**A colorful heart shape made of spots

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**Impact Report** **– 2023-2024**

**Overview**

Despite a 2.5% reduction in ACW Multi Year Funding in 2024-2025, WAHWN has had an exceptionally productive year and is on track to meet or exceed our targets.

With a successful application for Charity status in July 2024, WAHWN is now open to a wider range of funding opportunities which will enable us to build our resilience and sustainability.

With a rapidly growing membership, including an increasing number of health, third sector and academic members, we are on track to exceed 1000 members before the end of the year. With support from the National Lottery Communities Fund this year, our in-person Market Places in six regions across Wales have enabled us to engage with a wider range of regional arts and health professionals and opened up the potential of new partnership working.

New partnership working with the Head of Wales, Mental Health Foundation has the potential to lever support and funding towards a WEAVE 2025 conference which ACW, Wrexham Glyndwr University and Betsi Cadwaladr UHB are keen to co-host and support.

WAHWN had the pleasure of hosting two international delegations this year – a Japanese delegation to Cardiff and delegation from Flanders to North Wales, both of which have the potential to lead to further international visits and collaboration.

WAHWN continues to play a vital role within the arts, health and wellbeing ecology, working closely with key stakeholders e.g. Arts Council Wales, Public Health Wales, Wellbeing of Future Generations Office and the Welsh NHS Confederation.

***“Despite all the challenges Wales really is in the lead.”*** (David Cutler, Baring Foundation at WAHWN learning Group October 24)

WAHWN continues to take advantage of key advocacy opportunities, enabling our members to respond to and influence key Welsh Government policies and strategies including the Mental Health draft Strategy, Culture Priorities and Wellbeing of Future Generations Cymru CAN 7 year vision. As an official supporter of the Public Health Wales Hapus campaign, we continue to raise the profile of the arts and creativity for good mental health and wellbeing. Our place at the Cross Party Group on Arts & Health ensures we continue to represent the sector among Senedd members building political traction and our attendance at the forthcoming Welsh NHS Confederation conference and Wellbeing Economy Festival of Ideas will enable us to further advocate for the benefit and value of our sector’s work.

**Headline Statistics**

**Membership**

* Risen from 800 to 935 = **16.8% increase**
* New sign up form for members capturing data on support/training needs and EDI monitoring

**Communications**

Mailchimp Newsletter

820 October 23 and 928 October 24 (**13% increase)**

Facebook followers:-

820 October 2023 and 1105 October 2024 (**40.9% increase)**

Instagram followers:

331 October 2023 and 578 October 2024 (**74% increase)**

Twitter/X followers:

818 October 2023 and 997 October 2024 (**21.8% increase)**

**Welsh Language**

* 100% of social media posts bilingual
* Welsh Language Development Plan in progress
* Cynnig Cymraeg/Welsh Offer in progress
* Targeted Welsh language practitioner network event

**Programme**

* + **Stepping In** – 4 x practitioners with lived experience supported through training, supervision, mentoring and placements in health and community settings. WAHWN hosting a community of practice (UK wide) to share learning.
  + **Learning Groups** – fortnightly sessions supporting 24 arts & health partnerships to connect, share challenges and achievements.
  + **Newsletter** – 10 x bilingual monthly newsletters sharing news, opportunities, resources, funding streams and training
  + **How Ya Doing**? Creative Reflective Practice and Strategies for Wellbeing training supporting ? no practitioners
  + **Market Places** – 6 x market places in Gwynedd, Denbighshire, Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Bridgend with ? no attendees
  + **Network meetings** 10 x network meetings with c. 200 attendees sharing policy and practice
  + **Creative Ageing Network** 4 x meetings and international networking event planned for October 2024 with 90 attendees.

**Impact Report October 2024**