

# **Terms of Reference: Creative Connections Herefordshire**

## **BACKGROUND**

*Creative Connections Herefordshire (CCH) is Herefordshire's Local Cultural Education Partnership (LCEP), committed to improving opportunities for children and young people (CYP) in Herefordshire. By children and young people, we follow the UK Government guidance as also followed by the Arts Council, which means anyone who is 25 years of age and younger. The network was launched by Hereford College of Arts, and funded by the Herefordshire & Worcestershire Arts Development Ltd and Arts Connect. Creative Connections Herefordshire is aligned to the Herefordshire Cultural Strategy 2019 – 2029, and in particular the shared the vision of 'all children and young people in Herefordshire will have access to high quality contemporary cultural education and career development opportunities. CCH has a Steering group, with representatives from cultural and educational sectors including funding stakeholders. In the text 'we' stands for every organisation and individual who is actively committed to improving arts and cultural activities for children and young people through Creative Connections Herefordshire.*

## **VISION**

*By developing a collective and strategic approach we can expand our reach and impact to create exciting, inspiring and accessible opportunities for children & young people (CYP) in Herefordshire; in their schools, communities and everyday life.*

## **AIMS**

Creative Connections has four distinctive aims:

### **1. Increase participation in arts and cultural activity**

- We will bring partners together from across the culture and education sectors, combining experience, knowledge and expertise to create transformative learning opportunities for children and young people in Herefordshire
- We will ensure the voices of young people are heard in cultural planning and delivery
- We will develop activities for children and young people as creators, leaders, audiences & participators, and encourage them to develop their cultural lives and into independent engagement
- We will ensure that more young people have access to high quality creative and cultural activity both in and outside formal education.
- We will engage with children and young people from groups that are under-represented within the arts and cultural spheres through the exploration of innovative ways of engagement

### **2. Increase levels of accreditation and recognition**

- We will raise the profile of Arts Award in schools and through other organisations that work with children and young people, with the aim to increase the numbers of young people undertaking Arts Award qualification in Herefordshire
- We will support the benefits of Artsmark to a broad range of schools and help to increase the number of schools with Artsmark status
- We will work with cultural organisations and aim to increase numbers signing up to the Arts Award Supporter Scheme
- We also recognise and support other creative accreditation opportunities through organisations such as The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, Scouts & Guides, LAMBDA etc.

**3. Develop an awareness of career pathways into the arts for children and young people**

- We will encourage an understanding of the steps on the journey towards a career in the arts
- We will support the development of awareness-raising with the parents of children and young people interested in creative careers, of the viable employment pathways

**4. Increase the buy in and active support of local, county and regional stakeholders**

- We will promote culture as a driver and vehicle for positive change and work with cross sector partnerships that may include organisations from the statutory, voluntary, business sectors as well as individuals to deliver cultural activities with shared outcomes. This is to also include those organisations who are not directly engaged with the arts and creative industries, but who may regularly or occasionally deliver activities that are arts-related

## **Membership**

*The membership of the group is open to any organisation or individual within Herefordshire that can clearly demonstrate a commitment to the development of the arts in their broadest context. Group membership is currently drawn largely from schools, representatives from arts, heritage, charities, health organisations and local businesses.*

*Membership is open to all parties with an interest in cultural education and is contingent on members abiding by the principles and values of the partnership. These are:*

- **Supportive** – we will work together to create a supportive environment that utilises all of our membership's skills and does not favour one sector over another
- **Inclusive** – we will respect and celebrate the diversity of our membership and challenge any discriminatory language and behaviour
- **United** – we come together in common purpose and commit to putting on a united front which respects the confidentiality of what is discussed in meetings.
- **Transparent** – All members will be kept informed of all meetings, decision making opportunities and planning considerations through the Creative Connections Herefordshire website
- **Innovative** – we will explore and champion different ways of working with and involving children and young people

*The CCH will champion diversity in membership. It also recognises the unique geographical and rural nature of Herefordshire and will work towards ensure coverage from across the county and under-represented communities across the city of Hereford and Herefordshire.*

## Working Methodology

*Steering Group: The activity of Creative Connections Herefordshire (CCH) will be overseen by a voluntary steering group. Initially this will consist of the founding organisations. Membership of the steering group should be reviewed annually to ensure membership is fit for purpose. The Steering Group should be flexible enough so as to be inclusive to the diversity of its membership. The Steering Group will meet at least three times a year.*

*The responsibility of the steering group will be to identify opportunities for organisation development and engagement opportunities with children and young people; therefore, it should reflect members possessing a broad range of skills and abilities in order the best develop CCH.*

*The steering group will nominate a chair. The chair's responsibility is to ensure the flow of the meetings of the steering group and ensure actions are agreed and completed to specific deadlines as previously agreed. Deadlines can be extended as necessary and with agreement of Steering Group members.*

*Decisions made at the steering group will be made through consensus. If consensus is not reached a vote may be held. A decision will be passed by majority. In the result of a tied vote the chair will have the casting vote.*

*The wider CCH membership will ideally consist of a broad range of organisations and individuals from across the county, to include schools for all ages and other educational providers for children and young people – whether formal or informal; other statutory providers such as libraries, and voluntary sector groups.*

*The wider CCH membership will meet at least quarterly at a venue in Herefordshire. Where possible the meetings will rotate venues and be hosted by members of the CCH. Currently the meetings are organised and chaired and minuted by Hereford College of Arts. This may change as CCH develops and an alternative system may be adopted. The intention is that once the CCH is established, the organisation holding the chair will change on an annual basis.*

*The group will seek to consult with children and young people through its membership.*

*CCH members agree to:*

- work collaboratively towards agreed outcomes
- share project ideas and learning with the CCH to inform its development through the shared expertise of the group.
- Sub groups may be convened to support the delivery of specific strands of activity.
- Agree and monitor income and expenditure in relation to CCH
- Agree and implement a monitoring and evaluation framework for CCH
- Create and support evaluation/ feedback mechanisms that lead to a process of positive evolution of the CCH.
- Adhere to the terms of reference and recognise that these are a working and evolving framework that can be reviewed and amended annually and will run from October to October.