

Dance Framework for Fife

2015-2017



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INTRODUCTION

This framework has been created to support and lead the vision for the development of Dance in Fife.

Supported by Creative Scotland's Get Scotland Dancing programme, Fife Cultural Trust, Fife Council and NHS Fife, this framework has been created with input from partner organisations, meeting with Dance professionals living and working in Fife. Additionally, an online public consultation process was carried out, which engaged with Dance providers, schools and the general public. Responses reflected the views of both participants and those currently not participating in Dance.

Fife has a strong history of Dance Development and by building a new framework for dance aims to capitalise on this, which will be reflected in the refreshed Fife Cultural Strategy and will sit within Fife's robust cultural infrastructure via its Cultural Consortium, the umbrella organisation for cultural development in Fife.

Today, over 70 private Dance providers currently operate across Fife, providing a diverse range of activity for all ages. Dance is widely acknowledged as an accessible activity which contributes to healthier active lifestyles, with both Fife Cultural Trust and Fife Sports & Leisure Trust working together to achieve greater Health and Wellbeing outcomes.



VISION

Develop and support accessible quality dance opportunities across Fife, which inspire and engage participants & audiences, to enrich the quality of lives

DANCE IN SCOTLAND

The Scottish Dance sector and Creative Scotland have seen major developments in the past few years.

The Dance Sector Review by Creative Scotland, October 2012, was created to provide an overview of the Dance sector in Scotland and inform future funding priorities for Creative Scotland. Three themes were identified to inform future planning for Dance:

- Developing talent
- Inspiring audiences, participants and artists
- Embedding Dance in education

Further to the Dance Review, and that of other art forms, November 2013 saw the launch of Scotland's National Youth Arts Strategy, Time to Shine. This set out a vision to enable Scotland's children and young people to flourish and achieve, in and through the arts and creativity, exploring innovative models of youth arts provision. Time to Shine also recognised the Expressive Arts outcomes within Curriculum for Excellence, noting the need to "Work with partners in formal education to deliver the Creative Learning Plan to deliver more quality arts and creative opportunities in the context of Curriculum for Excellence."

Get Scotland Dancing, a Scottish Government policy and Legacy 2014 programme, provided an unparalleled opportunity to raise the profile of Dance as a creative, participative and physical art form.

Dance is the fastest growing activity within sportscotland's Active Schools programme in Fife, which delivers 404 afterschool and 70 lunch time dance clubs.

"We want a Scotland where everyone actively values and celebrates arts and creativity ..."

taken from Creative Scotland 10-Year Plan, 'Unlocking Potential Embracing Ambition'



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“Love how much emphasis there is on Dance & encouraging the younger generation to keep fit, healthy & happy and build self confidence through expressing themselves in Dance.”

FIFE

In the first appointment of its kind in Scotland, Fife & Tayside Councils appointed Royston Maldoom as Dance Artist in Residence in January 1981. Since then, a reduction in the Arts Development infrastructure and resources available through the local authority have meant that although Dance continues to be delivered across the region, there is no centralised and specialised knowledge base or co-ordinated approach.

In 2014, with support from the Get Scotland Dancing initiative, Fife Cultural Trust, Fife Council and NHS Fife were able to fund a Dance Development Co-ordinator post with the key remit of developing a Fife Dance Strategy. What followed was a focussed period of research and mapping, seeking both quantitative and qualitative data.

Research highlighted the lack of promotion for Dance opportunities in Fife, with many existing without an online resource for information (Website/Social Media profile). Empirical research involved the development of an online questionnaire, in order to engage with Fife’s communities to influence service provision, in line with the Fife Cultural Trust Action Plan 2014-19. The questionnaire was designed to provoke both quantitative and qualitative responses to determine the interest in dance activity and dance performance as well as to gain an insight into barriers preventing people from participating. 61% of those who participated in the survey currently participate in Dance activity or would like to, acknowledging the need to target hard-to-reach audiences and non-users, with 32 different styles of interest highlighted.

This research has highlighted the challenges and opportunities within the area and forms the base on which the Strategic Objectives outlined in this strategy rest.

“There is an opportunity for Creative Scotland to build on the public interest in dance and work with the sector and other agencies to ensure that dance is able to take a bolder place in Scotland’s cultural life.”

