



The

Dance

Network Association

# Annual Report

2018/19



The Dance Network Association is passionate about offering a wealth of dance participation and education to local communities in Essex and its neighbouring counties

Our mission is to raise the profile of dance in Essex and further afield. We seek to do this through the provision of affordable high-quality dance delivery for local communities, individuals, schools and young people more generally.

We seek to:

- increase the opportunities available for everyone in the community to engage in dance
- encourage happy and healthy lifestyles through dance activity by promoting self-esteem, confidence, mobility and general fitness
- widen aspirations by providing both performance opportunities and the opportunity to be part of a community audience
- enhance the quality of dance provision across the county by offering support in schools and through professional development programmes and qualifications
- build a coherent and progressive dance future for Essex and its neighbouring counties
- (above all) have fun dancing!

Website: [www.dancenetworkassociation.org.uk](http://www.dancenetworkassociation.org.uk)

Office Number: 07490 37 47 17

Instagram and Facebook: /thedancenetworkassociation

Twitter: DanceNetEssex

Address: The Dance Network Association c/o The Mercury Theatre, Balcerne Gate, Colchester CO1 1PT

Directors:

Gemma Wright Artistic Director

Lyann Kennedy Director of Communications and Finance

Paul Convelly Director

# A Year In Review

## From Gemma Wright, Artistic Director



The Dance Network Association had some great successes this year including being nominated for the One Dance UK People's Choice Award and being awarded Arts Council funding as a solo organisation. We were also effective in securing other strategic grants which will benefit the recipients of our services and means the organisation is continuing to build relationships with new partners across Essex and beyond.

We delivered some really exciting new projects which we will be reporting on at our next annual conference including ConfiDance, a Youth Mental Health programme including the Arts Awards; our collaboration with portraiture artist Hannah Garnham: Dancing Portraits; Intergen, our new class bringing together people from all walks of life and generations; and finally we paid our homage to the centenary of World War 1 in our Great War Centenary mass dance project.

Our new relationship with Brentwood Borough Council has added a new stream of older adult work to our programme and will further increase our Dance for Health portfolio.

Next year presents many opportunities to fulfil the need for dance from participants, artists, schools and more.

### Programmes in 2018/19 have included

#### Dance For Health:

Dancing with Parkinson's  
RE:Generation (Dance for over 50 years of age)  
Intergen (a class bringing together people of all generations to connect and move together)  
Active Families (Dance with families and children under 5 years of age)  
Active Start

#### Youth Dance Provision:

Youth Dance Company 'Dance Station'  
ConfiDance (13 – 19 year old schools provision)  
Step into Dance programme (After school provision for 11 – 19 year olds)

