

## **Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee**

### **Creative Scotland – Regular Funding 2018-21**

#### **Written submission from Art in Hospital**

We are writing on behalf of Art in Hospital, its Board, funding partners, artists and patients to raise serious concerns regarding the fairness, transparency and legality of the Regular Funding process administered by Creative Scotland.

It is of great concern that Creative Scotland, a publicly funded arts body, gives no place in its “balanced portfolio” to art practice in art, health and medicine.

In doing so, it denies access and participation in the arts in Scotland to a significant section of the population in hospitals, care homes and the community who are limited and marginalised by age, ill health and inequality.

Is Creative Scotland not aware that people in hospitals and care homes and those living with a long term health condition represent 40 % (2 million) of the population in Scotland and should be visible and represented within a “balanced portfolio” of the National Arts body of Scotland?

The foundation of the work of Art in Hospital for over twenty six years has been to support the principle of cultural entitlement and to address health and social inequalities as outlined in Scottish Government policy and Creative Scotland’s key Ambitions and Priorities.

The patients, artists and our partners do not understand why Creative Scotland, having given project funding in the past, does not consider the work of Art in Hospital valuable enough to give Regular Funding.

People in hospitals and care homes should have the same right as any Scottish Citizen to participate in arts and culture.

In our Application and Business Plan we addressed Creative Scotland’s Ambitions and Priorities as outlined in its ten-year plan through:

- Excellence and experimentation in visual art and medicine.
- Wider access to artistic and creative experiences for people in hospitals, care homes and the community.
- Places and quality of life are transformed through an imaginative and ambitious Contemporary Visual Art programme in health and medicine.
- Support for 26 artists financially, helping retain them in Scotland and give them sustainable careers

Assessment of our Regular Funding application contained serious factual inaccuracies, including stating unpublished criteria “not funding any arts and health projects’.

Why did we go through the process in 2015 and 2018 if Creative Scotland never had any intention of funding this area of practice?

We ask the wider question of who made that decision and on what basis and whether it was legal, to judge an application on unpublished criteria.

Over the last 3 years, Art in Hospital has tried to meet the criteria of Creative Scotland.

It was agreed in meetings following the application to Regular Funding in 2015, an application that was rated fundable, that Creative Scotland would be a third partner with NHSGGC and the University of Glasgow and provisional levels of support were earmarked.

We then had a number of meetings with Creative Scotland, which offered confusing and contradictory advice.

We were subsequently advised to apply to Open Fund for an Artists Development Programme, as Creative Scotland does not provide funding for work with patients.

Following this misleading advice, Art in Hospital changed its focus from the core patient programme to the artist professional development programme "Art Practice in Health and Medicine" for its application for Regular Funding for 2018 to 2021.

We would ask the question why does Creative Scotland not fund work with patients?

Art in Hospital needs core funding to deliver its contemporary visual art programme to patients in hospitals, care homes and the community and to support the 26 artists who deliver this programme.

As a small organisation, Art in Hospital does not have the capacity to maintain its programme to patients and artists without sustained investment from Creative Scotland and its long-term future is threatened.

The impact on our other partners of the lack of support, value and funding from Creative Scotland is significant.

NHSGGC and the University of Glasgow need to see the National Body for the Arts in Scotland valuing and supporting this area of practice.

There is no strategic vision or cohesive approach from Creative Scotland.

The Arts Council of England have put diversity at the heart of their core funded organisations, funding an Arts in Health Alliance and identifying Arts and Health as a priority area in their 10 year plan.

Creative Scotland neglects this area of practice.

The arts and health sector does not have a strong infrastructure, advocacy organisations or media contacts to lobby and fight its corner, so it is left vulnerable and isolated.

We understand that there are significant demands on these funds but out of 141 applications, not one arts and health organisation was funded.

Arts in Health practice should be an integral part of a Regular Funding Portfolio.

*'When I had my stroke I felt like a nobody and a nothing. Now I feel like someone special when people say 'Alice is that your painting over there?' and I say 'Yes, that's my painting' Alice, Patient.*

A copy of the Art in Hospital Business Plan 2015 to 2018, which outlines the strategic aims of the organisation has been provided to the Committee.