

ac **arts care**

A photograph showing a young woman with dark hair, wearing a white short-sleeved shirt under a dark vest, leaning over a table. She is smiling and looking at an elderly woman with white curly hair. The elderly woman is wearing a purple patterned shirt and is focused on a craft project, holding a yellow pencil. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a window with a view of a building.

enable
transform
health and social care
participation
creative activities

Strategic Plan 2011-2014

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'Within and Without' exhibition at Ards Art Centre. The artworks were created in workshops facilitated by Arts Care Artist-in-Residence Ned Jackson-Smyth in conjunction with the Mental Health Unit, Newtownards Hospital, South Eastern Trust

"Little as we know about the way in which we are affected by form, by colour and light, we do know this: they have an actual physical effect."

Florence Nightingale



Arts Care was established by the Department of Health and Social Services in 1991 to make all forms of art accessible to service users and staff in health and social care throughout Northern Ireland. Those who participate have the opportunity to experiment with forms of expression which may not normally be available to them. This process of involvement in arts activities leads to increased communication skills and improved quality of life.

In partnership with Health and Social Care Trusts, Arts Care engages a team of Artists-in-Residence, ClownDoctors and project artists who facilitate and co-ordinate participatory workshops and performances.

Arts Care currently engages around twenty Artists-in-Residence comprising a dancer, a musician, visual artists and a graphic designer, as well as a team of ten NIClownDoctors and a number of project artists. These artists work with a wide range of children and adults experiencing physical, learning and mental health difficulties and acute ill health.

There are Arts Care committees attached to Health Trusts all over Northern Ireland. Each committee works in close partnership with Arts Care and comprises members of clinical, managerial, administrative and estates services, as well as local arts enthusiasts. There is also service user representation on some of the committees and all members sit on a voluntary basis.

arts and creativity

Northern Ireland ClownDoctors, Paul Taylor and Elaine Duncan, on Craig Ward Ulster Hospital South Eastern Trust

- developing self-confidence and self-esteem
- improving social skills
- decreasing social isolation
- enhancing mental and physical health and well-being
- improving sensory awareness and physical dexterity
- making a challenging period in hospital less intimidating
- providing opportunities to develop new skills
- helping communication on many levels
- developing creativity in the work place
- strengthening hospital communities
- improving staff and patient relationships and morale
- positively affecting the culture of hospitals
- enhancing the environment of health and social care facilities

the benefits

Clay workshop facilitated by Ciara O'Malley,
Artist-in-Residence, Holywell Hospital, Northern HSC Trust,
with service users and staff at the workshop of ceramic
artist John Keag at Pogues Entry, Antrim



vision

A healthy, dynamic and caring society where people have the opportunity to express themselves creatively and achieve their potential.



mission

To enable people in health and social care to transform their lives through participation in creative activities.

Art workshop at the Arts Care Studio, Knockbracken Healthcare Park,
co-ordinated by the Children with Disability social work team,
Belfast HSC Trust and facilitated by Artist-in-Residence, Helen Shields



'Hands' paintings by groups from Psychiatry and Learning Disability at Lagan Valley and Downe hospitals, South Eastern HSC Trust, facilitated by Artist-in-Residence, Colin McGookin

Creativity

Creative arts promote health and well-being and transform lives.

Quality

High quality creative experiences underpin the engagement between service users and skilled professional artists.

Access

Service users should have equal access to opportunities for creative self-expression.

Caring

It is essential to respect others and be sensitive to their needs, skills, rights and aspirations.

Partnership

Partnerships between service users, professional artists, healthcare staff and other organisations are crucial.

Diversity

Acknowledging and working with difference enables service users to find creative ways to express themselves.



a changing environment

- aging population
- increase in dementia
- increase in home and community-based care
- Review of Public Administration
- pressure on public finances due to global recession
- increasing importance of inter-agency working
- challenges of policy-making in Northern Ireland

Detail of artwork for Day Surgery Unit, Antrim Area Hospital, Northern HSC Trust, produced by children attending the unit working with Artist-in-Residence, Helen Bradbury

strategic aims

Services

To develop Arts Care's services in response to the needs and aspirations of people in health and social care.

Quality

To ensure that the quality of all aspects of Arts Care's work is of the highest standard and continuously improves.

Research and Advocacy

To commission and disseminate appropriate research to further Arts Care's mission and influence relevant public policy and practice.

People

To ensure that Arts Care has the people required to achieve its aims and objectives and that they are effectively managed and supported.

