

Culture Durham Partnership Terms of Reference

Purpose of the Culture Durham Partnership

The overriding purpose of the Culture Durham Partnership is to increase participation in culture across County Durham.

This will be achieved by providing strategic direction and leadership to the cultural sector by:

- Developing a stronger and widely-shared vision for the sector
- Providing a coherent local, regional and national voice for culture
- Encouraging and facilitating collaboration between cultural organisations, breaking down barriers and sharing good practice and expertise
- Continuing to build links between the cultural sector and other sectors (voluntary, charitable, health, private)
- Advocating for the value of culture across County Durham

Through successful implementation of the above the partnership will enable:

- The right environment for culture to thrive, participation to grow and audiences to be more engaged
- Culture to be acknowledged as a key contribution to County Durham's quality of life and health and wellbeing.
- The work of Culture Durham will link into the work of other (relevant) partnerships in the county.
- Culture to be positioned as an economic driver in the county
- Culture to be seen as an effective driver for community cohesion and civic pride across the County.

Governance

The Culture Durham Partnership is governed by the Partnership Board. The board is responsible for ensuring that the objectives of the Partnership are met. It will meet four times per year.

Board members are drawn from cultural organisations active within County Durham, with each organisation nominating one individual to attend board meetings. It is expected that the nominated individual occupies a senior management/decision-making role within their organisation.

It is intended that the board is as inclusive as possible and that membership of the board is approached on an 'opt-in' basis. Should a professional working in the cultural/creative sector in County Durham wish to join the board, the process would be for them to contact the partnership coordinator in the first instance, who will brief them on requirements and the business/objectives of the partnership. A commitment to attending at least three out of the four meetings per year is required. Membership of the Board is reviewed every two years. The board is chaired by one of its members.

The Chair is responsible for:

- ensuring that board meetings are efficient and effective, liaising with the partnership coordinator.
- acting as a spokesperson and/or figurehead for the board and representing the partnership.
- delegating authority, as appropriate, to other members of the board or wider partnership.
- ensuring communications between the board and the wider sector in the county
- working with the rest of the board to find a successor.

Board meetings and decision-making – the board’s role will be to feedback on and to lend wider buy-in to proposals developed by the working groups taking forward key areas of work. Should agreement be needed within a short timeframe, feedback and buy-in will be sought by email.

In addition to regular board meetings, the Chair will propose that groups are convened to take forward work on specific topics or projects. In each instance, the group leader will report into the board.

Ways of working

Advocacy - Culture Durham is the voice of advocacy locally, regionally and nationally, for the arts, culture and heritage sector in the county relating to its role in:

- Reach – support growing engagement with Durham’s cultural offer geographically and socio-economically
- Health and wellbeing – champion the role of Culture in creating a healthy County and communities
- Young People - work with cultural providers, educators, schools and other organisations to support young people’s access to and engagement with the rich cultural offer in the County
- Economic regeneration – promoting the role of the cultural sector in developing a vibrant economy in County Durham.

Sector development - Culture Durham will work to ensure arts, creative industries, and heritage practitioners have access to the training and support they need to thrive and grow.

Insight - Culture Durham will support the sector with insight and information. *This will include identifying what is needed, where it may already be available, any gaps that need to be filled, how they can be filled and providing links to the information in support of the wider sector.*

Networking - Culture Durham will develop and promote networking opportunities for creative and heritage practitioners. *This will be through an annual gathering, partner organisations openings, and launches and promoting other appropriate sector networks.*