



Date: 20/03/2014

## Revenue Funded Organisations Survey 2013/14: Key Findings from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

### Introduction

This report summarises the findings for the first half of the 2013/14 revenue funded organisations survey. The RFO survey is a bi-annual survey of all Arts Council of Wales revenue funded clients who are required to complete the survey as part of their funding agreement. There are currently 72 clients in receipt of revenue funding.

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 2013/14 year: 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013<sup>1</sup>

(Please refer to Table 1, 2,3 & 4 in Annex A)

During the six month period (1<sup>st</sup> of April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013):

- Revenue funded organisations delivered a total of 8,852 arts events during the six month period which generated attendances of 1.81 million.
- The events delivered during this time include 254 exhibitions of visual arts and craft, 4,627 film screenings, 1,553 performances by touring companies and 2,438 performances at presenting venues.
- The highest levels of attendances were made to exhibitions of visual arts and crafts which received 883,357 attendances. Performances at presenting venues attracted 534,954 attendances, 248,840 attendances were made to performances by touring companies and 147,805 were made to film screenings.
- 38,429 participatory arts sessions were delivered, with 554,612 attendances made to these workshops.
- Of the total participatory arts sessions delivered, 21,537 were specifically for children and young people, while 16,892 were delivered as general participatory sessions. Of these 5,152 were delivered specifically targeted at people in the Protected Characteristics groups.<sup>2</sup>
- There were 327,202 attendances made by children and young people to these sessions while general participatory activity sessions generated attendances of 227,410.
- Participatory sessions targeted at those in the Protected Characteristics groups resulted in attendances of 77,321.

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

<sup>2</sup> Protected Characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, include disabled people, people from a BME background, children and young people, Welsh Speakers, lesbian, gay or bisexual people, pregnant women and new mothers, people with specific religious beliefs, 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 2012/13 (1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012)

The following findings compare the data from the latest six month period, against the same period in the previous year (1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012). 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 comparisons between the two datasets show:

- Overall the level of provision of activity has increased from the previous year. However, overall attendances have not increased in line with this provision. While attendances to participatory activities have increased, attendances to events have decreased.
- In terms of attendance there has been a 19% increase in the number of events compared to the same reporting period for 2012/13, increasing from 7,433 to 8,852. This is primarily due to a significant increase in performances by touring companies, up by 111% from the same period in the previous year (733 performances to 1,553 performances)<sup>3</sup>.
- However, despite the increase in events, attendances to events have actually decreased by 16% compared to the same reporting period in the previous year. The latest survey return shows arts events received attendances of 1.81 million, compared with 2.17 million in the previous year. The decrease is mainly driven by a decline in attendances to exhibitions<sup>4</sup>, down by 22% (from 1.13 million to 883,357) and attendances to performances at presenting venues<sup>5</sup>, down by 19% (from 663,868 to 534,954).
- Overall participation in the arts is showing an upward trend, with an increase in both the number of sessions delivered and attendances to these sessions. Participatory activity sessions have increased by 18% from the same reporting period in the previous year, up from 32,574 to 38,429 sessions in the latest survey. In line with this attendances to these workshops have increased by 12% from 496,665 to 554,612.

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<sup>3</sup> This large increase could be due to the programming schedules of performing/touring companies as the survey for the second half of the 2012/13 year reported performances of 1,603, more in line with this current survey period.

<sup>4</sup> Exhibition attendance is the most difficult art form to collect accurate figures for as most events are non-ticketed so many organisations estimate footfall. This is particularly the case for arts centres. The decrease in attendances to exhibitions could, in part, be attributed to one specific exhibition reported in the previous year which had a very high estimated attendance figure.

<sup>5</sup> The drop in attendance to performances at presenting venues may, in part, be attributed to the availability of high quality touring product. One Revenue Funded Organisation accounted for over a quarter (27%) of this decrease, whilst a further three accounted for a half (51%) of the decrease.

- The increase in participation has mainly been driven by an increase in General Participatory Activity. Sessions of this type of activity have increased by 67% (from 10,079 to 16,892) and attendances by 10% (from 206,183 to 227,410)<sup>6</sup>. However, the increase in attendances to participatory activity has been driven more so by activity targeted specifically at children and young people, up by 22% from (268,230 to 327,207 attendances).

