



West Cork Arts Centre is funded by

arts council the arts  
ealaíon arts council.ie

The Arts for Health partnership gratefully acknowledges the local support towards the programme with special thanks to West Cork Older Peoples Network and Friends of the Day Care Centres.

**Contact:** Justine Foster, West Cork Arts Centre, North Street, Skibbereen, County Cork.  
 + 353 (0) 28 22 090 justine@westcorkartscentre.com www.westcorkartscentre.com

## Strategy Summary 2013 - 2016

Arts for Health partnership programme is a strategic and sustainable response to an ageing population, which enables choice, social inclusion and equitable access to arts for older people in West Cork.

# Arts for Health *Partnership Programme*

is based in West Cork and provides a managed and integrated arts programme for older people in healthcare settings.

The programme takes place in eleven geographically widespread rural locations including five day care centres: Castletownbere, Clonakilty, Dunmanway, Schull, Skibbereen; five Community Hospitals: Castletownbere, Clonakilty, Dunmanway, Schull, Skibbereen; and Bantry General Hospital, Care of the Elderly Unit.

The Arts for Health programme is based on an inter-agency partnership between the West Cork Arts Centre, Cork County Council's Arts Office, Cork Education and Training Board and the HSE. The HSE is represented by Cork Arts + Health Programme, the Health Promotion Department, the Nursing Directors of Community Hospitals and the Day Care Centres, West Cork. The delivery of the programme is through The Arts for Health artists' team which is managed by West Cork Arts Centre. They have established a close, professional working relationship with the staff and management of each care setting. By being integrated into the culture of the care setting, the programme allows ideas and the individual creative interests of the participants to be nurtured, developed and implemented over time.

Our programme of work celebrates creativity and forms new focal points for experimentation and exchange between all participants. The artists, each with distinctly different practices, have developed their professional expertise in working with older people and numerous individual and collaborative projects have been undertaken since it began in 2005.

## Community Hospital Arts Programme

focuses on consistency of delivery and is tailored to the participants creative needs. It is structured around a weekly group workshop and regular one-to-one support to encourage and develop individual creative ideas. The content of the workshops evolves in response to conversations between artists and participants.

## Day Care Centre Arts Programme

is project-based and supports an ethos of creative exchange and experimentation between the artist and participant. The projects aim to be stimulating, enjoyable and culturally relevant for participants. Each differs in the style of delivery; some adopting a short directive encounter, while others prefer more extended engagement.

## Arts for Health Service Developments

### 1. Support programme sustainability

- Clarify roles and responsibilities
- Respond to external organisational changes
- Commit to resourcing and securing finances
- Enhance interdisciplinary working and communication
- Continue programme evaluation and reflective practice
- Link the programme to a continuum of care from active retirement through to daycare, respite and hospital care

### 2. Respond to changing needs of participants who increasingly fall into two categories:

- a) Participants who have a range of abilities and are characterised as having a high dependency, including dementia related conditions
- b) Participants who are on short stay respite from the community
  - Reallocate resources for more one to one activities
  - Signpost existing supports within each sector

### 3. Support excellence through development of expertise

- Maintain and develop a pool of expertise
- Build-in sustainability of expertise
- Initiate relevant research and documentation
- Expand training and learning opportunities

### 4. Maintain and improve communications

- Build strategic alliances
- Communicate expertise
- Communicate value for money
- Enhance internal communication
- Provide systematic and creative documentation
- Ensure visible methods of accountability
- Take more testimonials – make commitment to hearing voices in diverse ways
- Celebrate achievements