

# Creative Learning through the Arts: an action plan for Wales



Regional Arts and Education  
Networks



Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru  
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## Could you lead a new Regional Arts and Education Network?

As part of a major new Welsh Government/Arts Council of Wales project we're inviting bids to set up each of four new Regional Arts and Education Networks.

These Networks are at the heart of *Creative Learning through the Arts* – the new five year arts and education action plan. The Networks will deliver a major strand of the action plan, the **All-Wales Arts and Education Offer**.

The All-Wales Arts and Education Offer is designed to:

- increase and improve opportunities for teachers and learners in our schools to work with artists and arts/cultural/heritage organisations;
- Increase opportunities for young people to experience the work of Wales's artists and arts/cultural organisations; and
- create more opportunities for communication and partnerships between schools, artists, arts/cultural/heritage organisations and local communities.

## What are we looking for?

For each region, we need to find an organisation – or consortium of organisations – that can take the lead in organising and managing one of the Regional Arts and Education Networks.

There'll be four Regional Arts and Education Networks. These will be drawn on the same boundaries as the existing Regional Education Consortia. The Networks will work with schools, the Regional Education Consortia, local authorities and stakeholders in the education, arts, creative, cultural and heritage sectors in these four regions. The networks will increase and improve arts experiences and opportunities in schools by forging links between: teachers, educationalists and partners from the education sector; arts practitioners, arts organisations and venues; cultural and heritage organisations and venues such as museums, libraries and archives; local authority arts providers, including music services; higher education arts and cultural partners; the creative industries sector.

Your first task will be to set up the Network in your locality. In doing so, you'll need to make sure that you've got the right individuals and organisations on board to manage the services that the Network will be expected to provide to deliver the All-Wales Arts and Education Offer.

If you're interested, you'll be the one in the driving seat. You'll be responsible for making the bid, managing the funds and managing all aspects of the Network's activities. Each Network will receive between £175,000 and £250,000 for a full year's activity in each financial year of the five year programme.

## What will the Networks do?

Each Regional Network will be required to deliver the following:

### 1. **Organise a programme of high quality professional development for teachers, artists, arts and cultural organisations.**

We want to raise the quality of the activity taking place in schools. No two schools will be alike, although all of the activities have the common goal of using creative techniques to improve literacy, numeracy and attainment.

So there'll be a strong emphasis on professional development, and learning. The Networks will be required to work with the Regional Education Consortia and other partners to facilitate teachers developing and sharing their own arts learning and good practice with other schools, and also to provide a programme of arts focused training for teachers and schools. We'll also expect Networks to bring artists and teachers together to develop and share their skills.

These opportunities will be subsidised through funding managed on the Network's behalf by the lead organisation.

Professional development will need to cover a range of topics. Amongst these we would expect to see programmes that develop:

- Teachers' understanding and expectations of working with arts and cultural organisations/practitioners and how their 'offer' can support the curriculum;
- Teachers' skills in arts subjects, and arts and creativity across the curriculum;
- Arts practitioners' awareness of curriculum demands in Wales, helping them to develop projects and resources that meet schools' needs;
- Arts practitioners' capacity to support school staff to develop their expertise and learn new skills which can be embedded in their classroom practice;
- effective ways of measuring and evaluating the impact of arts and creative projects in schools, showing how to assemble and use credible data and case studies;
- the skills and capacity of practitioners to link the arts to delivering the educational priorities of improving literacy and numeracy, narrowing the gap between disadvantaged learners and their peers, and developing digital competency (this will include supporting arts/creative subject teachers to develop their knowledge of how to embed these priorities into their subjects in a meaningful way)

We will also expect the four networks to identify opportunities to work collaboratively to deliver training and other opportunities across all four regions.

## **2. Establish and coordinate networking opportunities for teachers, artists and organisations from the arts, creative, cultural and heritage sectors – both digital and face to face**

We will expect each Network to identify and collaborate with any relevant arts and education bodies that are already established and active in their region, and to communicate their activities to schools.

We will expect each Network to deliver a series of networking events designed to encourage information exchange and the sharing of best practice. It will be especially important to take account the specific needs and interests of both schools and arts practitioners.

We will expect each Network to establish an online presence on the new **arts and creative learning portal** (currently being developed by the Welsh Government as part of Hwb, the all-Wales learning platform), and to promote the opportunities for virtual networking and collaboration at regional and national levels provided by the portal.

Each of the networks will be expected to develop strong and proactive links with the Regional Education consortia in their area and the Local Authority education services (including music services), as well as Local Authority arts development services.

