Making Inroads
Kildare County Council

Arts in Health Strategy 2009-2011

Kildare County Council
Ag fónamh don phobal

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Kildare County Council

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- Supporting the continuing development of the arts programme in Naas General Hospital
- Promoting and facilitating access to and participation in arts initiatives for users of mental health services
- Developing arts provision for older people
- Supporting arts programmes and training for service users and staff of intellectual disability services

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Artwork installation from The Green Room Project, Rotunda Hospital

I had always hidden, not even known how intense the loss was, I never let myself believe how devastated I truly was. In many ways I had never said how sad I was, how hurt, how devastated at losing my baby. Here I was, all those years later, expressing and processing all that could not be said or mentioned or felt then.

Participant, The Green Room Project

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY ARTS IN HEALTH?

The language of Arts in Health needs to be clarified as the arts and the health sectors often have a different understanding of the aims or benefits of projects. In broad terms arts and health describes a point where the arts and health sectors intersect and encompasses a broad range of distinct practices including Arts in Health, Arts Therapy, Community Arts in Health and Medical Humanities.

Definitions

Arts in Health

For the purposes of this strategy, when used, the term 'Arts in Health' refers to arts practice that takes place within a healthcare context. The range of potential arts activities in this setting is diverse and may consist of:

Environmental Enhancement: the improvement of the physical environment through the use of interior design or architecture or the situation of artwork in healthcare locations including site-specific commissioned artwork.

Participation-focused work: the engagement of people as audience members or participants through arts activities. The term participant can refer to a patient, client, service user, carer, staff member, visitor or any member of a community engaged in an Arts in Health project. Examples of this work include public performances of dance, music or drama, workshops and artists residencies.

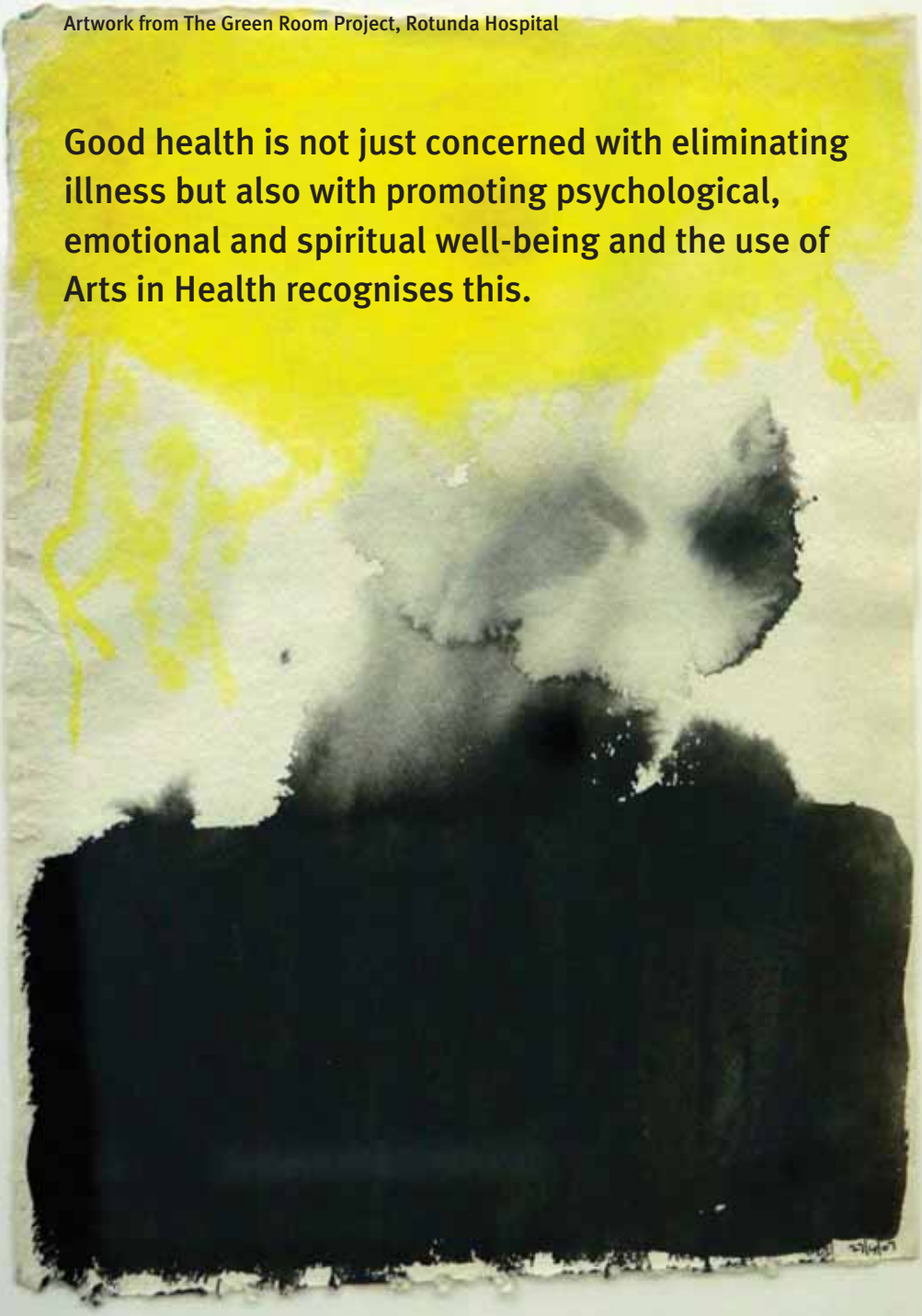
Arts in Health practice is active in all types of healthcare facility: acute, primary, and respite care, rehabilitation and mental health care and can impact anyone who enters the facility whether patient, service user, visitor or staff.