Anita Clark, Creative Scotland Portfolio Manager for Dance,
Taken from the Dance Sector Review Executive Summary, 2012



CHALLENGES

Through consultation with key stakeholders and the wider public the following challenges have been identified:

Lack of specialist expertise

The lack of focussed and specialist development in Dance has meant that while there is still activity, the landscape of Dance in Fife has a varied quality of opportunities and limited partnership working.

Dance in Education

Dance education within Fife is not currently of significance for Fife Council Education with certificated courses only delivered in 5 of the 19 Secondary Schools within Fife in 2014.

Accessibility

There is a dearth of accessible dance opportunities in Fife with a particular lack of provision for both older people and those with additional needs.

Difficulty in fundraising

Securing funding for activity in the current economic climate, and the capacity to secure funding within Fife, is a challenge which is broadly acknowledged across the sector. This has an effect on the volume of opportunities available across Fife and is something which needs to be addressed via a co-ordinated approach to securing funding.

Absence of training

Within Fife, there is a lack of training opportunities for pre-professional and professional dance artists and teachers. This absence of training provision has manifested as a lack of inclusive opportunities such as work with teenage girls living in areas of deprivation and specialised opportunities for those living with Dementia.

Lack of promotion

Research has highlighted the lack of promotion for Dance opportunities in Fife, with many existing without an online resource for information (Website/Social Media profile).

OPPORTUNITIES

Fife's Cultural Consortium

Fife's Cultural Consortium has 300 representatives from cultural organisations across Fife and is responsible for the development and co-ordination of Fife's Cultural Strategy. It offers a robust framework within which collaborative opportunities for cultural activity, inclusive of dance, grow and flourish.

Fife Cultural Trust (FCT)

Fife Cultural Trust is currently developing an Artistic Strategy in support of the FCT Action Plan 2014 – 19, which provides the direction and provision to support and nurture creative talent. FCT has 4 theatres and develops, produces, co-produces and receives Dance and physical work.

Fife Youth Arts Hub

Fife is home to Scotland's largest Youth Arts Hub, of the nine Creative Scotland-funded programmes. They aim to increase participation, support talent capture & progression and develop quality provision for those aged 0 – 25.

Fife Dance Development Network

This group was developed in 2014 and exists to enable links with local groups & organisations and National organisations & networks to drive the development of Dance and Dance opportunities.

Supported National developments within Dance Education

As well as changes & updates, new courses have recently been developed by SQA and are being offered to young people across Scotland. Creative Scotland is also driving new developments for specialist Dance teachers within Education, with Fife Council already offering its backing and support.

Creative Scotland Dance Sector Review

The Dance Sector Review supports the need for specialist support for Dance in Fife. Within its vision it notes "People across Scotland experience high quality dance as audiences and participants", and that "there is a sustainable and accessible infrastructure for dance across Scotland."



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Ensure that quality Dance experiences are accessible to everyone in Fife

- Provide multi-age, ability & style, inclusive Dance opportunities across Fife
- Work with service providers to provide dance opportunities for older people
- Cultivate additional opportunities for Fife through the supported development of Fife Dance Network
- Develop intergenerational work and opportunities for young people living in areas of deprivation with Fife Youth Arts Hub and additional partners

Support the development of quality Dance provision in Fife

- Certificated Dance courses available to all young people in Fife
- Primary School staff in Fife up-skilled in providing quality Dance experiences to increase confidence in delivery
- Establish the Dance in Education steering group to drive development
- Develop training opportunities for Dance artists and those providing Dance experiences to those with specific needs, inclusive of the elderly and those suffering dementia.

Increase participation in Dance across Fife

- Delivery of specialised dance opportunities for those with specific needs, including older people
- Develop partnership projects targeting hard-to-reach groups
- Support the development of Young Dance Leaders in partnership with YDance and Active Schools Fife
- Develop a promotional tool to highlight and signpost to current quality provision

Increase understanding of Dance in Fife by inspiring & engaging audiences

- Support the constructive development of audiences for quality Dance performance
- Develop non-traditional dance performance in non-traditional spaces
- Create opportunities for professional Dance companies to engage with communities across Fife
- Support new digital initiatives in Dance





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