



South East Youth Dance Network Hub
Surrey and West Sussex
4th March 2011 14.50-16.15
HG Wells Centre, Woking

Minutes

Present

Kirsty Sulston, Sho Shibata, Jo Hardy, Hannily Bendell, Thomas Pickard, Anna Henry, Jess Walrond, Heidi Harris, Gemma Coldicot, Elaine Garfitt, Lucy Frazer

No apologies

1. Welcome and introductions

The South East Youth Dance Network (SEYDN) connects youth dance providers in the region to encourage the exchange of ideas, partnerships, collaboration and skill sharing. The SEYDN is managed by Hampshire Dance with funding from Youth Dance England. There are 4 hubs covering the region 1) Kent, Medway, East Sussex and Brighton & Hove 2) Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes 3) Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth, Isle of Wight and Berkshire 4) Surrey and West Sussex (this hub). All members of the network are welcome to attend all 4 regional meetings. Dates can be found on the Hampshire Dance website www.hampshiredance.org.uk.

This meeting was held as part of CONNECT 2011, which is the regional conference for all hubs to network together.

2. Reflection on the conference so far

Each hub member was asked to say one thing that struck them or has stayed with them about the conference so far. Responses included:

- The need to collaborate rather than to compete
- The reduction in funds to the SEYDN (see item 4 for details on this)
- A feeling of being in 'it' together
- Dance is in a strong position to deal with cuts
- Importance of communication
- Stay focussed on outcomes
- How small seed funding can lead to big projects if used wisely
- The change of government may mean a shift to focus on soft outcomes?
- Are we good enough at harnessing one off opportunities to ensure a legacy is created?

Further discussion continued in groups.

Group 1:

- We are facing challenges due to our dependence on public funding – how can we take risks





and become more entrepreneurial?

- Localgiving.com and wedidthis.org.uk are sites where dance organisations/companies/individuals can set up a donate button for their website to generate income from others/individuals
- There are restraints of funding / different priorities – we need to be aware of what these are as a sector
- Collaboration – Replica dance company have set up a project with a local gallery to present new work and reach new audiences
- Should individuals and companies see themselves more as small businesses and not be so reliant on public funding?

3. Member updates

This was carried out informally through the day and after the meeting.

4. Future of the SEYDN hubs

Hampshire Dance updated hub members on the future of the hubs at the conference and has subsequently provided the following statement:

Hampshire Dance will continue running the South East Youth Dance Network (SEYDN) during 2011-12. We have received a small amount of funding from Youth Dance England (YDE) for this but we are hoping to supplement the YDE funding with a grant from ACE. We hope to have a response from ACE some time in May and this will determine the number of meetings that we can programme throughout the year. Hub members shouldn't be worried if things go a bit quiet between now and then - we will be in touch with new meeting dates as soon after May as possible. However, unfortunately it now looks like we will not have any funding for SEYDN Hub activity grants next year.

Members discussed what was important to them in the future of the hubs:

- Skills sharing – hubs could create a skills 'bank' and pledge to share a skill in return for receiving a skill from someone else e.g. website design for funding advice
- Curtain raiser opportunities for youth groups to build local audiences – can the hubs work together and with other organisations such as Dance Consortium to provide more opportunities?
- 'How to' sessions as part of meetings e.g. how to share skills, how to set up a youth dance company, how to deal with behaviour management with youth groups...
- Guest speakers are very inspiring
- Information exchange and members updates are very important and useful

5. AOB

No items.



*The regional youth dance hubs are part of the South East Youth Dance Network (SEYDN).
The SEYDN Hubs are funded by Youth Dance England and managed by Hampshire Dance.*