We make a distinction between Arts in Health practice and other practices such as Arts Therapy, Community Arts in Health and Medical Humanities.

Arts Therapy

In Arts Therapy, the therapist uses the arts as a means to achieve therapeutic change. The positive enjoyment and experience of art is secondary to the primary goal and considered a bonus added to the value of their work.

Artwork from The Green Room Project, Rotunda Hospital



Good health is not just concerned with eliminating illness but also with promoting psychological, emotional and spiritual well-being and the use of Arts in Health recognises this.

Stills from Moving Memories, stop motion animation project, Allenwood Day Care

Community Arts in Health

The arts can be used to deliver health promotion messages for issues such as teenage pregnancy, drug and substance abuse, heart disease and cancer. In addition to delivering health promotion messages, Community Arts in Health projects seek to change behaviour. There is a strong emphasis placed on the arts as a vehicle to communicate health messages in the UK but this is not as common in Ireland where much of community based arts work centres around themes identified by participants whether or not they relate to health issues.

Medical Humanities

Medical Humanities is the use and application of the arts and humanities to medical education and medical practice. Examples include arts training for student nurses or the use of forum theatre to improve the interpersonal skills of doctors.

The focus of Kildare County Council's Arts in Health Strategy is the promotion and support of Arts in Health as defined on page four, rather than Arts Therapy. Although the primary objective is not therapeutic, there is international recognition of the benefits of the Arts in Health and how they can foster well being, identity, self-esteem and increased confidence for individuals and communities.

NOTES

'Mother and daughter walk in the woods', by Jacinta Davis, commissioned for 'Changing Faces', an exhibition of portraits, by Moore Abbey Photography Group

SETTING THE CONTEXT

Over the last twenty years there has been increasing recognition internationally of the contribution the arts can make to the health, quality of life and social well being of all in society and in particular to those in healthcare settings. Since the 1980s arts programmes have opened in hundreds of hospitals, clinics and community centres across the world, and there has been an increase in government support for this work.

