



APRIL 2022

Press Release

**NATIONAL DAY OF ARTS IN CARE HOMES  
#AICH2022  
SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2022**

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NATIONAL DAY OF**



29th April 2022

The National Activity Providers Association (NAPA) is delighted to launch this year's National Day of Arts in Care Homes #AICH2022. An annual event which takes place on 24 September each year, it is an opportunity for all of us in the care sector to celebrate the inspiring work using the arts and creativity to support health and wellbeing in care settings.

Care providers and their partners including arts and cultural organisations, will be joining in by organising an event on the day, and sharing pictures and stories about their event or arts activities they have delivered during 2022.

This year we want to take the opportunity to help widen the conversation beyond the UK, so we are inviting care settings and people with an interest in creative ageing in countries around the world to join our celebrations. We hope to be able to share stories and exchange experiences about the health and wellbeing benefits of arts for those receiving care provision, staff teams, relatives and friends, and help create a global network.

***“Arts and Aging Day Canada is an exciting opportunity to highlight how participation in the arts and engaging in creative activities can help us maximize our health and well-being as we age. Through Arts and Aging Day Canada, we can reach older adults and their friends, family members and care partners living in the community and in retirement and long-term care homes all across the country.”***

**Dr Kate Dupuis, The Sheridan Centre for Elder Research, Ontario, Canada - founder of Arts & Aging Canada which was inspired by the UK National Day of Arts in Care Homes**

## Care Home Twinning

We will launch our Care Home Twinning project on the day, to connect care settings in the UK to share their lived experience and work on creative projects together. We are inviting staff teams and artists to jointly develop creative resources and discuss ways of overcoming current barriers to bring more arts engagement into care settings. In the run-up, we are twinning care settings with partners in Canada, France and Mexico to work on arts projects and they will be sharing their work on the day. The Care Home Twinning Project has been developed in response to our **Arts in Every Care Home consultation** with the care sector (2021). The Baring Foundation, who commissioned and funded the consultation, will be sharing their response to the consultation this year. Their report will consider how the arts and care sectors can work better together to deliver personalised access to culture and creativity for all care home residents.

### Help us create a field of flowers

#### #FIELDOFFLOWERS

NAPA and **Drawing Life** invite you to help us to link up with partners across the world by creating an international #FieldofFlowers. Have fun in your care settings making drawings, paintings, photographs or 3D models of flowers and share pictures online using #AICH2022 #FieldofFlowers. Our lead image is a sunflower, which is also the national flower of the Ukraine, but you are welcome to share images of any type of flowers real or made up. Let's work together to plant a #FieldofFlowers to blossom on 24 September.



### Let's be creative together

NAPA is delighted to partner with leading arts organisations specialising in creating meaningful arts engagement for people living with dementia to deliver free online participatory events. Join sessions led by organisations including Forget-me-not Chorus and The Blair Academy and help us kick-off the celebrations during the week commencing 19 September, together.

For over 10 years, Forget-me-not Chorus has been organising joy-filled singing sessions for people with all forms of dementia, as well as the families, friends and professional staff looking after them. Today, over 1000 people – from millennials to centenarians – participate in their [SO4] singing sessions every week.

*"Forget-me-not Chorus are delighted to join the NAPA Arts in Care Homes Day to celebrate the work of carers across the nation and internationally. As a charity who reaches people from Wales to New Zealand, we can't wait to bring some joy to all who will take part in this special day." Kate Woolveridge, Artistic Director Forget-me-not Chorus*



The Blair Academy works with care homes, day centres, hostels and schools, helping people boost their health and happiness through hip-hop dance. CEO Charlie Blair developed a programme drawing from personal experiences as a hip-hop dancer, homeless teen and carer for older people, testing ideas with her Nanny Doreen in the living room and speaking to care homes in her local area.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

To organise and share an event on the day:

- Read our **Get Involved pack** for ideas
- Plan your event
- **Register your event** on our website
- Join in our online events during the week of 19 September – see the **NAPA Eventbrite page**
- Share pictures and information with us on 24 September on Twitter **@Artsincarehomes** using the hashtag **#AICH2022**
- Take part in **#FieldofFlowers** by sharing images of flowers you have made on social media

### About Arts in Care Homes:

Arts in Care Homes and the National Day of Arts in Care Homes is an initiative by NAPA and funded for five years by The Baring Foundation and The Rayne Foundation. Now in its fourth year, it acts as a central hub for delivery of arts and creative activities in care homes with sector research, user friendly resources and 'How To' guides for care staff.

[www.artsincarehomes.org.uk](http://www.artsincarehomes.org.uk)

**NAPA** is a membership organisation and charity, it is a leader in field promoting the importance of meaningful activities in care homes and the need for training and support for care staff. [www.napa-activities.co.uk](http://www.napa-activities.co.uk)

**Baring Foundation** – From 2010-2019 the Baring Foundation's Arts programme focused on supporting participatory arts with people over the age of 60, including people living in care homes. The Foundation continues to support Arts in Care Homes Day. [www.baringfoundation.org.uk](http://www.baringfoundation.org.uk)

**The Rayne Foundation** – Addresses entrenched social issues through the arts, health, wellbeing, and education. [www.raynefoundation.org.uk](http://www.raynefoundation.org.uk)

*"We're supporting the NAPA International Day of Arts in Care Homes because we know the value of celebrating and incorporating the arts in care home activity planning. We've seen, first hand, the joy and sense of belonging that the Arts can bring. Time to eradicate fears and stereotypes and be creative in our approaches."*

**Charlie Blair, The Blair Academy**



### Tell us what you have been doing:

If you are not able to organise an event for the day, we would still love to hear about your cultural and creative activities delivered in or with care settings since last October 2021. Let us know what you have been doing on Twitter during the week of Monday 19 September using #AICH2022 or by email:

**[Alison@artsincarehomes.org.uk](mailto:Alison@artsincarehomes.org.uk)**