



## OUR FAIR ACCESS GUIDELINES & PROCEDURE

As an arts organisation working with people living with or affected by dementia, we celebrate dementia culture and take a person-centred approach to ensure we meet each individuals' access needs, unlocking potential and creating an environment where we can all thrive.

As a charity, what we are able to offer is dictated by the funding landscape, and whilst we are ambitious, rigorous and successful fundraisers, with an estimated 100,000 people living with or affected directly by dementia in Kent and Medway the need for a place in our programme often outstrips the capacity we have.

This procedure outlines the factors that our team considers in making decisions as to who will be accepted onto a particular programme.

### Need

- Our sessions are for people living with dementia and supporters. We know that many people with memory problems and dementia are undiagnosed. (The Kent and Medway diagnosis rate of 59.3% is below NHS England guidelines, which say that 66.7% of people with dementia should receive a diagnosis).
- Isolation and loneliness affects many people with dementia and supporters. If you are particularly isolated (e.g. live alone, unable to leave home, lack of transport, etc.) we will try to prioritise you for an appropriate offer.
- We will work to ensure that underserved groups get access to our programme - this might be because you live somewhere with limited access to activities, or because people like you are underrepresented in our programme e.g. we want to work with more people from the Global Majority and people who identify as LGBTQ.
- A change of skills, or condition might mean you now need extra support.
- An immediate crisis, or particular need such as a carer with deteriorating mental health, or for someone coming towards the end of

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life, could mean you need bespoke extra support now.

- We will consider to what degree you are already served by us or other services/organisations.

### **Suitability**

- Whether you will be comfortable in the situation on offer, e.g. some people do better in group situations and others 1-1.
- Whether you can attend sessions regularly, if not, it might not be the right thing for you, or not at this time.
- Whether your support needs can be met within our programme - we do not offer personal care and if your needs might make it difficult for others to feel settled then we would aim to offer you an alternative.
- Whether there is evidence from previous contact with you that the particular offer under consideration will have a positive impact.
- Whether the offer under consideration is the right one for you to thrive within our disability positive, strengths based approach. If not, we would rather offer you something else that will enable you to flourish.
- We are understanding and tolerant of disinhibited behaviour but have to balance this with the rights of others e.g. we are an anti-racist organisation; women must not be sexually harassed.
- We are unable to offer transport to and from activities in most circumstances, but can signpost you to community transport schemes.
- Supporters are very welcome at our sessions. Everyone in the session is regarded as an equal contributor, so we need your full attention. If you would prefer not to join in, then this isn't the right thing for you. As long as the person you support does not need personal care during our session and they are content for you to leave them in our care then you could use the opportunity for a short break.