## **3. Connect schools with artists and arts organisations – act as a ‘broker’**

We will expect each Network to build up a database of arts practitioners and organisations offering high quality arts education projects within their area. This will help to develop our knowledge of who's available and to identify best practice and expertise in relation to this work.

The Network should act as a broker between schools and arts organisations, putting schools in touch with artists and arts organisations who are able to offer a suitable quality – and breadth of expertise. We will expect each Network to have a clear understanding of the needs of schools and to work to match those needs with suitable arts/creative/cultural activities and projects. We're particularly interested in seeing projects that encourage the co production and design of arts projects between schools, learners and arts practitioners, and in projects that offer opportunities for extended work with lasting impact on teaching and learning.

## **4. Collect information on the regional ‘offer’ and publicise examples of best practice**

Each Network will be expected to collate information about what's on offer in the region and publicise events and opportunities on the creative learning portal and through existing regional networks. Networks will also be asked to gather information about relevant and interesting projects that have taken place - this might include case studies, evaluation, toolkits, training and guidance materials - which could then be shared on the portal.

## 5. Deliver the Local Arts Champions programme

Each Network will be responsible for establishing and delivering a **Local Arts Champions Programme** in their area.

**Local Arts Champions** will be experienced teachers of the arts who will want to share their skills, expertise and enthusiasm with other teachers and schools, and take on the role of public advocates of arts in education. Champions will be identified and selected through consultation with schools, arts organisations and the Regional Education Consortia.

The Network will provide funding to schools to cover the release of these Champions – experienced teachers who will spend short periods of time promoting best practice, training, supporting others to adopt similar approaches, or bringing others into their school to observe and learn.

These could be modelled on the Outstanding Teaching Programme (OTP) or Consortia's Lead Practitioners, both of which involve school-to-school collaboration. Links should also be made with existing school improvement groups and the Regional Education Consortia to ensure the successful delivery of this part of the brief.

Networks may also choose to expand this area of activity to include artists and arts/cultural organisations as Local Arts Champions. Following grant award, we will ask the four networks to work with us to agree a consistent approach to selection and funding for the Champions.

Each Network will respond to the needs and priorities of its region. Nevertheless, we will ask that the four networks work together to share their plans, to develop consistency of approach where appropriate (e.g. in relation to provision of and access to professional learning opportunities), and to agree where collaboration between regions (e.g. events for sharing good practice) would be desirable.

## Eligibility

Any organisation or consortium of organisations can apply to become the lead organising body and the recipient of the grant.

To be able to apply, your organisation must be based in Wales, another part of the UK or another European Union country.

You must also:

- Be able to demonstrate that your organisation is properly constituted; that it has a track record of managing and delivering arts activity for audiences or participants including schools-related activity or arts and education activity in Wales; demonstrate understanding of the context of education and the arts in Wales, and the capacity to deliver a programme of activity to meet the needs of schools in Wales in both English and Welsh

Your written constitution (or other type of governing document) must show that the provision of arts activity is one of your objectives.

Companies limited by guarantee or community interest companies (CICs), registered charities or charitable incorporated organisations (CIOs), constituted not-for-profit community groups, clubs or societies are also eligible to apply.

Local authorities, Local authority consortia colleges and universities, single schools, families of schools or high schools and their feeder schools may also apply. Revenue Funded Organisation (RFOs) or consortia of RFOs can also apply.

Organisations that can't apply include:

- UK Government departments
- Welsh Government departments
- BBC departments
- Organisations based outside the European Union

Organisations that share out profits to members or shareholders are also ineligible, unless they can clearly demonstrate that their self-contained project will benefit the public and not their private interests.

## What you will need to demonstrate?

Your application will need to demonstrate the following:

- How you will ensure your programmes of activity are of a high quality and meet the needs of primary, secondary and special schools in your region, including provision through the medium of Welsh.
- How you will ensure that your programmes of activity are relevant to the needs of arts and cultural organisations and practitioners in your region. We will expect you to demonstrate current knowledge and expertise of the arts and education landscape in the region of Wales in which you will be acting as the lead body.
- How you will develop and coordinate networking opportunities and link in to existing networks and support structures.
- How you will broker more and improved arts and creative opportunities between schools and arts and cultural organisations.
- How you will develop a working relationship with Regional Education Consortia, the Local Authorities and the other Regional Arts and Education Networks.
- How you will develop a working relationship with other stakeholders and partners, including arts, cultural and heritage organisations and venues, local authority arts providers, higher education arts and cultural partners, and the creative industries.
- How you will measure and evaluate the impact of the programmes and activities you will be delivering. We will expect that the Networks will increase and improve creative and cultural learning opportunities for schools.
- That you have the relevant knowledge, skills and experience to act as the lead body for the Network together with the appropriate skills and expertise of any partner organisations you will be working with. This will include knowledge and understanding of the education system in Wales, knowledge of the arts and cultural offer in a specific region and the skills to deliver high quality activity in both English and Welsh.
- How you will ensure that your training and other professional development opportunities are of a high quality and draw on expertise from the arts and education sectors, for example in relation to literacy or numeracy.

