Cheshire Dance | BOARD INFORMATION PACK

# WHO ARE WE?

Cheshire Dance is a registered Charity, founded in 1976 and based at Winsford Library in the heart of Cheshire. Our core mission is to **offer everyone – regardless of age, background, ability/disability – access to dance and the chance to benefit from its transformative power**.

We are a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England and embrace their Let’s Create strategy, Outcomes and Investment Principles. We receive significant investment from Cheshire West and Chester Council and work collaboratively with many partner organisations across the public, arts, Culture, Health, Education and voluntary sectors.

# WHAT DO WE DO?

Cheshire Dance is a specialist in **participatory community practice**. Some 97% of its engagement programme seeks to address the systemic issues around **inequalities of opportunity and health** and focuses on those who identify themselves through protected characteristics. We are a nationwide specialist in developing artists who work within these under-represented communities and are particularly proud of our recent work with those with Profound Intellectual and Multiple Disabilities (PIMD) as well as in Social Prescribing.

At a time when dance-centred education policy is moving backwards, we are successfully bucking the trend in working with schools and head teachers in informal and formal contexts.

We value working in partnership with others and actively seek collaborations with Global Majority led organisations with the intention of forming mutually supportive, long-term relationships.

Cheshire Dance is the producer of Now Northwich (3rd May 2025), an annual Dance and Street Arts Festival

# THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

Cheshire Dance continues its long-standing relationship with Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation as well as a key service provider for the Local Authority.

While we all face a tough economic climate, Cheshire Dance is an agile organisation whose plans remain ambitious and core costs under control. You will be joining us at an opportune time where your voice could really make a difference.

# HOW YOU CAN HELP US AS A MEMBER OF OUR BOARD

An outward-facing organisation, Cheshire Dance looks to include more diverse voices and lived experiences represented through its Board and welcome those with a different skillset and/or from a diverse background to enrich and expand our pool of creative and organisational knowledge.

We are seeking people with broad experience (not necessarily with Board experience) from ALL walks of life to join the Board. This includes those who identify themselves through protected characteristics, disabled people (including hidden disabilities or neurodiversity such as autism and dyslexia), people who are Black or from the Global Majority, LGBTQIA+ and Young People aged under 25 and others living in Low Income neighbourhoods as well as artists.

Cheshire Dance values lively discourse and strong views as a way of navigating a new way forward. With this in mind, you need not be afraid to challenge both Management and fellow Board members. As a person, you should be passionate about our work in underrepresented communities and be a strong advocate of our mission to ensure everyone has access to dance. Externally, you will champion our reputation and articulate our value and relevance.

# ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As a Board member of Cheshire Dance, you will be expected to:

* Provide strategic direction and contribute to resolving and crystalising the strategic direction of Cheshire Dance, setting overall policy, defining and monitoring objectives, and evaluating performance.
* Ensure effective governance, complying with the legal requirements of running a charity, including collectively reviewing and managing the accounts, and ensuring due process is carried out.
* Safeguard the organisation's values and ensure Cheshire Dance applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its charitable objects.
* Maintain financial stability of Cheshire Dance.
* Appoint and monitor the performance of future Directors.
* Act as a trustee, holding Cheshire Dance ‘in trust’ for current and future beneficiaries.
* Prepare for and attend x4 two-hour hybrid Board meetings and periodic Board Committee meetings (current ‘People and Policy’, ‘Artistic Programme’ and ‘Finance and Development’) to discuss more specific subjects, usually lasting no more than ninety minutes.
* Review Board materials including reports, minutes and creative schematics prior to Board meetings.
* Champion Cheshire Dance, externally advocating for its reputation, value, and relevance, and internally challenging management and fellow Board members constructively.
* Have an enthusiasm for the work of Cheshire Dance and the time and commitment to carry out the duties of a Board member.

For more general information, consult the Charity Commission’s ‘The Essential Trustee’.

# DESIRED CAPABILITIES

The Board Capability Framework identifies key areas where board members can provide valuable guidance and support. Based on recent survey results and the strategic needs of Cheshire Dance, we are especially keen to hear from people with expertise in:

* **Sustainable Funding Strategies:** Guidance on developing robust funding models.
* **Audience Development:** Fresh perspectives on identifying and engaging new audiences.
* **Technology for Efficiency:** Insights on using technology like AI to improve operations.
* **Basic IT Needs:** Advice on assessing and addressing basic IT needs.
* **Fundraising Viability:** Experience in evaluating different fundraising approaches.

In addition to the above capabilities, Cheshire Dance is also interested in hearing from individuals with the following experience:

* Senior-level experience working for arts charities.
* Links to organisations that could partner with Cheshire Dance.
* Fundraising.
* Communications.
* Experience of developing a cultural arts strategy.

# WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

We offer the chance to give back to your community in this voluntary role, to hone and share your leadership skills through collaboration to develop a strategy that will take the Charity forward, enabling more people to benefit from the transformative power of dance.

You will bring to the table your own views and experience, which you will use generously to enrich and expand our pool of creative and organisational knowledge.

In return, you will gain a wealth of transferrable personal and professional skills that will empower and enrich and have the opportunity to extend your network in the creative, cultural, public, voluntary, education and health sectors.

As a Board and Team, we are a supportive and collaborative group of people who embrace new ideas and challenges and are open to constructive criticism and big-picture thinking. We respect one another and value generosity, honesty and a sense of humour.

To be a Board member, it is not vital that you have active experience in the dance world, but you will share the passion for our purpose.

# HOW TO APPLY

Deadline: **Open**

If you are as excited, committed and driven as we are; value collaboration and have a founding desire to improve people’s lives through their experience of dance, please submit your Expression of Interest.

To apply to join our Board, please submit your Expression of Interest with responses to the following questions:

* Why would you like to join Cheshire Dance as a Trustee?
* What do you feel you’ll bring to the board of Cheshire Dance in terms of skills, experience, perspectives, knowledge or other? Please include any experience you have of working with Arts Council England, Local Authorities, in Education and / or Health sectors?

Expressions of Interest should be sent to: [adam@cheshiredance.org](mailto:adam@cheshiredance.org)

Once your Expression of Interest has been reviewed by the panel, you’ll be contacted, potentially to attend an interview.

# QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions or would like an informal chat with our Director, Adam Holloway, before submitting your expression of interest, please call 01606 861 770 or email: [adam@cheshiredance.org](mailto:adam@cheshiredance.org).