



The Arts Alliance is the leading national network supporting arts in criminal justice. Our aim is to **ensure arts are used within the Criminal Justice System as a springboard for positive change**. Despite the current unprecedented level of policy change happening across the Criminal Justice System at the moment, arts organisations have shown resilience and innovation.

Over 520 Arts Alliance members have developed creative interventions to support people in prison, on probation and in the community with impressive results. The Arts Alliance aims to support this transformative work by providing a network and a voice for all the talented and creative people who are committed to making great art with offenders.

Arts Alliance Annual Review 2013/14

OUR WORK

A summary of our work, and highlights from members

THE ARTS ALLIANCE

DEVELOPS RESEARCH ON THE IMPACT OF ARTS IN REDUCING REOFFENDING



IN 2013/14
we supported our
520 members
to deliver innovative arts activities
to over
40,000 offenders

GOOD VIBRATIONS
The Gamelan in prisons charity marked their 10 year anniversary with *'Sharing Good Vibrations'* a four day event held at the Southbank Centre, attracting over **200 attendees** and hosting nearly **60 workshops**.

In November 2013 we published **'RE-IMAGINING FUTURES'** which explores how arts interventions enable desistance from crime.

It looks at how music, creative writing and craft bring about **transformations in behaviour** and found that **"arts projects can have a positive impact on how people manage themselves during their sentence, particularly on their ability to cooperate with others"**.

OUR RESEARCH HAS A DIVERSE IMPACT

"The Arts Alliance is crucial for arts organisations working in criminal justice settings, not only does it provide essential evidence that demonstrates that what we do works, but it takes this evidence to policy makers in the right place.**"**
- Steering Group member

In March 2014 the Institute of Education evaluated *Write to be Heard*, a prison-wide creative writing programme which enabled:

- 28** creative writing workshops & masterclasses to be delivered across the prison estate
- 249** prisoners to participate in art workshops
- 11** new writers to be recruited and working in prison
- 18** new *Write to be Heard* shows to be produced and broadcast on National Prison Radio
- 44** prisoners to attend and contribute to the celebration of radio shows

OVER 80% of prison staff involved in *Write to be Heard* strongly endorsed the value of having more arts events, particularly the workshops.

We shared the impact of arts projects via our online **EVIDENCE LIBRARY** which hosts over **80 evaluations** and won a **Royal Society Public Health award** in September 2013 for its contribution to research in arts and health.

"It made me think more about what I want to achieve out of my life and gave me more determination to do so, as I spoke openly about myself.**"**
- Prisoner learner

THE ARTS ALLIANCE

CONTINUES TO RAISE THE PROFILE OF ARTS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SETTINGS

SECOND SHOT successfully received Grants for the Arts funding from Arts Council England for their first 12-month full-time training post for an ex-offender as a Theatre Facilitator.

OPEN CINEMA made a participatory film at HMP Cardiff about the gardening project and the range of skills development programmes available there.

Arts Alliance membership has **increased by over 40%**

★ **1200** people are subscribed to the Arts Alliance e-bulletin

★ Arts Alliance now has **900 Twitter followers**

★ The Arts Alliance website had **over 15,000 visits in 2013**

Arts Alliance featured in the **GUARDIAN PROFESSIONAL CULTURAL NETWORK, ARTS PROFESSIONAL & various criminal justice journals**

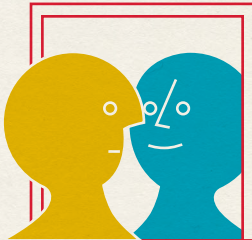
Prisoners Education Trust were delighted to learn from the Ministry of Justice's data lab that their grants **REDUCED REOFFENDING BY 7 PERCENTAGE POINTS** or over a quarter compared to the matched group. Most encouragingly, grants made for arts materials had positive results, a rate of **27% compared with 34%**

THE ARTS ALLIANCE:

CONTINUES TO INFLUENCE NATIONAL POLICY ON ARTS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

We have been working hard to **present evidence of the impact of creativity** on offending behaviour to the right people. This year we've expanded links with representatives from the **Ministry of Justice, National Offender Management Services, The Arts Council England, the Youth Justice Board** and the **Department of Business Innovation and Skills**.

The **National Offender Management Services (NOMS)** also carried out a piece of research into the impact of arts projects on intermediate outcomes and found that arts can contribute to the education of prisoners by 'helping to foster a new way of seeing oneself and others'.
(November 2013)



Jeremy Wright MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Minister for Prisons and Rehabilitation, attended our event on offender learning at the Southbank Centre. He stated:

“ I am grateful for the work of the Arts Alliance members in providing access to broader learning opportunities for prisoners. Purposeful activity in prisons teaches new skills, builds self-esteem and raises confidence. This can help offenders break the depressing cycle of re-offending and contributes to the reforms we are making in prisons and rehabilitation. ”

We contributed towards relevant government consultations and policy briefings, feeding in members' concerns, and we contributed to the Prisoner Learning Alliance.



The Koestler Trust received **7,376** entries into their annual awards for offenders, detainees and secure patients, attracting over 20,000 visitors to exhibitions at leading art venues including - Southbank Centre, Baltic and Tramway.

GEESE THEATRE COMPANY

worked at Arnold Lodge, a medium secure hospital in Leicester, delivering workshops with patients.



“ Watching quiet patients come alive and expressing themselves in such a positive and imaginative way, when ordinarily they find it difficult to articulate their feelings, struck a chord with us! Hopefully see you both back here soon! ”

Michelle Jackson, Staff Member, Arnold Lodge

THE ARTS ALLIANCE:

CONTINUES TO BUILD A COMMUNITY OF GOOD PRACTICE

We worked in partnership with Bath Spa, De Montfort and Northumbria Universities to deliver a series of seminars funded by ESRC on the impact of arts on offenders.

The Arts Alliance ran **10 membership engagement events for 255 participants**

80%
rated the events as good or excellent

Delegates said:

“ I really enjoyed the day and found it really helpful (I actually managed to get some work from the day). ”

“ I came away feeling a real sense of what motivates and underpins the collaborative practice between the arts and criminal justice. ”

We piloted a professional mentoring scheme and matched **8 new artists** with established practitioners.

One mentee said:

“ The input was invaluable and I'm so grateful to have such an energetic, supportive and insightful mentor! As a result I am about to start volunteering at the art class in Wormwood Scrubs. ”

CLEAN BREAK produced and toured seven shows to theatres, prisons and community settings. They worked with 149 women through an onsite education programme, and made 70 outreach visits reaching 400 women. Two Clean Break graduates starred this year in the Donmar Warehouse's production of Julius Caesar, one of whom transferred with the cast to St Ann's Warehouse in New York.

ODD THEATRE gets a special recommendation from RSPH for their work with Red Bank Community Home for young offenders.

“ I think the Arts Alliance is an incredibly useful resource - thanks to all the staff and volunteers that make it happen! ”
- Arts Alliance Member



The Arts Alliance has supported its members to set up new projects, gain work and make new connections.

“ What the Arts Alliance is doing is just incredible - they are not only a fantastic resource for arts charities, they bring us all together and in doing so make us stronger as a community. I'm not sure we would still be going if it wasn't for the support we've received from this much needed organisation. ”
- Arts Alliance Member

