

# **Task and Finish Group on Participation in the Arts in Wales**

## **Inquiry into Participation in the Arts in Wales**

Response from Touch Trust

### **1. What organisation do you represent?**

Touch Trust

### **2. Which groups of people participate in your organisation's arts activities?**

Children and adults with profound disabilities of all kinds ,including profound autism , challenging behaviour ,the elderly and other vulnerable groups. Also post nineteen students who because of their disabilities are unable to access further education.

### **3. Do you think that budget changes have affected participation in the arts, either positively or negatively?**

We are surviving so far with committed fund raising ,but it is difficult to ensure the same survive in this economic climate

### **4. Do you think that certain groups of people have been affected more than others?**

Those with profound disabilities (or clients) are finding it harder to continue to come to us.

### **5. Are there gaps in provision for people to participate in arts activities, either demographically or geographically?**

Yes ,our guests who have profound disabilities. This is why we focus on them. Mid Wales and rural areas ,who we are focusing on in outreach projects

### **6. Are there enough funding sources available other than the Arts Council for Wales? Are alternative funding sources accessible?**

It is very difficult .We are constantly fundraising ,looking for donations and raising money for development through our license and copyright .Apart from ACW we have a further £15000 for rent in WMC from CCC

### **7. What role does the voluntary arts sector play in promoting participation in the arts in Wales and how can this be supported?**

We have artists volunteering to help us ,here from WNO ,RWCMD, UWIC and individuals. A grant to pay them expenses would increase this essential and invaluable aspect

**8. Is the strategic relationship between the Welsh Government and the bodies that distribute arts funding effective in increasing participation?**

Yes ,absolutely .ACW has supported us 100 fold, so has WMC .We are indebted absolutely to this far seeing and whole hearted support from these bodies – especially the mentoring and funding from ACW

**9. All public bodies in Wales will have published a strategic equality plan by April 2012. Do you think that these new public sector equality duties will help to increase participation in the arts among under-represented groups in Wales?**

I do hope so ,I know our work is being recognised and appreciated now in a way that was not so before .WG and ACW support us with their new policies in a pioneering way,