



**Hampshire, Berkshire Isle of Wight,
Portsmouth & Southampton
South East Youth Dance Network Hub
'SEYDN Hubs - Connecting Youth Dance in the
South East'**

Minutes from Spring Hub Meeting 2011, held at CONNECT

Date: Friday 4th March 2011

Time: 3.15-4.15pm

Location: The HG Wells Conference Centre, Woking, Surrey

Hub Coordinator: Hannah Wheeler

Attendees:

Vicki Hargreaves – The Point and Commotion Dance www.commotiondance.co.uk

Jilly Hurden – The Point www.thepointeastleigh.co.uk

Chris Reynolds – Udifydance Company www.udifydance.com

Katie Green – Made by Katie Green & Green Bean Dance
www.madebykatiegreen.co.uk

Roni Cheeseman – Freelance Practitioner & Dance Africa roni@dance-africa.org.uk

Niall Cullen – Preface Morn www.prefacemorn.co.uk

Jamie Roberts – Jam Jar Dance Theatre www.jamjardancetheatre.com

Alex Emerson – Hampshire Dance www.hampshiredance.org.uk

Carrie Syckle Moore – Hampshire Dance as above

Hannah Wheeler – www.hannahwheeler.co.uk

Reflection on the morning at CONNECT

The honesty of the morning's discussions and debates was appreciated.

Jane Bryant talked about us all having to be entrepreneurial, alliance forming, flexible, creative, courageous and amoeba-like in our approaches as our sector faces funding cuts and challenges. We were heartened that we felt we already were being many of these things, and perhaps the challenge is in showing people our skills in these areas.

We also discussed the need to make more partnerships both within and outside our sector. We spoke about the potential opportunities presented by collaborating with professionals in other fields such as business, health and sport, and the possible funding opportunities that these collaborations may bring.

Although there are feelings of concern and uncertainty across our sector at the moment we also wanted to celebrate the fantastic work that is currently happening, and the future youth dance projects that are 'safe' and will be taking place in 2011.





Discussion of the 10 Year Vision for Young People's Dance – our pledge

We looked at the 10 Year Vision and thought about the opportunities and challenges that this poses for people working in youth dance.

We identified the following aspects of the vision as 'encouraging':

- the fact that dance is currently such a popular activity, second only to football in the UK
- the variety of organisations that had been consulted in the creation of the vision
- the fact that dance is all encompassing and can influence and affect young people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds
- the breadth of the vision
- that many of the goals identified by the vision are already happening and we just need to build on them, rather than having to learn new approaches

We identified the following aspects of the vision as potentially 'challenging':

- we don't know which young people were consulted and hope that they were a representative cross-section from across society, rather than just young people already participating regularly in youth dance
- the fact that dance is still packaged within PE, and does not yet have the same level of recognition as dance or drama
- the challenge of making a truly cohesive offer for youth dance and monitoring the effects over 10 years
- the tiny amount of funding received by dance in comparison to football when it is recognised as being second in popularity
- the gender balance between young male and female dancers, as well as the low number of male dance teachers in comparison to females, especially in schools
- some of the goals may need to be wider reaching to ensure we are actively targeting those young people with the least access to dance
- challenges in communication and access

We also made our 10-Year Vision for Dance Pledges, which included pledges to:

- Ensure links with schools are established to reach young people who may not have access to contemporary dance in the Portsmouth region.
- Continue developing our company's work to develop more training for young people and students.



The SEYDN Hubs are funded by Youth Dance England and managed by Hampshire Dance.



- Keep finding and creating opportunities for young people to make meaningful connections with the dance professional.
- Provide more opportunities for youth groups and young people to meet each other and share work opportunities

and experiences.

- Provide primary schools with quality dance provision to allow them to realise the need for dance in its' own right rather than within PE.
- Improve provision of youth dance opportunities through the activities provided by The Point Youth Dance Company in order for our members to see all opportunities and benefits that dance provides.

Some of the facts and figures presented by the 10-Year Vision were shocking and surprising:

- 41% of schools only offer dance to girls
- 17:1 the ratio of female to male pupils taking dance GCSE
- 88% of dance teachers are female
- 97% of dance teachers are white
- 25% of school dance spaces are rated as poor

It was encouraging to know that 86% of schools offer dance as an after school activity.

To find out more about making your pledge and the 10-Year Vision please go to www.yde.org.uk

The SEYDN Hubs – what they have meant for you, and what next?

The funding that the South East Youth Dance Network has received from Youth Dance England to run the hubs has been cut by a fairly large amount. This is due to the level of cuts being faced by Youth Dance England. There is still have enough funding to continue the hubs next year in some shape or form and an application has been made to the Arts Council for some additional funds as well. Therefore although it has been confirmed that the hubs will continue next year we don't yet know the scale of the programme. Details of what can be achieved will not be available until sometime around April/May 2011.

We discussed what the hubs have meant for us, and what we would like to ensure stays and what we think we could cut to enable the hubs to continue to operate with reduced funds.



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- Hub members felt it was very important to keep face to face meetings as they value these networking opportunities, however they felt that they could be reduced from 4 per year in each of the 4 hub regions to perhaps 2 or 3 per year.
- Hub members felt frustrated that there were some members who were very 'active', attending all the meetings, whilst others were more dormant members. It was agreed however that the geographical spread of the area made attendance more difficult for some people. Perhaps there are other ways for people to become more 'active' through discussion boards or other web-based opportunities.
- Hub members really valued the CPD activities that are part of each meeting. They particularly liked the 'informal' nature of these sessions, and attendees at this hub meeting felt that suggestions to formalise CPD opportunities across hub areas had no additional value.
- They felt that members may be encouraged to attend more meetings if they were informal and held in pubs/cafes rather than in work-based settings.
- It was suggested that hub members could be tasked with helping to generate funds for the hubs.

Forward Planning

Due to funding reductions no meetings are scheduled at the current time, however, please continue to promote the network to your contacts.

All hub members are asked to please encourage friends or peers to join the network. Any queries should be directed to the hub coordinator responsible for each area. Please see the **SEYDN Flyer** (PDF attachment) for more information or for general information on the hubs please contact

sophie.amstell@hampshiredance.org.uk

Any other business

None

Please also remember:

In an effort to minimise email traffic hub coordinators will endeavour to only send group emails to members with information specifically relating to the hubs, to publicise opportunities for hub members, to share information from Hampshire Dance/YDE in relation to the SEYDN, to arrange meetings and to disseminate information from the meetings. Members are asked to only email other hub members with information of specific interest to particular hub members and to avoid sending group emails.