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<sup>6</sup> The increase in General Participation Activity could be in part due to a change to the Survey structure. In the previous survey participation data was collected under three categories, this has now been merged into two.

## 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, Welsh Speakers, lesbian, gay or bisexual people, pregnant women and new mothers, people with specific religious beliefs, 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 <sup>st</sup> April to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2013	
	Events	Attendances
Exhibitions	254	883,357
Film Screenings	4,627	147,805
Performances by Touring Companies	1,553	248,840
Performances at Presenting Venues	2,438	534,954
<b>Total Attendances</b>	<b>8,852</b>	<b>1,814,956</b>

Source: ACW survey of Revenue Funded Organisations  
Base: 72 organisations

**Table 2**

Participation	1 <sup>st</sup> April to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2013	
	Sessions	Attendances at Participatory events
Children & Young People	21,537	327,202
General Participatory Activity	16,892	227,410
<b>Total Participation</b>	<b>38,429</b>	<b>554,612</b>

Source: ACW survey of Revenue Funded Organisations  
Base: 72 organisations

**Table 3**

Attendance – Events targeted at people in the Protected Characteristics groups	1 <sup>st</sup> April to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2013	
	Events	Attendances
Exhibitions	30	33,456
Film Screenings	1,400	64,546
Performances by Touring Companies	379	50,180
Performances at Presenting Venues	491	92,469
<b>Total Attendances</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>240,651</b>

Source: ACW survey of Revenue Funded Organisations  
Base: 72 organisations

Table 4

Participation – Sessions targeted at people in the Protected Characteristics groups	1 <sup>st</sup> April to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2013	
	Sessions	Attendances at Participatory events
Children & Young People	2,621	29,506
General Participatory Activity	2,531	47,815
<b>Total Participation</b>	<b>5,152</b>	<b>77,321</b>

Source: ACW survey of Revenue Funded Organisations  
Base: 72 organisations

Table 5

Attendance	1 <sup>st</sup> April to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2012		1 <sup>st</sup> April to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2013		% Change	
	Events	Attendances	Events	Attendances	Events	Attendances
Exhibitions <sup>7</sup>	226	1,132,249	254	883,357	12.4%	-22.0%
Film Screenings	4,162	122,223	4,627	147,805	11.2%	20.9%
Performances by Touring Companies	733	257,404	1,553	248,840	111.8%	-3.32%
Performances at Presenting Venues	2,312	663,868	2,438	534,954	5.4%	-19.4%
<b>Total Attendances</b>	<b>7,433</b>	<b>2,175,744</b>	<b>8,852</b>	<b>1,814,956</b>	<b>19.0%</b>	<b>-16.5%</b>

Source: ACW survey of Revenue Funded Organisations  
Base: 72 organisations

<sup>7</sup> Part of the reported decline in attendance figures is due to a change in the way arts centres are estimating the number of attendances to their exhibition spaces.

**Table 6**

Participation	1 <sup>st</sup> April to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2012		1 <sup>st</sup> April to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2013		% Change	
	Sessions	Attendances at Participatory events	Sessions	Attendances at Participatory events	Sessions	Attendances at Participatory events
Children & Young People	19,784	268,235	21,537	327,202	8.9%	22.0%
General Participatory Activity	10,079	206,183	16,892	227,410	67.6%	10.3%
Targeted Participatory Activity (BME, Disabled etc.) <sup>8</sup>	2,711	22,247	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Participation</b>	<b>32,574</b>	<b>496,665</b>	<b>38,429</b>	<b>554,612</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	<b>11.7%</b>

Source: ACW survey of Revenue Funded Organisations

Base: 72 organisations

<sup>8</sup> Targeted Participatory Activity for Protected Characteristic groups has been included within the Children and Young People and General Participatory Activity in the 2013/14 RFO Survey and not collected as a standalone section as in previous surveys.



## 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@artscouncilofwales.org.uk](mailto:research@artscouncilofwales.org.uk) or go to our website: [www.artscouncilofwales.org.uk](http://www.artscouncilofwales.org.uk)

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## Next Update

August 2014