## What further information will we need?

You'll need to provide us with detailed information about the Network structure you intend to put in place and how you, or your consortium, will manage this. You will need to be sure that it is appropriate to meet the requirements as described in this document.

You'll need to provide a detailed budget for the first two years of delivery and indicative budgets for years 3 through to 5. It is intention to provide funding in 2015-16 towards set up costs and activity over the period January to March 2016. In addition, you'll need to provide assurances around financial management and quality assurance. These will involve:

- Providing copies of your accounts for the two previous financial years. If your organisation has been in existence for less than two years, you must be able to provide evidence that there is a bank account in your organisation's name, as well as the names of at least two authorised signatories. Occasionally we may ask for further verification, for example a copy of your constitution (or other governing document), or a list of your board or management committee members (or equivalent governing body). You won't be able to apply for funding if you're in default of any financial agreement with the Arts Council of Wales.
- Providing information on how you will embed quality assurance into the management of the Network and the delivery of outcomes. This may include evidence of how you have applied quality assurance to previous projects and programmes.

The budget will need to include details of any partnership funding and/or proposed earned income or income from other sources you may anticipate raising during the life of the programme.

You will need to provide a detailed project plan for the first two years of delivery with outline plans for years 3 – 5.

We'll also need you to provide us with certain assurances. You will need to:

- provide evidence that the service you deliver will be fully bilingual through the medium of Welsh and English, and will have the capacity to meet the needs of schools in both languages.
- guarantee that you have appropriate levels of child protection and safeguarding procedures in place. You will need to show that you have a Safeguarding / Child Protection Policy that's been reviewed by your management committee (or equivalent governing body) within the last three years, and which complies with current legislation. This policy must demonstrate that safeguarding issues are reflected in your day to day planning and operations. (This applies if your project involves working with children, young people or vulnerable adults).
- make arrangements for all necessary insurances and indemnities.
- be able to manage any relevant issues relating to taxation, financial accounting and reporting.
- provide evidence of an effective approach to delivering your work in line with equalities legislation. At the very least we would expect to see an Equal Opportunities Policy that's been reviewed by your management committee (or equivalent governing body) within the last three years, and which complies with current legislation. This policy must demonstrate that equality and diversity are reflected in your programming and in your day to day planning and operations.

## How to apply

If you are interested in submitting an application to take the lead in organising and managing one of the Regional Arts and Education Networks, you will need to do the following:

- **Contact Jess Bailey or Bethan Millett, Central Co-ordinator who will send you a link to the application form for you to complete on our online system.**
- **Once you have accessed the form, you will need to complete the form and upload your detailed proposal.**

The closing date for receipt of all submissions is **5.00pm, Wednesday 18th November 2015**. You will hear from us by no later than 2nd December whether your application has been successful or not.

Your detailed proposal must include all of the following:

- **A detailed explanation of how you propose to deliver the five core areas of activity as described in this document.**
- **A detailed response to each of the points outlined in the section “What you will need to demonstrate” as described in this document.**
- **That you can clearly demonstrate how you meet the eligibility criteria, as described in this document.**
- **Response to the additional information requested, including a detailed and fully costed budget.**

Please state clearly which region or regions you are applying for. The regions to be covered by each Network are as follows:

Network region 1	Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Wrexham
Network region 2	Powys, Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Swansea, Neath Port Talbot
Network region 3	Rhondda Cynon Taff, Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil
Network region 4	Newport, Monmouth, Caerphilly, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent

For further information and to access an application form, please contact:

**Jess Bailey** Project Coordinator at [jess.bailey@artscouncilofwales.org.uk](mailto:jess.bailey@artscouncilofwales.org.uk) or telephone 029 2044 1388

**Bethan Millett** at [bethan.millett@artscouncilofwales.org.uk](mailto:bethan.millett@artscouncilofwales.org.uk) or telephone 029 2044 1303