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Arts Portfolio Wales Survey 2017/18: Key Findings from 1st April 2017 to 30th September 2017.

Introduction

This report summarises the findings for the first half of the 2017/18 Arts Portfolio Wales Survey. The APW Survey is a bi-annual survey of all Arts Portfolio Wales funded clients who are required to complete the survey as part of their funding agreement. There are currently 67 clients in receipt of funding, however 66 clients completed the survey due to one organisation's extenuating circumstances.

The survey primarily collects data on the number of arts events delivered and attendances made to these activities.

Key results for the first half of the 2017/18 year: 1st April to 30th September 2017¹

(Please refer to Table 1 & 2 in Annex A)

During the six month period (1st April to 30th September 2017):

- Arts Portfolio Wales organisations delivered a total of 9,557 arts events during the six month period which generated attendances of 1.82 million.
- The events delivered during this time include 248 exhibitions of visual arts and craft, 5,972 film screenings, 1,580 performances by touring companies and 1,757 performances at presenting venues.
- The highest levels of attendances were made to exhibitions of visual arts and crafts which received 984,639 attendances. Performances at presenting venues attracted 401,750 attendances, 241,827 attendances were made to performances by touring companies and 190,579 were made to film screenings.
- 25,234 participatory arts sessions were delivered, with 388,089 attendances made to these workshops.
- Of the total participatory art sessions delivered, 15,130 were specifically for children and young people, while 10,104 were delivered as general participatory sessions. A total of 3,078 participatory arts sessions were specifically targeted at people in the Protected Characteristics groups.²
- There were 228,331 attendances made to participatory sessions targeted at children and young people, while general participatory activity sessions generated attendances of 159,758.
- Participatory sessions targeted at those in the Protected Characteristics groups resulted in attendances of 46,388.

¹ Please note Employment Data is only collected annually and will therefore only be included in the full year's report in October.

² Protected Characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, include disabled people, people from a BME background, children and young people, lesbian, gay or bisexual people, pregnant women and new mothers, people with specific religious beliefs and transgender people. The groups are not mutually exclusive and therefore people can be included in more than one group.

Comparisons with the same period for 2017/18 (1st April to 30th September 2017)

(Please refer to Table 3 & 4 in Annex A)

The following findings compare the data from the latest six month period against the same period in the previous year (1st April to 30th September 2016). While comparisons have been made between the two datasets, fluctuations in the data would be expected due to changes in organisations' programmes of activity as well as other influencing factors. These are referred to where relevant. The full 67 organisations provided data in 2016.

The comparisons between the two datasets show:

- In terms of events, there has been a -21.7% decrease in the number of events compared to the same reporting period for 2016/17, decreasing from 12,210 to 9,557.
- Overall attendances to events have increased by 6% compared to the previous year. The latest survey return shows arts events received attendances of 1.82 million, compared with 1.72 million in the previous year.
- Overall attendance to visual arts and craft exhibitions have increased by 35.1% (from 728,638 to 984,639). Attendances to performances at presenting venues have increased by 0.2% (from 401,138 to 401,750). Attendances to performances by touring companies have decreased by -32.9% (from 360,254 to 241,827).
- Overall participatory sessions in the arts have decreased by -16.6% from the same reporting period in the previous year, down from 30,268 to 25,234 sessions in the latest survey. Attendances to these sessions have decreased by -37.6% from 621,698 to 388,089.
- The number of General Participatory Activity Sessions not specifically targeted at Children and Young People have decreased by -24.0% when compared to the same period last year (13,301 to 10,104). Attendances to these sessions have experienced a decrease of -40.8% (from 269,818 to 159,758).
- Participatory sessions targeted at Children and Young People fell by -10.8% when compared to the same period last year (from 16,967 to 15,130) whilst attendances to these sessions decreased by -35.1% (from 351,880 to 228,331).

Frequency

This survey is conducted every 6 months.

Terms and Definitions

Participation is defined as active involvement in the arts, such as attending workshops, classes or rehearsals.

Attendance is defined as experiencing the arts as an audience member.

The number of **attendances** represents the total number of audience visits or the number of participations. That is they are not unique visits; an individual can attend or participate more than once.

A participatory **session** is defined as a half day or less.

General participatory activity sessions are available to all.

Protected Characteristics include the following groups of people: disabled people, people from a BME background, children and young people, lesbian, gay or bisexual people, pregnant women and new mothers, people with specific religious beliefs and transgender people as defined by the Equality Act 2010. The groups are not mutually exclusive and therefore people can be included in more than one group.

Presenting venues is a term used to include theatres, arts centres, concert halls or other spaces where arts performances are presented.

A **touring company** produces a show (drama, dance, music, etc.) for performance at a venue or a range of venues.

Children and young people are defined as those aged under 26 years.

Annex A

Table 1

Attendance	1 st April to 30 th September 2017	
	Events	Attendances
Exhibitions	248	984,639
Film Screenings	5,972	190,579
Performances by Touring Companies	1,580	241,827
Performances at Presenting Venues	1,757	401,750
Total Attendances	9,557	1,818,795

Source: ACW survey of Arts Portfolio Wales organisations

Base: 66 organisations

Table 2

Participation	1 st April to 30 th September 2017	
	Sessions	Attendances at Participatory events
Children & Young People	15,130	228,331
General Participatory Activity	10,104	159,758
Total Participation	25,234	388,089

Source: ACW survey of Arts Portfolio Wales organisations

Base: 66 organisations

Table 3

Attendance – Events targeted at people in the Protected Characteristics groups	1 st April to 30 th September 2017	
	Events	Attendances
Exhibitions	14	122,810
Film Screenings	2,190	73,483
Performances by Touring Companies	640	133,083
Performances at Presenting Venues	184	17,794
Total Attendances	3,028	347,170

Source: ACW survey of Arts Portfolio Wales organisations

Base: 66 organisations

Table 4

Participation – Sessions targeted at people in the Protected Characteristics groups	1 st April to 30 th September 2017	
	Sessions	Attendances at Participatory events
Children & Young People	1,125	17,606
General Participatory Activity	1,953	28,782
Total Participation	3,078	46,388

Source: ACW survey of Arts Portfolio Wales organisations

Base: 66 organisations

Table 5

Attendance	1 st April to 30 th September 2016		1 st April to 30 th September 2017		% Change	
	Events	Attendances	Events	Attendances	Events	Attendances
Exhibitions	242	728,638	248	984,639	2.5	35.1%
Film Screenings	7,729	226,198	5,972	190,579	-22.7	-15.7%
Performances by Touring Companies	1,288	360,254	1,580	241,827	22.7	-32.9%
Performances at Presenting Venues	2,951	401,138	1,757	401,750	-40.5	0.2%
Total Attendances	12,210	1,716,228	9,557	1,818,795	-21.7	6.0%

Source: ACW survey of Arts Portfolio Wales organisations

Base: 66 organisations

Table 6

Participation	1 st April to 30 th September 2016		1 st April to 30 th September 2017		% Change	
	Sessions	Attendances at Participatory events	Sessions	Attendances at Participatory events	Sessions	Attendances at Participatory events
Children & Young People	16,967	351,880	15,130	228,331	-10.8	-35.1%
General Participatory Activity	13,301	269,818	10,104	159,758	-24.0	-40.8%
Total Participation	30,268	621,698	25,234	388,089	-16.6	-37.6%

Source: ACW survey of Arts Portfolio Wales organisations

Base: 66 organisations

Further Information

If you have any comments or queries on this data release or if you would like to be added to our regular users list then please contact our Research Team research@arts.wales or go to our website: www.artscouncilofwales.org.uk

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Next Update

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