

Adele Dunn, Senior Health Improvement, Health and Social Care Public Health Agency.

ADELE DUNN is a graduate of Psychology from Queen's University of Belfast and has worked within the Health Improvement Division of the Public Health Agency NI for almost 10 years and now holds the role of Senior Health Improvement Officer based within the Western Trust area, previously having a community development background project managing a community health initiative. Currently Adele works as part of a regional team looking at the area of Older People across all health themes and including the commissioning of regional arts programmes.

'Building Cross Sector Partnerships for Sustainable Arts Programmes'

Good afternoon everyone. My name is Adele Dunn, and I am a Senior Health Improvement Officer within the Public Health Agency (PHA) in the Health Improvement Division. I have responsibility for older people across all health themes. We also commission two arts and older people regional programmes. The first one of these programmes is with the Arts Council for Northern Ireland. It is the [Arts and Older People's Programme](#). It is in partnership with the Baring Foundation and is a small grants programme. The second commission is with Arts Care. This is a regional older people's arts festival, [Here and Now](#), and runs across Northern Ireland.

With PHA we are currently gauging the impact of COVID19, as we all are, and that is especially in our ageing population. As data becomes available, we will be able to evidence that and put our commissions in place. Within the context of older people, we will especially be looking at loneliness, social isolation and at frailty.

We are currently working with the Institute of Public Health on an evidence review on utilising arts and creativity in later life, and the impact that has on health and social wellbeing. This will not be a condition-specific review, but it will form the evidence that will begin the process within the PHA of re-evaluating and looking at arts and older people moving forward post-COVID. We are liaising across the healthcare family initially, across our colleagues on the Health and Social Care Board and within the trusts to ensure that arts and older people is within our recovery plan.

PHA also commission age-friendly officers. By the end of this year, we will have an age friendly officer in each of the eleven councils within Northern Ireland. Again, that is another outlet for older people where arts programmes are run specifically and tailored to meet the needs of older people. Again, it will be useful to see the outcome of this

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conference to duplicating and rolling out some additional programmes based on our learning. I apologise I can't be with you today live, but I will look forward to seeing the conference in full. If any of you feel it would be of benefit to contact me so that we can work together in anything, please feel free to contact me.

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CHAIR: Thank you very much to Adele I think in all this work, what we have seen over the last two years, is that it has spread because we have connected and had new conversations with people. So, I would really encourage you to take up the offer from Adele to make contact.