**Dance Teachers Network:** Learn, Share, MOVE!

**Performance Platforms:** Spring Blast including the Dancing Portraits exhibition  
Learn, Share, MOVE! Festival

**1 Day 1 Dance 1000 Dancers**

**Bespoke Programmes**

**Teaching and work experience**

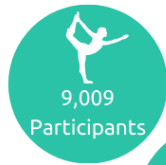
# The Year in Numbers



## Reached



27,499  
people across  
Essex and  
Barking &  
Dagenham



## Online engagement



761 likes  
780 followers



610 followers



807 likes  
507 followers

Total Reach across all  
programmes & online

29,396

## Generated income & funding



£84,357.23  
Funding & Grants



£24,813.48  
Income from fees, ticket sales and  
merchandise



£4,300  
In kind

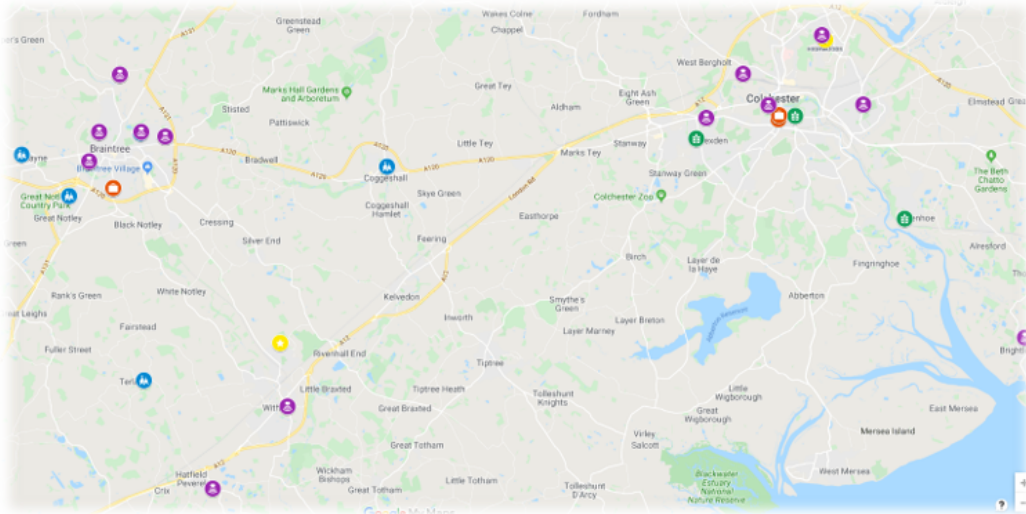
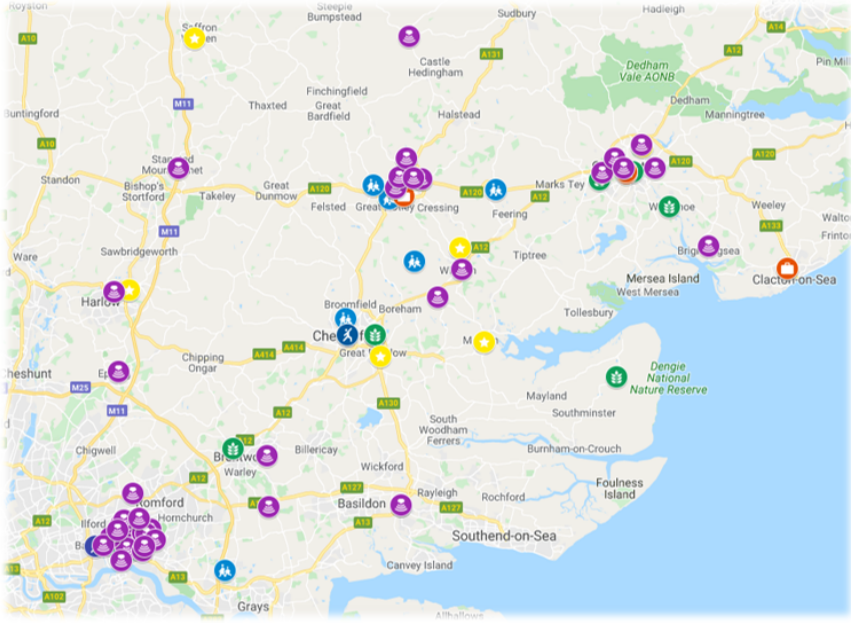




# Dance Network Association Reach

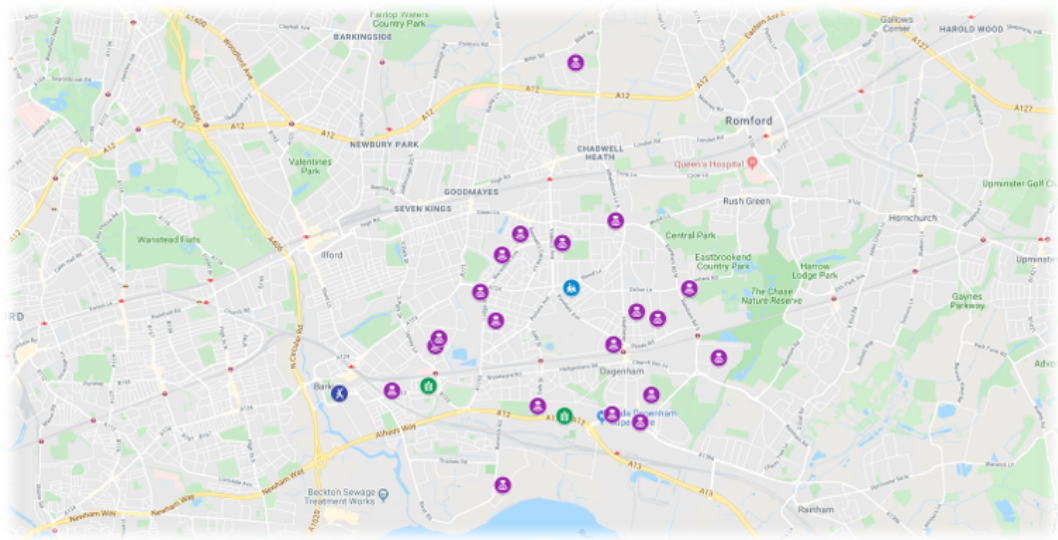
- Bespoke Programmes
- Dance For Health
- Performance Platforms
- Youth Dance Provision
- Dance Teachers Network
- 1 Day 1 Dance 1000 Dancers

## Essex and Barking & Dagenham



## Essex

## Barking & Dagenham



# 2018/19 Highlights

We were nominated for a [One Dance UK Award](#) in the People's Choice Award.

