



## Hub for Kent, Medway, East Sussex and Brighton and Hove Minutes of the Meeting on 4.3.11

### **Present:**

Sophie Amstell – Hampshire Dance  
Avril Hitman – Magpie Dance  
Luci Napleton – Medway Council  
Adele Fords – Brompton Academy, Kent  
Catherine Gill – South East Dance  
Angela Pickard – Canterbury Christchurch University  
Harriet Parker-Beldeau – Loop Dance Company  
Rebecca Ashton – The Right Step Dance Company

### **1. Apologies**

Sophie Amstell explained that apologies had been received from Nina Atkinson who usually facilitates the Hub meetings. Unfortunately, Nina was unwell but sent her regards to everyone. Sophie volunteered to facilitate the meeting in Nina's absence. Apologies had also been received from Jackie Mortimer at Brockhill Park School.

### **2. Round-Table Updates**

#### **Avril Hitman - Magpie Dance**

- Magpie has a new scheme up and running that provides training in inclusive practice for practitioners. Avril commented that it might be appropriate for the DDTAL qualification to include a specialist unit in inclusive practice.
- Magpie is currently recruiting a consultant to carry out a viability study for a new professional company – see the Magpie website for details.
- Magpie performances will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> March and 30<sup>th</sup> March. There is limited audience capacity at both performances but please contact Magpie if you would like to attend.

#### **Luci Napleton – Medway Council**

- Luci works on a freelance basis for Medway Council and was pleased to announce that her contract has been extended for another year.
- She is currently busy programming site-specific dance and street arts in Chatham High Street as part of the Fuse Festival on 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> June 2011.
- The funding for Medway's recent dance and health project has now come to an end but the project has been sustainable and so will continue into the future with some possible GP referrals.





- Medway Physical Activity Summit will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> April at the University of Kent, Medway campus. Luci is starting to plan for Big Dance 2012 and a U.Dance platform.

#### **Adele Fords – Brompton Academy**

- Adele was representing her colleague Marie Wilson from Brompton Academy
- GCSE's are due to commence in about a month's time
- Students are working towards a Dance for Life performance

#### **Catherine Gill – South East Dance**

- Catherine reported that V funding for *moving Voices* ends in March but SED will continue with some *moving Voices* activity in the future. SED is currently looking for partners with whom to share resources/learning from the programme.
- SED has just received funding to run a dance programme at Hextable Dance. The programme will launch in September and will include early years commissioning in Kent, a health project and family friendly performances.
- Catherine is currently exploring volunteering opportunities at Hextable.
- There is a consultation event for the Hextable/Kent programme on 6<sup>th</sup> July.
- There is an end of project event for *moving Voices* on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Angela Pickard – Canterbury Christchurch University**

- Angela is currently in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of running the new Dance Education course at the university. Students work towards becoming artists/practitioners.
- They are working hard to develop links with community dance groups in Folkestone and further afield and these links include schools
- Students have to undertake a creative project so it's important to have community links for placement opportunities.
- Next year Angela will be encouraging her first cohort of 3<sup>rd</sup> year students to specialise in an area of dance education





### **Harriet Parker-Beldeau – Loop Dance Company**

- Harriet is currently an intern at Loop
- She is now working on *In to the Loop* which will take place on July 3<sup>rd</sup>
- She has recently finished working on *Catalyst*, a performance opportunity for young choreographers

### **Rebecca Ashton – The Right Step Dance Company**

- Rebecca previously attended the Surrey/West Sussex Hub but has recently moved to Kent
- The Right Step Dance Company represents dance teachers and brokers projects with schools and other employers, e.g. charities, care homes etc.
- Rebecca currently has a project in the pipeline with Age Concern
- She is planning to launch TRS Junior Dance Company and is looking for space for this from September onwards. This will feed into summer holiday clubs for Years 2 to 7.
- Rebecca is looking to build links with secondary schools in the future.

### **3. Matters Arising from the previous meeting**

Sophie reminded Hub members that Angela has very kindly offered space at University Centre Folkestone for the proposed U.Dance CPD. However, Sophie and Nina have spoken about this since the last meeting and agreed to postpone plans for this until Youth Dance England has publicised information about the future of the U.Dance CPD programme. Sophie assured Hub members that this idea will be picked up again at a future meeting.

ACTION – Nina Atkinson to follow up on this at the next Hub meeting.

It was also noted that there had been some interest in Avril Hitman providing a presentation about Magpie's new training scheme at a future meeting. Avril agreed that she'd be happy to do this.

ACTION – Nina Atkinson to contact Avril about this when funding for the Hubs 2011-12 has been confirmed.

### **4. Discussion in Groups – The Future of the SEYDN Hubs.**

Group 1 discussed what they would like from the Hubs in the future and did some 'blue sky thinking'. It was agreed that continued networking opportunities are essential as a means of developing new partnerships and collaborations. Hubs = the sharing of ideas.





The group talked about the Hub meetings being a safe place to share ideas and expertise. Funding was thought to be a nice addition to the Hubs but secondary in importance to the networking opportunities. Grants make things easier but they are not essential!

Group 2 discussed how a skill-sharing initiative might work for the Hubs in the future. It was suggested that a website might be a useful way for Hub members to share resources and information. A 'skills bank' could be established where Hub members each agree to contribute an hour of their time to share a skill with other Hub members. This could be a requirement of membership but it would need to be regulated in some way.

Group 3 discussed how we can maintain momentum in the Hubs despite the fact that there will no Hub funding grants for 2011-12. It was agreed that meetings continue to be important, including regional events like CONNECT. It was also felt to be important to continue to share impact through case studies. The group felt that money could be raised by charging a little more for events like CONNECT and there was a discussion about pooling resources to make things happen.

##### **5. Date of next meeting**

Nina Atkinson will confirm this once funding for the Hubs for 2011-12 has been confirmed some time in April/May.

