concern itself with audience and participation development alongside dance and sector development.'

## Background

Research on sector priorities began in August 2015 and will culminate in February 2016.

Specific research activities have included:-

- Liaison with Arts Council England throughout
- Pre-network meeting August 2015 – Pyramid Warrington
- Build a network, shareable mailing list
- Priorities survey, closed 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015
- Localised debate and conversations.
- Analysis / writing

Further activity – See **What Next?** Section at the end of this document.

- Sharing and questioning prior to Feb 16 meet
- DNNW inaugural day 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at UCLan for which travel bursaries are available to support the independent sector to attend. Final debate on priorities and shift focus towards programme development.

## Network Membership Profile - December 2015

	Members	% of Total
Numbers	111	
Organisations	48	43%
Independents	63	57%

### Work on Priority Setting

	Survey	4 <sup>th</sup> Aug 15 meet
Numbers	49	17
% of Members at the time	56%	

### Roles

- Artist, Artistic and/or Creative Role	43
- Community / Health	30
- Children and Young People	37
- Dance Movement Therapist	2
- FE Lecturing	1
- HE Lecturing	14
- Local Authority Dance Development	6
- Dance/Arts Organisation	7
- Private Dance	3
- Producer	12
- Small Dance Co./Collective	13
- Teacher	8
Total (Note multiple roles)	176

## Network Priorities Uncovered

The voice coming from the sector has been strong and coherent. 4 priority areas have been collected below with accompanying quotes from survey responders.

### Priority - Placing Artists at the Centre

A place where artists are supported to take a central role in decision-making and programme curation. A place where an artist's voice is valued, can effect policy and investment and where artistic and creative diversity is supported as a strength and

its potential maximised. A place where artists and producing companies can come for support to realise their ambitions. Equally, a place where organisations and commissioners can come to make contact with a diverse community of artists and other dance-connected organisations.

A place where all creative directions are valued equally (e.g digital, participation, touring, diversity) but also a place where we seek to learn and challenge ourselves and each other in search of our own understanding and delivery of excellence.

*“Artist led, supporting artists’ voices. Responds to individual, company and collective needs. Ensure the system supports the work and not the other way round.”*

*“Sometimes process and sometimes product driven”*

*“Support for producing artists/companies in the NW, seeking partners for exchange and to build new projects”*

*“Capacity, transport costs and a lack of skills in areas unrelated to practice frequently prevent smaller companies and independent artists fulfilling potential and growing.”*

*“There is a shortage of resources for use by independents and companies.”*

## **Priority - Network, Connect, Share, Partner, Collaborate**

A connected infrastructure, where partnerships can be initiated. A community that comes together physically and online to share, debate, learn and celebrate dance on a regular basis. A network that focuses both internally and externally, where individual members and organisations forge new relationships, ideas and learning, building resources for themselves (self-help) and for others to access (sector-wide). A network that can articulate an ever-changing / dynamic North West offer and integrate with the sector beyond the region.

*“Improve Organisations/Artists/HE/Infrastructure partnerships across the region - generating genuine partnerships that link all four as needed, making the most of the skills, resources and knowledge that each has to offer.”*

*“Part of the Northern Powerhouse offer, accessing and visible to the rest of the UK and Internationally”*

*“An organisation that will help me to know about the many satellite agencies/organisations that exist in the NW & what they do”*

### **Priority - Presentation, Profile, Audience Development, Import/Export**

Celebrating what’s going on, shining a light on great practice and industry leading work initiated in the North West. Support that work to find audiences further afield and bring the best of the national and international offer to the region, utilising all appropriate forms of live presentation and engagement as well as multi-platform channels of virtual distribution. Audience development partnerships that maximise engagement amongst target audiences and hold solid promoter/venue and producing partnerships with artists and companies at their core.

