

FRONTLINE dance

PERFORMANCE. HEALTH. COMMUNITY.

PRESS RELEASE
22 OCTOBER 2019

North Staffordshire's groundbreaking project secures additional funding ahead of Government announcement that dancing is good for your health

Integrated dance specialists, [FRONTLINEdance](#), have recently received a huge boost to their work after being given a green light from the [Haywood Foundation](#) to continue delivering their valuable "in residence" programme at [Haywood Community Hospital NHS Trust Hospital](#), for a second consecutive year.

The decision to continue with this groundbreaking project comes ahead of the Government's pledge last week to fund more social activities, such as dance classes, in a bid to tackle loneliness and improve patient's wellbeing and quality of life.

Over the last year FRONTLINEdance's artistic director, Rachael Lines, has delivered more than 230 specialist dance and movement sessions on the wards at Haywood Hospital, engaging over 1000 patients - 82% of whom considered themselves to have a disability. Working alongside diversional therapists, physiotherapists and activity co-ordinators, Rachael has delivered group and one-to-one sessions with patients on the Stroke, Rheumatology, Parkinson's, Elderly Care and Neurology wards, as well as offering a free session at 2:30-3:30pm every Wednesday for the general public to have health related conditions, their family and friends.

The sessions, which hope to enhance recovery time, support rehabilitation, promote feelings of well-being, and provide a distraction to the patient's condition and the medical environment, have been so well received, and made such a positive impact, that the Haywood Foundation has not only extended the programme grant so that activities can continue into 2019, but that FRONTLINEdance can add a singer, songwriter and creative writer to the mix.

FRONTLINE's artistic director, Rachael Lines, commented *"I love working at the hospital and I get to see on a weekly basis just how this work improves the health and well-being of patients."*

She continued *"Through the use of specialist dance and movement facilitation, we are enhancing what the hospital already offers, supporting patient's recovery, rehabilitation and well-being. To be able to continue doing this in my home town well into 2019, with an additional artist offering new types of experiences and benefits too, is a fantastic endorsement to the work we do, believe in and are extremely excited by".*

In Residence at Haywood Hospital is funded by the [Haywood Foundation](#) who exist to support local people with arthritis and related conditions. FRONTLINEdance is currently funded by [Arts Council England 'Elevate' Fund](#) and the [Esmee Fairbairn Foundation](#).

-ENDS-

Image Caption

FRONTLINEdance's Artistic Director, Rachael Lines, with staff and patients at Haywood Hospital.

About FRONTLINEdance

FRONTLINEdance is an integrated (disabled and non-disabled) dance company based in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire which advocates for a more visible culturally diverse society by positively celebrating disability and older age. FRONTLINEdance aims to see equal access and progression routes into dance for disabled children and, young people compared to their non-disabled peers. FRONTLINEdance want emerging and established disabled artists to be viewed in the same professional light as mainstream dancers, choreographers and facilitators. Under the Artistic Direction of Rachael Lines, the professional company tours integrated dance work, to un-conventional theatre settings, hospitals and schools, often working with musicians, story tellers and visual artists. From the very beginning, FRONTLINEdance have been choreographing their own work, making them the first integrated dance company in the UK to do so. Integrating groups and people together is very important to the ethos of the company and is a foundation stone to the strategic plans and artistic work. FRONTLINEdance breaks down the barriers for people to engage in dance through participation and performance, by playing a positive role in integration and community cohesion. As a disability-focused company working with older people too, FRONTLINEdance engages and encourages all ages and abilities (beginners to professionals) in a diverse range of community settings. Co-founded by Rachael Lines and Michael King in 2000, FRONTLINEdance is a not-for-profit company. FRONTLINEdance is funded by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Arts Council England's Elevate fund.

About In Residence at Haywood Hospital

FRONTLINEdance has delivered 236 specialist dance and movement sessions on the wards over 59 full days over 17 months. A further 16 singing, song writing, and creative writing sessions have been delivered since September following a recent extension of our grant from the Haywood Foundation. We have also delivered 59 'open' Moving Together sessions for non-patients in the gym where 41 people have taken part. Over 1000 people have taken part so far on the wards.

- 560 classed themselves as having a long-term illness
- 800 were over 55 years old
- 820 considered themselves to have a disability
- 120 had been diagnosed with dementia

Contact Details

Phone: 01782 208208 ext 3644 / 07919 026962

Email hello@frontlinedance.co.uk