From the 1990s the Arts Council of Ireland has sought to advocate the value of the arts within healthcare and to support artists and project organisers. In response to a growing number of proposals for arts and health projects, the Arts Council instituted a programme of work including the establishment of a Joint Steering Committee with the Eastern Health Board in 1998. This committee oversaw and evaluated five pilot arts projects in diverse health and social care settings throughout the Eastern Regional Health Authority. In 2003 the findings were published in **The Practice of Arts in Healthcare** which recommended that arts projects be actively encouraged within the region.

In 2001 the Arts Council commissioned a study to map the levels of artistic activity taking place within healthcare settings

Toolbox of Dance Workshop,
SCJM Moore Abbey Services, Monasterevin

in the Republic of Ireland. **Mapping the Arts in Healthcare Contexts in the Republic of Ireland** was carried out between March and June 2001 by Ruari Ó'Cuív and Leargas Consulting and mapped 150 arts and health projects in existence in Ireland. The research demonstrated that the level of activity was much higher than was generally perceived. The report also acknowledged that local authority arts officers were active in the field and almost one third of all projects were supported by a Local Authority.[1]

Following consultation with the sector, the Arts Council then published in 2003, **The Arts and Health Handbook** to address the need for best practice guidelines for those involved in establishing and managing arts and health projects. In June 2004, the Arts Council hosted an Arts and Health Conference as an initiative to encourage a policy based approach to this growing area of activity. In 2006, the Arts Council published a five year strategy document entitled **Partnership for the Arts**, which outlined policies, goals and actions up to 2010. In this document the Arts Council acknowledged the arts and health sector and outlined its key priorities for this area including:

- The need to support artists wishing to develop their practice in healthcare settings
- The need to create funding partnerships to sustain projects
- The need to build the support infrastructure for arts and health practice through the establishment of specialist resource services

Toolbox of Dance Workshop, SCJM Moore Abbey Services, Monasterevin

In 2008, confirming its ongoing commitment to arts and health on a national level, the Arts Council appointed for the first time a Specialist Adviser on Arts and Health. A key priority for the Council is the development of a strategy and policy in the area of arts and health to be completed in 2009.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has also made a number of pilot studies into the benefit of arts and health practice. The most notable publication is **The Practice of the Arts in Healthcare**, which as previously mentioned, was produced in partnership with the Arts Council in response to the growing worldwide movement of arts and health. The report was then adopted by the board of ERHA in November 2003. Another innovative partnership was developed between the HSE Southern Area and Cork 2005 during the celebration of Cork as European Capital of Culture. A Culture + Health Strand was developed for the Cork 2005 programme during which thirty two projects were delivered in diverse community and health settings. Subsequently, HSE South established an Arts and Health Programme and appointed an Arts and Health Co-ordinator, the first post of its kind to be created within the HSE.

However, at the current time there is no active development of a policy within the HSE and a 2007 report by the National Economic and Social Forum (NESF) draws attention to the lack of a strategic or operational plan to develop Arts in Health across the HSE.[2] The report indicated that this might be due to arts practice being seen as less of a priority in the climate of cutbacks and financial restrictions within the health sector.

Another significant development for arts and health in Ireland was the publication of **Public Art: Per Cent for Art Scheme, General National Guidelines** in 2004. These guidelines promoted the implementation of the Per Cent for Art Scheme which in recent years has funded environmental enhancement in health settings and provided scope for artists to engage directly with staff, patients and visitors.

Over recent years a small number of national arts resource agencies have undertaken aspects of the arts and health remit including research, training and networking. Create, the national development agency for collaborative arts in Ireland, managed the national consultation programme which informed the Arts Council's International Conference on Arts and Health in 2004. The agency continues to encourage the sharing of arts and health information, contacts and research, and supported the establishment of Arts and Health Co-ordinators Ireland. Members of this national group are primarily dedicated hospital arts co-ordinators, the number of which has grown over recent years. In partnership with The Adelaide and Meath Hospital incorporating the National Children's Hospital, Dublin and IADT (Institute of Art and Design, Dun Laoghaire), Create has also developed a new professional development course for artists working or wishing to work in a healthcare setting.

