YT Managers Check-In

29th May 2020

Attendees:

Kenny McGlashan (YTAS) – Chair
Andi Stevens (Comar)
Mahri Reilly (Scottish Youth Theatre)
Louise Allan (Glass Performance)
Jo Jeffries (Edinburgh Youth Theatre)
Lisa Matheson (Aberdeen Performing Arts)
Sharon May (Lyceum Theatre)
Gillian Gourlay (NTS)
Jonathan White (CXYP)
Lucy McGLennon (Eden Court)

Shout outs:

- Scottish Youth Theatre launching 'Quaranteen' programme up until July. https://scottishyouththeatre.org/national-artistic-programme/national-artistic-programme/national-digital-artistic-programme/quaranteen/

- Lucy McGlennon highlighted interesting work being done online by the upcoming Creative Bravery Festival in June https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/creative-bravery-festival-tickets-106382577152?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch.
  Lucy also noted that her and Amy Watt are doing a furlough switch at Eden Court soon.

- Kenny updated on Creative Scotland Open Fund Session for Youth Theatre with Colin Brady- 11th June, 2pm. Information and bookings will be published next week. Session will include assessment process hints and tips.

- YTAS Adjustments to working from home document will be shared on the resources portal of YTAS website. Kenny also suggested other exemplars would be good to add too.

Breakout Discussions on post-lockdown YT planning:
"Checklists for revised: Staff Training, YT Premises, Managing Groups / Sessions"

Kenny shared the following documents as exemplars for a sector response / approach in the next phases of sector recovery:

- Creative Safety Document (Youth Scotland): https://www.youthscotland.org.uk/media/1866/youth-scotland-post-lockdown-readiness-guide-25-5-20.pdf

- Creating safety (Creative Scotland): *(in particular the checklist at the end)* https://www.creativescotland.com/resources/professional-resources/guidance-and-toolkits/creating-safety

Following breakout discussions each group shared their thoughts with the wider group:

A Checklist for Staff Training

PLANNING TRAINING
- Define different staff roles and key training needs / adjustments required
- How training needs may be differ for furlough staff etc
- Consider participants unique circumstances
- Review guidance from other sectors – ie education
- Review admin processes

TRANING DELIVERY
- Consider training challenges, budget available and digital training options
- Assess staff's knowledge and skills in relation digital meetings and youth work
- Provide training / time for staff to upskill digital skills
- Set review points and updates with staff

CONTENT
- Training gaps: mental health, digital creative skills, blended learning
- Social distancing processes / policy of org
- Updated first aid / incident reporting procedures
- Include how addressing personal concerns or RTW

A Checklist for YT Premises

- How would session schedules change to allow for cleaning?
- What will the cleaning requirements be? Who would do this? Costs for cleaner?

- Do we have enough space in the room that we run our groups in for grid markings?
- If other users are in the space, (e.g. a yoga group) how do we ensure that the space is cleaned? How will contact with other groups work regarding illness reporting?
- Will we be able to go into the buildings?
- Halving the group size means halving income generation.
- Who's responsibility is it that the building is safe? Concerns of vulnerability and insurance. How to assess risk when it's out with control?
- What if some spaces are open but others are not? Do we need to relocate?
- Government guidance was shared: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-and-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19

A Checklist for Managing Sessions

- 'Being in the room'
- Practicalities: what size are spaces? What are toilet facilities like?
- Money required to make spaces 'Social Distancing' friendly.
- How do Safeguarding policies have to change to be 'COVID' safe?
- Changeovers between sessions throughout the day.
- How do we adapt games? How do we 'train' young people to be safe?
- What can young people teach us? They'll be back at school before we're back in session.
- Do they even want to play certain games/exercise as the joy goes?
- How do we adapt for siblings?
- How will this impact sharing/social skills for YP?
- Foyers/spaces can be small, for example so discussions still to be had around adapting.
- YP and parents have been apprehensive around online.
- Can online/blended learning make things more or less accessible? Are participants willing to travel for shorter or less interactive sessions?

Concluding questions and comments from the group:

- Can we learn from how English youth theatres will react starting from Monday?
- Perhaps the sector should find out what families think about returning to youth theatre.
- Attendees keen on establishing a sector working group(s) for discussing specific issues with more time.