For the first time, we were awarded [Arts Council Funding](#) as a standalone organisation.

[1 Day 1 Dance 1000 Dancers](#) (previously Keeping Dance Alive) mass participation choreography programme reached 18,280 participants through direct and indirect delivery within Essex and Barking and Dagenham. This year's programme entitled 'World Cup Fever', highlighted the major sporting events taking place in 2019. See the videos of the events [here](#).

Dancers were given the opportunity to perform at one of the [Cricket World Cup matches between England and the West Indies](#). They were also given free tickets to stay and watch the match that England went on to win. Many of the performers would not have had the opportunity to attend such a large-scale sports event and it was a fantastic opportunity for them.

The County Youth Dance Company 'Dance Station' were selected to take part in the [U.Dance Regional Platform](#) hosted at DanceEast in Ipswich. U.Dance is a national programme by One Dance UK which seeks to increase the number of performances involving young people and support those who organise them.

Earlier in the same year we also paid homage to The Great War during remembrance week; commemorating 100 years since the end of World War 1. We hosted a week of events in the lead up to remembrance Sunday starting with a full day schools festival, a flash mob in Barking Town Centre, we worked with Epping Forest and performed at the Museum with RE:Generation our older adult dancers and finished the week with mass performances at the Castle in Colchester. View the schools festival day [here](#).

April – July 2019: Launched [ConfIDance](#) at St John Payne Catholic School, Chelmsford. Through street dance and participants working towards their Bronze Arts Award, the programme positively impacted the participants self esteem and body image perceptions, building confidence and self-worth.

ConfIDance pilot project evaluation report written by Elsa Urmston Dance Science Researcher can be found here. [here](#).

[Dancing Portraits](#) a celebration of 6 years of The Dance Network Association's RE:Generation group. Local Portrait Artist Hannah Garnham observed and spoke to the participants from the group to create a sketchbook documenting her process, and three large-scale layered portraits on panel which were displayed at the Civic Theatre in Chelmsford alongside the Spring Blast Annual Showcase. The project was a celebration of age, highlighting the future of the group and the benefits that dance has brought them.

# Testimonials

## 1 Day 1 Dance 1000 Dancers

The content of the world cup fever programme (performance, resource pack, music) was fantastic and, in my opinion, an incredible offer for groups involved! Something fresh and new, and a great opportunity to perform at venues that groups may have never been to, let alone on the pitch.

### **Project Partner**

Great experience for all involved. Wouldn't have missed it for the world, seeing my sons face all lit up with huge smiles enjoying every minute of it. Thank you!

### **Participant Parent**

I thought it was amazing I want to dance every day. If the school let us I will do it every day.

### **Participant**

## North Meets South Big Local

This has been amazing for our community - it has brought children together to produce something positive. Something I would happily pay for them to attend.

### **Participant Parent**

## Dancing Portraits

On the evening we were very impressed by the wonderful portraits that Hannah had created... we were almost as impressed as the subjects themselves! ...such imaginative and extraordinary paintings ... a truly splendid evening.

### **Cllr John Aldridge (member for Broomfield & Writtle)**

## Funders & Supporters

[The Dance Network Association] do an excellent job in providing access to arts and culture for communities that are less likely to ordinarily engage, such as older people and people with specific health needs such as Parkinson's and Dementia.

Within a region that has relatively few specialist dance providers, and even fewer with the range of expertise that the Dance Network Association offers, we are keen to work together to continue to allow them to reach communities across the county and give them access to quality participatory provision.

### **Lucy Bayliss, Head of Creative Programmes, DanceEast**

From what I have seen and experience at first hand, the DNA's RE:Generation project is transformative for participants and audiences alike. It addresses the issue of social isolation, allows freedom of self-expression, encourages creativity and boosts physical and mental health. I cannot think of a project more deserving of support.

### **Cllr Rose Moore, Chelmsford City Council**

One Dance UK recognises the quality and range of work offered by The Dance Network Association to residents of Essex and beyond. We believe passionately that Dance has a significant part to play in improving the health and wellbeing of the population.

### **Laura Nicholson, Head of Children & Young People's Dance, One Dance UK**

# Support

To deliver these programmes we have been supported by



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



Creating homes  
shaping places



We have received in kind support from



We are forever grateful to the Mercury Theatre who provide us with our home



Additionally, we have provided services to local schools and received donations from participants and local residents and additional donations through the Essex lottery