Waterford Healing Arts Trust was established in 1993 following the suggestion by a local GP Dr. Abdul Bulbulia, to introduce the visual arts to enhance

The Named Body by Pauline Keena, visual arts commission 2008

the hospital environment in Waterford Regional Hospital. The work of this project was to evolve into a model for arts and health practice in Ireland and WHAT is now recognised as a national arts and health resource organisation. The Trust has developed a multi-disciplinary programme of arts activity and research. In 2008 working in partnership with HSE South, WHAT commissioned the development of a code of practice for participatory arts projects in healthcare contexts.

Prior to the publication of **Partnership for the Arts**, local authority arts officers had already started to include aspects of arts and health in their programme of work as a means of addressing greater participation in the arts. In some counties such as Sligo and Mayo, this strategic focus led to long term collaborative initiatives with the HSE and in 2007, Sligo Arts Service was the first local authority to publish a participatory arts and health strategy.

Group Project, National Learning Network, Naas

ARTS IN HEALTH IN KILDARE

One of the key goals of **Kildare 2012; An Economic, Social and Cultural Strategy for Kildare**, is to 'promote recreation, amenity and culture as integral parts of living' to ensure a better quality of life for the county's citizens. The conviction of Arts in Health practice that the arts make a valuable contribution to communal well-being and quality of life, complements this goal. In **Making Inroads: Kildare County Council Arts Development Plan 2006-2011**, Kildare County Council Arts Service identified Arts in Health as a key area for development.

The Plan's guiding policy for Arts in Health is as follows:

'Kildare County Council will continue to identify, advocate for, influence and provide support for artists and agencies involved in art and health practice'.

This strategy acknowledges the arts service's ongoing engagement with this area of practice. Kildare County Council has engaged with local artists and agencies at varying levels to facilitate the establishment and development of Arts in Health initiatives. These interventions extend across art forms and include:

– A **Dance with Disability** module devised for the bi-annual Dance Summer School, NUI Maynooth in 2005

– **Arts Act Grant** funding 2006 provided for the Irish Wheelchair Association, Clane for a photographic/art project and to NTDI (National Learning Network), Kildare & Athy for an art installation, Donadea Wood

– **Toolbox of Dance:** Dance Workshops led by Colm Gallagher (AMICI Dance) in association with SCJM Moore Abbey Services, Monasterevin, 2006

– **Listen:** A collaborative public art project between artist Dominic Thorpe and six young men from Finglas, Dublin, bringing rarely heard input and ideas from young people to the Finglas Suicide Awareness Week May 2007, funded by the Arts Act Grant Scheme

– **Bursary Awards** provided to service users and staff from SCJM, Moore Abbey Services to attend the Kildare Dance Summer School, NUI Maynooth, 2007 and 2009

– **The Green Room Project:** An artistic collaboration between visual artist Pauline Keena and a group of mothers who experienced the loss of an infant, through a residency in the Rotunda Hospital Dublin, 2007-2008

– **Creative Writing Workshops:** Cardiac Rehab Unit, Naas General Hospital, 2007, facilitated with the support of Kildare County Council Library Service

– **Poems in the Waiting Room:** A pilot project initiated by writer Kate Dempsey, aiming to bring poetry back into public spaces. In June 2008, two thousand leaflets featuring six poems were circulated free of charge to waiting rooms in doctors' surgeries, hospitals and libraries throughout County Kildare

– **Creative Connections:** A partnership established in 2007 between Kildare County Council and the HSE celebrating the artistic work and creativity of older people to mark Bealtaine

– **Drama Workshops, EVE Ltd Harvest Centre, Kildare Town:** funded through the Arts Act Grant scheme 2008

– **Doing The Rounds:** An art exhibition in Naas General Hospital featuring work on loan from the collection of Waterford Healing Arts Trust 2008