*“Raise the profile of dance in the region, celebrate what’s going on”*

*“Import and export of great dance to/from the region”*

*“Support for traditional and non-traditional distribution models”*

*“Audience development partnerships, PR, promotion and advocacy”*

*“Connection with Schools/FE/HE – attending work, research, CPD”*

### **Priority - CYP Dance, Dance Health and Wellbeing, Participation**

Whilst recognised as an existing strength within the region and fully integrated into other priority areas, build resilience around the sustainability and development of creative participation and engagement. Pursue the intrinsic outcomes of creativity and artistry alongside more instrumental outcomes like health and wellbeing, education, regeneration and place-making. Target cold spots and celebrate hot-spots. Support young dancers, emerging artists and other new audiences to progress, connect and use their voice and find progression routes. Seek strong connection between communities of interest, the network and its members.

*“I want the work of my groups to be known as much for its artistry as its value to other sectors.”*

*“There are significant cold spots of activity across the region in both rural and urban contexts.”*

*“There is potential to open up these dance spaces outside term time.”*

## **What Next?**

At the 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016 meet at UCLan we will begin to shift our focus to Programme Development in response to these priorities. We will need to build a programme of work that optimises the use of available resources and responds to these priorities with a sense of continuing ambition.

To prepare....

### **Feedback ... Share ... Enliven the debate**

Share your responses and questions. Email [dnnw@cheshiredance.org](mailto:dnnw@cheshiredance.org)

What’s your response to these priorities? Is there anything stopping you from saying ‘Yes, this is what we should be doing....?’

What questions are you asking yourself to unpick, engage or even contrast your view to these priorities?

Anonymous responses and questions will be shared prior to 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016 Network meet at UCLan. Feel strongly one way or the other?

Want to take to the stand for a few minutes on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb? See below.

### **Attend 18<sup>th</sup> Feb at UCLan**

Thursday February 18th, 2016.

University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), Media Factory, Preston, PR1 2HE.

- 10am to 12.30pm - practical sessions, led by UCLan staff
- 12.30pm to 1.30pm lunch - buy/bring your own
- 1.30pm to 4.30pm - DNNW meet – From Priorities to Programme Development
- Early evening - possible performance, tbc.

Complete booking form to attend - <http://goo.gl/forms/Ja7hJbQNrl>

See the 'ME' marked building in the green zone on the map link along with parking, bus and train links [www.uclan.ac.uk/visit/assets/preston\\_city\\_campus\\_map.PDF](http://www.uclan.ac.uk/visit/assets/preston_city_campus_map.PDF)

### **Take to the Stand**

There are a couple of remaining slots for people to take to the stand at the 18th Feb meet. We're particularly interested to hear an artist's perspective and the perspective of a venue/festival or promoter of dance in the region. Please email [dnnw@cheshiredance.org](mailto:dnnw@cheshiredance.org) if you are interested or call Adam on 01606 861770. Deadline to register interest is Friday 16th Jan 2016.

### **Travel Bursary Available**

Following our call in August to support travel costs for the independent sector, ACE have registered their interest in DNNW development with an award of £1,400. This is to distribute over forthcoming meetings to the independent sector to encourage attendance from across the region. We will seek to cover in-region travel costs (up to peak hours train fare equivalent) + £5 for food. Apply for the bursary to attend on the [booking form](#).

### **Sign-Up to the Network**

If you're not in direct receipt of DNNW emails, sign up here <http://eepurl.com/bvKfv5>



## Appendix - Network Members (Dec 2015)

Name	Job Title / Role	Organisation	Email Address
Gil Wilson	Project Manager	12 Degrees North	Wilsong@edgehill.ac.uk
Karen Hamilton	Dance to Health Project Manager	AESOP Arts & Society	karenhamilton@ae-sop.org
Emma Williams	AESOP Fellow	AESOP Arts & Society	emmawilliams@ae-sop.org
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Leanne Cardill	dance artist / creative producer	Cheshire Dance	leannecardill1@hotmail.com
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Phil Morton	Listings Administrator		

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Lisa Simpson	Director/Choreographer/Workshop Leader	Lisa Simpson Inclusive Dance	lisa@simpsonboard.co.uk
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Sarah Lockwood	Creative Programme Manager (Cultural Education and Performance)	Ludus Dance	sarah.lockwood@ludusdance.org
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Katy Dymoke	Dance artist, Director of company	Touchdown Dance	
Grace Turner	Performer and teacher of dance, drama and aerial circus	TurnAround Dance Theatre	graceturner@gmail.com
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