

8th February 2024

Dear Helen Bailey and Ruth Dombey

On behalf of the Executive Committee of Arts Network Sutton, we write in support of Sutton Community Dance (ANS Members since July 2019) and its unique position in the heart of Sutton.

In just over five years (including two that were hugely impacted by the Covid pandemic), Sutton Community Dance has grown to be an integral part of Sutton's arts, cultural and leisure offer. It provides truly inclusive dance classes for everyone - all abilities from beginner to professionals, and all ages from babies to seniors - and offers the widest range of dance styles in the area.

Sutton Community Dance plays an integral part in supporting the artistic community in Sutton. Examples of this include:

Leading an online workshop for ANS's Creative Connections programme in 2021

Acting as a performance venue for local music theatre company Golden Toad's performances of [Errol's Garden](#) in 2022

In-kind support for Sutton Steams Ahead by hosting filming days for *We Dance for Life* film, loaning equipment and providing viewing spaces across SCD for the film on main Sutton Steams Ahead launch day

In-kind support for ANS by allowing us free use of a studio to host a social event at which we screened the *We Dance for Life* film

Regularly working in partnership with local artists to host workshops and projects (including ANS Members Samia Tossio & Claire Chandler)

We believe that Sutton Community Dance brings huge value to Sutton. It uniquely manages to embody both inclusivity AND excellence by offering additional opportunities for young people looking to pursue further training in dance. It has brought new life to the St Nicholas centre - the atmosphere in the foyer is always one of welcome and joy, which you can feel just walking past the space. It also offers affordable holiday clubs which are in equal measure high quality and fun.

Sutton Community Dance's value to the community cannot be overstated and we hope that every effort will be made to enable it to continue to thrive in its important community-centred location.

Yours sincerely

Tom Franck – Chair Arts Network Sutton

Gemma Baxter – Vice Chair Arts Network Sutton