– **Changing Faces:** An exhibition of portraits by Moore Abbey Photography Group, commissioned for the launch of Monasterevin Community Library 2009

– **Printmaking Project, Irish Wheelchair Association, Athy:** A project funded under Arts Act Grant Scheme, exploring the work of Renaissance artist, Albrecht Durer, 2009

– **Creative Exchanges:** A one day taster workshop for care staff on the Creative Exchanges, Arts in Care Training Programme, facilitated in partnership with HSE Health Promotion Service and Age & Opportunity, 2009

– **Planning an Exhibition:** A curatorial project for staff in Naas General Hospital working with Kildare County Council Municipal Art Collection, 2009

– **Moving Memories:** A stop motion animation and storytelling project facilitated by artist Sharon Lynch and participants from three day care centres in Rathangan, Allenwood and Carbury, 2009

With the support of the Arts Council, Kildare County Council honoured its commitment to redefine ways of working by appointing an Arts in Health Specialist in 2007. This is a unique post and the first of its kind within local authorities in Ireland. The role of Kildare County Council's Arts in Health Specialist is to work with key agencies to develop and deliver a programme of Arts in Health projects in a variety of health settings and to provide support for artists and agencies involved in Arts in Health practice.

The Arts in Health Specialist reports to the Arts Officer for Kildare County Council. The Arts Service is placed within the Library Service, under the Directorate of Housing, Community & Cultural Services.

Listen, Public Art project
facilitated by
visual artist Dominic Thorpe

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Drawing on national and international experience and in accordance with models of best practice, the development of Kildare County Council's Arts in Health Strategy will be guided by the following principles:

- Access and Participation
- A Partnership Approach
- Quality Artistic Practice
- Training and Professional Development
- Documentation and Evaluation

Access and Participation

Under the Arts Act 2003, local authorities must draw up plans for arts development which take account of national policies, including Arts Council policy. Therefore as stated in a 2007 NESF report, 'in terms of legislation local authorities are the organisation given most responsibility for broadening participation in and access to the arts'.[3] Furthermore, **Kildare Local Authorities Corporate Plan 2005-2009** outlines its strategy to target library and arts service to promote social inclusion. Taking cognisance of this responsibility to facilitate

diverse participation, Kildare County Council's Arts in Health Strategy aims to promote access to and participation in high quality arts activity particularly for those experiencing social exclusion. This will be achieved through:

- The support of arts projects in a health context, taking arts activity out of traditional venues and providing new opportunity for public access, engagement and participation
- The development of a programme of work which includes initiatives for those who typically experience social and cultural exclusion, including older people and those experiencing mental ill-health
- The promotion of participant centered Arts in Health practice

In accordance with **Kildare Local Authorities Access Implementation Plan 2007-2015,** Kildare County Council Arts Service will endeavour to provide assistance to people accessing the service as required and to ensure, as far as practicable, that communications and information are provided in alternative formats where so requested.

A Partnership Approach

While there are a variety of agencies involved in Arts in Health work in the county, to date there have been few opportunities for inter-agency partnership to network, exchange ideas, exemplify best practice, source project funding and bring projects into the wider community. To address this and achieve the goals outlined in this strategy, it is essential that the Arts Service continues to work in conjunction and partnership with national and local agencies, organisations and service providers including: The Arts Council, the HSE particularly Hospitals, Disability, Older Person, Mental Health and Health Promotion Services, local disability service providers, rehabilitation service providers, advocacy groups, community groups and the local arts community.

As those involved in Arts in Health practice share a commitment to the promotion and application of the arts in health, the development of cross-sector partnerships and collaboration is a rational and strategic approach for long-term developmental work.[4]

Moving Memories, Rathangan Day Care

To promote and encourage this approach, in 2008 the Arts Service established the Kildare Arts in Health Steering Group.

