

# WANNA DANCE?

## How might we dance together...?

It's been another busy 6 months for the WannaDance Artist In Residence Project:

### **Canal Street and Lightfoot Lodge 1:1 sessions:**

February to July has seen Jane continue to work on a weekly basis at Lightfoot Lodge and Canal Street centres in Chester. This second round of sessions has seen Jane work with Jenny, Jackie and Gordon from Lightfoot Lodge and Stephen and Patrick at Canal Street. In the following pages, you will find some snapshots of the dancing sessions.

We were sad to hear the news of Gordon's passing, he had been a joyful participant of the few sessions he had with Jane and we will remember him with great fondness.

Central to the WannaDance Project is the desire to ask IF members of the Vivo community with PIMD would like to dance and if so, how that dance might be. Most important is that individuals are able to choose if they would like to take part or not and for us be sensitive to how they communicate their preferences to this.

From observations and in conversation with the staff team, it was felt that at this moment in time, one of the participants wasn't enjoying the offer of dancing and therefore we decided to stop the sessions.

We are mindful that because someone may not want to do something at one time, it is important that we don't presume this to be a permanent or ongoing choice. Therefore, we will make sure that dance is offered to this individual again in the future.

### **Other events:**

- Presentation of WannaDance Project at University of Chester's Crossing Borders Symposium at Storyhouse, June 15th.
- WannaDance images shared at Kaleidoscope Festival, Storyhouse, July 13th.
- WannaDance Exhibition at Vivo Arts and Music Festival, Ellesmere Port Civic Hall, July 18th.

**Other News:** Cheshire Dance have managed to secure £14K Postcode Lottery funding to support the expansion of the project to Ellesmere Port Coronation Centre from October 2023 and £5K Anne Duchess of Westminster Trust towards the continuation of WannaDance in Chester.

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## Creative Project, June 2023

Professional filmmaker, Sam Ryley from Canteen Creates and renowned composer, Gary Lloyd joined us for our Creative Project this year. The project aimed to capture the individual dances that have emerged through the year. 5 members of the Vivo community were available to take part:



Adam

Patrick

Elaine

Marcos

John



With support from the University of Chester, we were able to work in their wonderful dance studio providing lots of space, proper blackout, professional lighting rigs and sound systems etc.

A big thank you to staff for helping make the project days so successful. The film is currently being edited and music created as we speak. We look forward to being able to share it with everyone! We think we need a proper premiere event! Watch this space...

**'It was great for them to have the big space - I think they really liked it!'**  
**(Staff member)**

**'The sessions have been brilliant for Stephen...I didn't really know what to expect. They are completely different to other stuff he does.'** (Staff Member)



**'The session gives him 100% attention and constant interaction. I feel like I'm getting to know Stephen more through observing the sessions.'** (Staff Member)



'There is a gentle, steadiness to your dancing that informs how we move together.'

Our dance rocks and sways side to side, whilst connecting hands to hands. A small dance within which skills of balance, weight transfer and co-ordination are all present.

Occasionally, you use our hand to hand connection to experiment with balance on one leg and tipping your weight a little further - small moments of risk taking. These moments make you smile.'

(Dance Artist session review sheet)



**'Music and dance is brilliant!  
It's their communication isn't it.'** (Staff Member)

**'Jenny would just leave if she didn't like it - I love seeing her smiling and joining in. 1 to 1, on her own without distractions is really important for her.'**  
(Staff Member)

'Adults with PIMD sometimes get left out so it's great that Patrick has this opportunity.'

(Staff Member)



'The format works - getting to know you sessions are super important in understanding what works for each person.'

These sessions give him an opportunity to interact with someone beyond his usual 1:1's.'

(Staff Member)



**'We are learning about his music tastes. We try and respond to what we discover he enjoys through Jane's sessions.'**

**(Staff Member)**



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DANCE & PEOPLE WITH PIMD

## KEY DATES:

### WHAT

Staff Training

Phase 2 sessions

Next steps:

### WHEN

With staff in sessions, July 2023

Getting to know you sessions: 20th, 27th Feb & 6th March 2023

Sessions started: 13th March

Last sessions: 24th July

**August:** Creative film editing, evaluation, planning for year 2

**Sept/October:** Premiere of Creative Project Film, PMLD Dance Artist Network meeting, establishing WannaDance Steering group with Vivo.

**October:** Start of Year 2 including expansion to Ellesmere Port



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## FURTHER INFORMATION

The Wanna Dance Programme is a partnership between Cheshire Dance, Vivo Care Choices and University of Central Lancashire.

### July 2023 Update

For more information on Wanna Dance, please contact:

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