

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru / National Assembly for Wales
Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chyfathrebu / The Culture, Welsh Language and
Communications Committee
Independent Review of Support for Publishing and Literature in Wales
Ymateb gan Sarah Goodey / Evidence from Sarah Goodey, Arts Development
Manager, Gwent Arts in Health.

I am writing in support of the upcoming plans for Literature Wales Community Participation projects. Gwent Arts in Health have benefited greatly from the partnership work that we have undertaken in the past together and I am encouraged by the directions that Literature Wales are considering.

Previously, Literature Wales South Wales Literature Development Initiative has provided valuable support in terms of funding and expertise in identifying poets and writers who are best equipped to work on our partner project Healing Words. In 2016, the project delivered tailor-made creative writing and visual arts sessions for the Torfean-based group Wednesday Warriors. The young men who have severe learning disabilities and other challenges thoroughly enjoyed the outdoor experience and there were many positive outcomes from this project which featured in a joint presentation at the Storytelling for Health Conference, Swansea, June 2017.

Literature Wales continue to deliver a high standard of outreach and active participation in their projects ensuring a quality experience for their participants. I would strongly support the development of this project and its associated activities. There is a need and a demand for this initiative especially as it aims to address mental health and employment in communities in Wales where there is a growing need for support in these areas, and by using and supporting the written and spoken word, participants in such projects can hope to gain in confidence and self esteem.

Gwent Arts in Health would like to continue to work with LW and would be able to contribute in kind support of expertise in the art, health and wellbeing field, and in the administration of shared projects. Gwent Arts in Health have previously worked in partnership with LW raising funds locally to deliver the Healing Words project in Newport and Torfaen and would wish to continue and expand to other LAs if possible.