Kildare Arts in Health Steering Group

Partnership for the Arts outlines the need to facilitate networking between professionals within the arts and within healthcare to 'encourage information and experience exchange, and to promote high standards'.[5] Furthermore a key objective outlined in **Making Inroads** is to 'promote inter agency development of Arts in Health programmes, through the establishment of a Countywide Arts in Health steering group'.

Kildare Arts in Health Steering Group was established in September 2008 and artists and representatives from a variety of agencies in the health, disability and community sectors were invited to participate. To date the group has identified a range of common issues and challenges in the areas of training, funding, documentation and evaluation. Through the ongoing facilitation of the Arts in Health Steering Group the Arts Service will:

- Promote and support inter-agency collaboration and partnership for Arts in Health projects

- Provide opportunities for statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and artists to exchange information, experience or skills for mutual support and benefit
- Inform the development of a sustainable Arts in Health programme in County Kildare.

Quality Artistic Practice

Kildare County Council Arts Service is committed to supporting and developing quality artistic practice in the field of Arts in Health. This practice articulates artistic aims and acknowledges the importance of process as well as outcomes in artistic exploration.[6] The Arts Service advocates the need for quality in arts initiatives in terms of artists employed, materials used, the process undertaken and presentation of work. The quality of the artistic experience should also be ensured in participatory projects to respect the participants, protect the integrity of the work and to realise the potential benefits of meaningful participation.

Excellence should not only be defined in terms of aesthetic practice but also in terms of the delivery and facilitation of projects to make this practice accessible to audience or participants. Therefore Kildare County Council advocates the adoption of models of best practice in areas such as project planning, delivery, documentation and evaluation. The Arts Service will continue to support and develop quality artistic practice in the field through:

- Promotion of the engagement of professional artists in Arts in Health initiatives
- Promotion of a code of best practice which considers the integrity of the artistic process and presentation of the artistic product, as well as medical and ethical issues, duty of care, ownership, copyright and evaluation ethics
- Implementation of Child Protection Policy in accordance with the **Local Government Management Services Board 2008 Guidelines for the Protection of Children**. These guidelines will also be implemented when working with vulnerable adults.

Training and Professional Development

Clear communication is vital to clarify roles, objectives and expected outcomes particularly when, as mentioned before, the arts and the health sectors often have a different understanding of the aims or benefits of projects. During the practical workshops hosted during the 2004 Arts and Health Conference, it was suggested that artists and health staff should also have access to training on the sensitivities of each other's roles and each other's area of expertise.[7] This training could then be a basis to build enthusiasm and empathy and to promote better communication between all involved. As outlined in **Making Inroads,** a key objective for Kildare County Council's Arts in Health programme is the support of training opportunities for artists, key workers and service users.

Therefore, over the course of this strategy, Kildare County Council will, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, continue to scope a range of potential initiatives which address:

- Training and support for artists as an integral part of Arts in Health projects
- Training programmes for healthcare staff to develop, support or facilitate sustainable arts programmes
- Training for both artists and healthcare staff which informs them of each other's practice, expertise and role
- Training for service users across art forms, including accreditation, where possible

Documentation and Evaluation

Kildare County Council Arts Service advocates the documentation and evaluation of work as an essential part of best practice. It is a crucial element of project development and promotion. Consistent evaluation will develop an evidence base that helps demonstrate and promote the benefits of Arts in Health. Qualitative methodologies remain the preferred option among many arts and health practitioners. This reflects the challenges of evaluating artistic practice, demonstrated by a conference participant who asked, "how do you measure happiness?"[8] However, in her research report, Orla Moloney suggests that a combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches is needed to capture the full impact of arts and health work.[9] Therefore we advocate the implementation of evaluation methodologies which:

- Reflect the evaluative purpose
- Are flexible and can be adapted to changes and developments in the project
- Consider the use of formative as well as summative evaluation
- Evaluate not only the impact on participants but also determine the lessons learnt from the project
- Pay attention to the artistic outcomes detailing the impact on the artist and their artistic practice
- Take into account the evidence based needs of healthcare providers and planners and seek to address these

