
Recommendations

The Government

- Government policy should make clear that creativity and culture are human rights and part of modern social care. These principles should be integrated into the measures being implemented for Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care.

Care homes

- Managers should either use the checklist for culture and creativity in this report (see page 17) or devise their own. They should contact local arts organisations to see what they can offer.
- Culture and creativity should specifically be part of the initial care plan for each new resident and implementation then monitored.
- Staff should be encouraged to attend at least one of the many online or in-person creativity training courses.
- Managers should assess how digital devices including apps can support daily creativity.

Care Quality Commission (CQC)

- In the absence of a specific reference to creativity and culture in the assessment framework, the CQC should state the relevance of these to its inspections in communications and, for example, in its public support for the National Arts in Care Homes Day.
- Reference to the importance of creativity and culture as part of a meaningful life for residents in care homes, and how to identify good quality provision, should be included in Inspectors' training.

Care umbrella bodies (National Care Forum, Care England and NAPA)

- A simple guide to the relevance of creativity and culture to the CQC framework should be published for care homes managers.
- The importance of creativity and culture should continue to be promoted and showcased to members. This would include making the National Arts in Care Homes Day a high profile and permanent event for care homes.

Skills for Care

- The visibility of arts and creativity in existing qualifications, such as for Activity Coordinators, should be heightened.
 - The potential for specific qualifications regarding creativity should be examined.
 - Guidance should be given to navigate the confusing array of existing training in creativity.
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Arts organisations and artists

- A Code of Practice should be devised, possibly facilitated by the Culture Health and Wellbeing Alliance or the Creative Ageing Development Agency. This would cover what artists need to know to work effectively and ethically in care homes.
- Arts organisations should proactively reach out to care homes to discuss potential partnerships. Venues, in particular, should see care homes as part of their local community.
- Arts organisations should consider how they support artists working in care homes, including their feelings and emotions regarding this work, sometimes called 'affective support'.

Arts funders (general)

- Arts funders should make the relevance of their funding to work in care homes clear and promote this through showcasing grants given in this area.
- Arts funders should fund affective support for artists working in care homes as an element of good practice.

Arts Council England (ACE)

- ACE should investigate the value of a light touch version of the Artsmark (which they fund for use in educational establishments) for use in care homes.
 - ACE should consider a specific funding initiative for work in care homes.
 - Finally, ACE should liaise with the Arts Council Wales over the replicability of the highly successful cARTrefu model.
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