



The National Alliance for Arts in Criminal Justice – previously the Arts Alliance – is the leading national network supporting the arts in criminal justice. Our aim is to **ensure the arts are used within the Criminal Justice System as a springboard for positive change**. Despite the current unprecedented level of policy change happening across the Criminal Justice System, arts organisations continue to show resilience and innovation.

Nearly 700 National Alliance for Arts in Criminal Justice members continue to develop creative interventions to support people in prison, on probation and in the community, with impressive results. We support this transformative work by providing a network and a voice for all the talented and creative people who are committed to making great art with offenders.

National Alliance for Arts in Criminal Justice Annual Review, 2014-15

OUR WORK

A summary of our work, and highlights from members

THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR ARTS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CONDUCTS AND COMMISSIONS RESEARCH TO HIGHLIGHT THE IMPACT OF THE ARTS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM



Our membership has **increased by over 32% to 690**

It's a real sense of achievement often in a team, boosting self-esteem and forging friendships based on something other than drugs, crimes and gangs.
– Survey participant

GOOD VIBRATIONS

Dr Jennie Henley from the Institute of Education published a piece of research on the work of *Good Vibrations*; an organisation helping those in the Criminal Justice System gain life and work skills through engaging in Gamelan music.

The research found that **participants reported lower anxiety and insomnia** during the project amongst other positive findings.

INSPIRING FUTURES

We are partnering with the Institute of Criminology at the University of Cambridge to develop *Inspiring Futures*, a large scale research and delivery programme, which will for the first time look at the impact of arts interventions on a large sample size of offenders, as well as exploring the impact on audiences and cultural value.

The project will involve the development of a commissioning framework, which will enable us to commission arts projects to deliver a range of activities across a range of art forms, coordinated by an overarching national research programme.

Inspiring Futures aims to bring about a step-change in both the credibility and the reach of arts projects within the Criminal Justice System. The activity will feed directly into our good practice community through the **development of online resources**, along with a **range of regional learning events and opportunities**. This will in turn feed into our policy influencing channels, ensuring what works on the ground is converted into lasting policy change.

“ I feel that without the art programme I wouldn't have survived this first year in prison. Partly because of the work, and also thanks to the tutors. ”
– Survey participant

“ Creative writing has made me a calmer more reflective person, whereas before I was more impulsive, which is part of the reason I got in trouble in the first place. ”
– Survey participant

“ Art is a great help for someone like me who has attempted suicide in prison, and I am a self-harmer at times. It relieves me of a lot of stress and is also a form of escapism. Much better than any drug. ”
– Survey participant

THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR ARTS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

ACTS AS A CONDUIT BETWEEN ITS MEMBERS AND LOCAL AND NATIONAL POLICY MAKERS

We continue to attend the Arts Forum; a tri-annual meeting chaired by the Ministry of Justice, where we provide a vital link between government, policy-makers and practitioners.

Prisoners' Education Trust celebrated its 25th anniversary and gave its 30,000th grant to prisoners for distance learning courses or arts and craft material.

“ Please keep on doing this good work – small organisations cannot shout at a high level. ”
– A National Alliance for Arts in Criminal Justice member

“ One small but important part of the 'total experience of imprisonment' is the arts activities available in prisons. These are, however, increasingly under pressure and too often seen as an expendable extra whose benefit is hard to 'measure.' The arts are a lifeline from despair for some prisoners, a gateway to improvement for others, and an antidote to both tedium and tension for many. ”
– Nick Hardwick, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons in his Annual Report 2013 - 2014.

CONTINUES TO RAISE THE PROFILE OF ARTS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SETTINGS



In 2014...

We changed our name from the Arts Alliance to the **National Alliance for Arts in Criminal Justice** to foster more of an understanding and to raise awareness of what it is that we do.

The Koestler Trust, one of our members, received a record

8,834 ENTRIES

to their annual Awards from over 300 different establishments including UK prisons, young offender institutions, secure training centres, secure children's homes, immigration removal centres, and high or medium security psychiatric hospitals.

★
WE NOW HAVE 690 MEMBERS

★
Our Twitter followers increased by **31%** to **1,440**

★
1,800 people subscribe to our monthly newsletter



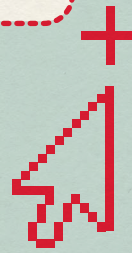
60% of our annual survey respondents said they were more aware of what we were doing during the **Arts Council England (ACE)** funded project compared to the period before this.



We set up a Facebook page for the National Alliance for Arts in Criminal Justice in September 2014, and so far have reached almost **2,000 people** with our posts.



Page views on our blog increased by **625%**



We completed an **ACE** funded project to create new learning opportunities and increase engagement through the development of our digital platforms, which contributed to a **64% increase** in people using our website

ENCOURAGES AND PROMOTES GOOD PRACTICE WITHIN THE SECTOR



We have matched a further **8 PROFESSIONAL MENTORING RELATIONSHIPS** so new and emerging artists can gain experience and knowledge in the field



We have been busy holding events to bring together officials from the **Ministry of Justice** and the **National Offender Management Service, Governors, Heads of Learning and Skills**, as well as the **HMPs Inspectorate team**, with inspirational artists and practitioners promoting innovative practice in arts in criminal justice settings to create long lasting relationships.

Overall, our events throughout the year attracted

284 participants

with the majority of attendees rating the events as **good or excellent**



GEESE THEATRE COMPANY has delivered its 10 week project **Forward at Anawim Women's Centre** in Birmingham three times.



“ Since I've been doing Geese my self-esteem has grown like I had never dreamed. It's a warm and happy lesson that I'm enjoying with a great group of ladies. I'm so happy I've had the chance to take part.

- Participant

Attending **National Alliance for Arts in Criminal Justice** events keeps us in touch with the latest developments in research and policy, and means we're part of a national strategic conversation, and that in turn was a key factor for us securing **National Portfolio Organisation** status and funding from Arts Council England for the first time.

- Event attendee

There were interesting presentations which gave me new ideas and raised my awareness of other work happening in the sector. I also met some useful contacts: other arts organisations, prison contacts, and researchers.

- Event attendee