The Green Room Project, Exhibition, Rotunda Hospital

Creative Connections, Bealtaine celebration, 2009

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL ARTS IN HEALTH STRATEGY

KEY AIMS

1. Supporting Naas General Hospital in the continuing development and implementation of a sustainable arts programme for patients, staff and visitors.
2. Working with mental health services and agencies to facilitate the engagement of service users in arts initiatives.
3. Exploring arts provision for older people, focusing particularly on the national Bealtaine festival and the development of a sustainable model for the provision of arts programmes in residential units and care centres.
4. Supporting arts programmes and training within services for adults with intellectual disabilities, in partnership with service development departments.

Artwork from The Green Room Project, Rotunda Hospital

1. Supporting the continuing development of the Arts Programme in Naas General Hospital

In 2003, as part of the capital development programme at Naas General Hospital, the project manager implemented the Per Cent for Art Scheme. Funding from this scheme enabled a number of arts initiatives at the hospital including a public art commission and creative writing workshops. Following these initiatives the hospital established a voluntary multidisciplinary arts committee in 2004. In order to support and develop this work, Kildare County Council Arts Service's key objectives are to support the development of a sustainable programme through strategic planning and to promote the ongoing implementation of best practice in all initiatives.

Redefining ways of working

- Support and facilitate Naas Hospital Arts Committee in the development of a strategic plan.
- Explore opportunities for programme development through strategic collaboration and engagement with local and national agencies.

Promoting best practice

- Encourage the engagement of professional artists in arts initiatives.
- Promote the ongoing implementation of best practice guidelines informed by local, national and international research and experience.

Commissioning new work

- Scope potential for the commissioning of relevant issue based work in all art forms.
- Encourage the commissioning of innovative temporary, performance based and site specific work.

Capacity building in the arts

- Research and develop training opportunities for Naas Hospital Arts Committee and other staff members.

Development of arts infrastructure

- Involve Naas Hospital Arts Committee and hospital management in Kildare Arts in Health Steering Group.

Listen, Public Art project facilitated by visual artist Dominic Thorpe

2. Promoting and facilitating access to and participation in arts initiatives for users of mental health services

Although one in four Irish adults is likely to experience mental ill-health at some point in their lives, those who experience enduring mental ill-health are among the most socially excluded in Irish society.[10] Tackling stigma and raising public awareness about the reality and commonality of mental illness are key challenges facing mental health service providers.

The catalytic role of the arts in not only improving mental health but also in challenging perceptions and promoting social inclusion is internationally recognised. Therefore the Arts Service's key objectives in this area are to facilitate access to and participation in the arts for service users, to support the incorporation of arts based learning in training and rehabilitation programmes and to promote the engagement of professional artists in arts initiatives for service users.

Redefining ways of working

- Promote the use of the arts as an accessible alternative for self expression for those experiencing mental health difficulties.
- Through partnership working, promote a better understanding of the role the arts can play in challenging perceptions and promoting understanding about mental health issues.

Promoting best practice

- Encourage the engagement of professional artists in arts initiatives.
- Promote and support the development of arts initiatives which provide opportunity for service users to access creativity and engage with their local community.
- Promote the implementation of best practice guidelines informed by local, national and international research and experience.

Depression by Clodagh Ryan, still from animation film, 'Do I have to draw you a picture?' Choices Programme, Athy

Commissioning new work

- Scope potential for the commissioning of relevant issue based work in all art forms.

Capacity building

- Work with service providers to incorporate arts based learning in training and rehabilitation initiatives.

Development of arts infrastructure

- Involve mental health service providers in Kildare Arts in Health Steering Group.
- Strengthen established links between the Arts Service and providers of acute, community and rehabilitation services.