Communications

To raise Arts Care's public profile and communicate effectively with external and internal stakeholders.

Resources

To ensure that Arts Care has the financial and physical resources required to achieve its aims and objectives and that these are effectively managed.

Governance

To ensure that governance of Arts Care complies with the requirements of the law and good practice and continuously improves.

Silk painting in progress at the Northern Ireland Hospice, facilitated by Clare McComish, Artist-in-Residence, as part of the Belfast Creative Age Festival.

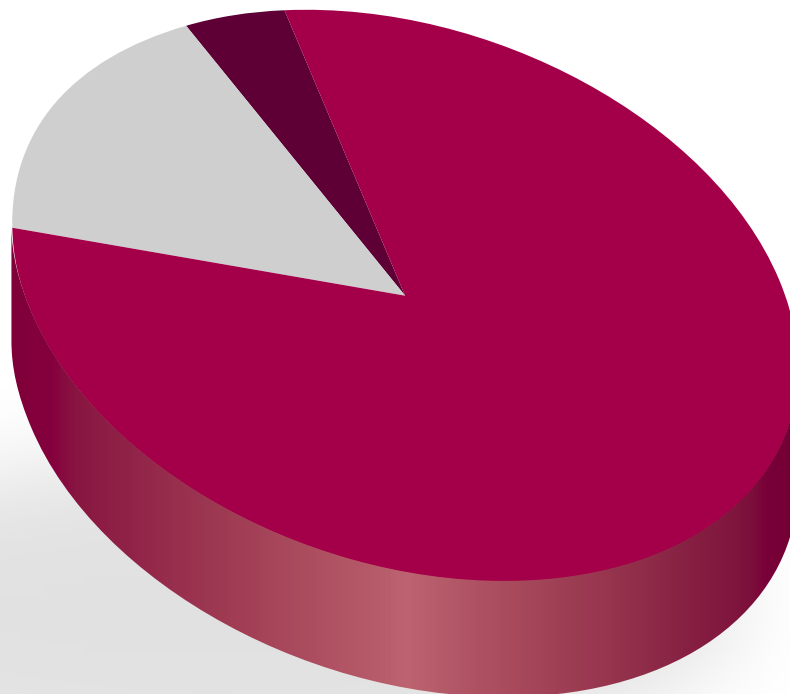
programmes for change

Programme	Objective	Priorities
Services	To develop Arts Care's services in response to the needs and aspirations of people in health and social care	Extension of existing services Access for under-represented groups Extension of service settings Review of unmet needs
Quality	To ensure that the quality of all aspects of Arts Care's work is of the highest standard and continuously improves	Quality assurance processes Service user participation strategy Measurement of outputs and outcomes Regular review of services
Research and Advocacy	To commission and disseminate appropriate research to further Arts Care's mission and influence relevant public policy and practice	Impact evaluation strategies Cultivation of advocates Input to relevant public policy Regular review of international literature
People	To ensure that Arts Care has the people required to achieve its aims and objectives and that they are effectively managed and supported	Relevant placement of staff and artists Support and development programmes Appropriate policies and procedures Development of potential artists Development of educational partnerships

programmes for change (cont)

Programme	Objective	Priorities
Communications	To raise Arts Care's public profile and communicate effectively with external and internal stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications strategies Maximisation of media opportunities Consistent use of appropriate branding
Resources	To ensure that Arts Care has the financial and physical resources required to achieve its aims and objectives and that these are effectively managed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective management of resources Efficiency and value-for-money Maximisation of grant income Additional funding streams
Governance	To ensure that governance of Arts Care complies with the requirements of the law and good practice and continuously improves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic and operational plans Strengthened role of committees Governing policies and procedures Risk management Board development programme

governance costs vs charitable activities



	Charitable arts and health activities	80%
	Salaries	16%
	Running costs	4%

ac arts care

2 Franklin Street
Belfast
BT2 8DQ

Tel 028 9053 5639
Fax 028 9053 5643
Email: admin@artscare.co.uk
www.artscare.co.uk

Recognised as a Charity by the Inland Revenue No XR 77433

Patrons: The Marchioness of Dufferin & Ava,
James Ellis, Evelyn Glennie OBE, Dame Mary Peters CBE,
Neil Shawcross, Seamus Heaney

“Arts Care through their various arts programmes adds to and enriches the lives of those service users availing of mental health and disability services. Participation in art enhances the journey towards recovery and well-being.”

*Oscar Donnelly, Director of Mental Health and Disability Services,
Northern Health & Social Care Trust N.I.*