3. Developing arts provision for older people

As we grow older our ability to engage in the arts may be severely curtailed due to a range of physical, social or geographic circumstances. There is a considerable body of evidence that the introduction or re-introduction of the arts to older people improves mental and physical capacity and thereby enhances quality of life. Furthermore quality of life is given due prominence in the **HIQA National Quality Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People** which includes 'opportunities for participation in meaningful and purposeful activity, occupation or leisure activities'.[11] However, the benefits of participation are dependent on the facilitation of meaningful, high quality experiences of the arts. A 2007 evaluation report recommends that as local authorities have a responsibility to develop an inclusive approach in their programming, they should also consider the needs of those in local long-stay facilities.[12] In consideration of this recommendation the Arts Service's key objectives are to promote the facilitation of high quality arts activity in services for older people and to support the adoption of sustainable models of programme development particularly for those in residential units.

Redefining ways of working

- Promote and support the facilitation of meaningful, high quality arts activity in services for older people.
- Support the adoption of sustainable models of project development.

Promoting best practice

- Encourage the engagement of professional artists in arts initiatives.
- Promote the implementation of best practice guidelines informed by local, national and international research and experience.
- Promote the development of arts initiatives for older people which facilitate rather than dictate artistic expression and exploration.

Still from Moving Memories, stop motion animation project, Rathangan Day Care

Commissioning new work

- Scope potential for the commissioning of relevant issue based work in all art forms.

Capacity building in the arts

- In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, explore the sustainable provision of arts programmes through the development of staff training programmes.
- Promote awareness training for all staff on the intrinsic benefits of cultural access and participation to foster a supportive environment for arts in health initiatives.

Development of arts infrastructure

- Involve providers of services for older people in Kildare Arts in Health Steering Group.
- Collaborate with the HSE and other service providers to extend and develop an annual programme for the national Bealtaine Festival.

Stills from Moving Memories, stop motion animation project, Allenwood Day Care

4. Supporting arts programmes and training for service users and staff of intellectual disability services

Prior to the publication of **Making Inroads**, Kildare County Council Arts Service had begun to provide training opportunities for services users and key workers in intellectual disability services on professional development programmes particularly in the field of Dance. The 2008 Arts Service publication **When We Danced** acknowledges their participation and contribution to Kildare's Dance Development Programme to date. In order to develop and extend this work, the Arts Service's key objective is to work in partnership with service development departments to continue to provide arts training opportunities for service users and staff across art forms particularly through the bursary award scheme and to promote the participation of service users in mainstream arts programmes.

Redefining ways of working

- Encourage and facilitate the participation of service users in mainstream arts programmes especially in Arts Service led initiatives.

Promoting best practice

- Encourage the engagement of professional artists in arts initiatives.
- Promote the implementation of best practice guidelines informed by local, national and international research and experience.
- Support the development of sustainable programmes which challenge assumptions and attitudes regarding intellectual disability.
- Develop programmes in full consultation with service users regarding their individual and creative needs and interests to ensure meaningful participation.
- Promote the development of projects which acknowledge the importance of process as well as outcomes.

Toolbox of Dance Workshop, SCJM Moore Abbey Services, Monasterevin

Commissioning new work

- Scope potential for the commissioning of relevant issue based work in all art forms.

Capacity building in the arts

- Continue to provide training opportunities for service users and key workers in all art form areas, including accreditation, where possible.
- Encourage applications from key workers and service users for bursary awards provided by Kildare County Council Arts Service.

Development of arts infrastructure

- Involve intellectual disability service providers in Kildare Arts in Health Steering Group.

Elizabeth Breen working with Eoighan Connolly on her exhibition portrait

Completed work:
'Will you hurry up and take my picture'
by Elizabeth Breen

Commissioned for 'Changing Faces', an exhibition of portraits by Moore Abbey Photography Group

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Petra Costigan, ToBe
Lavinia Donoher, Service Development, SCJM Moore Abbey Services
Barbara Fitzgerald, Director of Nursing, Naas General Hospital
Bernie Jackson, Naas Hospital Arts Committee
Mary O'Callaghan, Manager for Older Person Services, HSE
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