

Transforming lives through dance



Annual Review
2019/20

DanceUnited
YORKSHIRE





Introduction

DUY enjoyed another successful year of artistic delivery with children, young people, adults and communities, new partnerships, choreographic innovation, talent development and increasing financial sustainability. Highlights include the following:

We were proud to be named 'Charity of the Year' by Bradford Chamber of Commerce in recognition of our positive impact on local people and communities.

Our commitment to artistic excellence was acknowledged by internationally acclaimed company 'New Adventures' who partnered with DUY to share practice and co-deliver an intensive project with vulnerable young people from Bradford. This was followed by an exciting choreographic commission with Tamsin Fitzgerald, Artistic Director of 2Faced Dance Company.

We facilitated rolling provisions and progression routes for young people (aged 12+) creating new work and performing across the region. Our Performance Company appeared at various conferences including the 'Raising the Bar' Awards Ceremony hosted by the West and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce and the 'Young People, Arts and Mental Health Conference' hosted by the Cultural Institute at Leeds University.

Our work with adult women 'at risk' and within criminal justice continued to achieve, with the Bradford Women's Company performing to 1200 people at St George's Hall, Bradford and a week-long intensive project facilitated in HMP Low Newton with adult female prisoners.

We were thrilled to receive funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation for a 4 year programme of work in Holme Wood, Bradford. This initiative will create high quality arts opportunities for the least culturally engaged and most vulnerable, mentored by award winning choreographer Gary Clarke.

We continued to nurture and build partnerships with FE and HE institutions across the north, offering placement opportunities, lectures, choreographic workshops and post-graduate employment opportunities. Our relationship with the Northern School of Contemporary Dance continued to strengthen with 16 students undertaking placements during 2019/20.

Such achievements would not have been possible without the support, hard work, passion and commitment of all members of the DUY team and trustees, our participants and their families, our partners and, of course, our funders.

Thank you.



Blair Davies
Chair



Helen Linsell
Artistic Director

Our Vision and Mission

We are a Bradford-based charity and distinctive cultural leader connecting the very best of the professional contemporary dance world with marginalised communities. We increase access to high quality contemporary dance for children, young people and adults who are 'hard to reach' and living in challenging life circumstances.



We produce contemporary dance performances which engage members of the public who would not traditionally encounter this art form. We commission emerging and established choreographers to create high quality artistic work and offer regional dance artists the skills and opportunities to work with culturally disengaged people and communities.

We offer creative settings that will have a lasting and positive effect on the lives of those who are socially excluded. Our commitment is to reach across the region whilst maintaining a high quality choreographic vision, bespoke artistic training opportunities and ongoing progression routes for children and young people.





Artistic Provision

We work with disadvantaged children, young people disengaged or excluded from mainstream education, young offenders, young people and adults suffering with poor mental health, women prisoners, refugees, asylum seekers and families living in areas of deprivation. Most of our participants are non-dancers with little or no previous experience of contemporary dance or live performance.

We deliver weekly classes, one-off workshops, intensive projects and bespoke initiatives. We continue to be recognised for our radical and transformative work by partners and funders representing arts and culture, education, criminal justice and health.

Children and Young People

We delivered two five week **intensive projects** with 42 vulnerable young people (13–19yrs) referred from education partners in Bradford and Calderdale, with 81% completing Bronze or Silver Arts Awards. Performances took place at The Riley Theatre (Northern School of Contemporary Dance) in Leeds and the Square Chapel Arts Centre in Halifax and all those involved were signposted to our weekly classes. Our Calderdale project was also featured on BBC Look North.

We also embarked on our first intensive project in partnership with New Dance Wales to deliver a five week project with ‘hard to reach’ young people in Wrexham – funded by Arts Council Wales. 17 young people were referred from new education partners and successfully engaged in the programme.*

We continued to deliver three **‘rolling’ progression routes** with our Keighley Youth Company, DUY Performance Company and Calderdale Youth Company. All groups created performance pieces for various events, platforms and conferences including: Keighley Arts and Film Festival, True North Festival (Harrogate Royal Hall), The People’s Music Hall (St George’s Hall, Bradford), Saitaire Festival, East Riding Community Platform (Bridlington Spa) and Place2Be’s Safeguarding Conference at Leeds United Stadium.

“I moved from India a year and a half ago and coming to Dance United Yorkshire has helped me to settle here in Bradford. I’ve met lots of people and made some great friends. I love to dance, it helps to get rid of any stresses I may have. I wouldn’t get the same opportunities anywhere else, I’ve performed lots with the company and I love to dance for myself and for others.”

(DUY PC Dancer)

A total of 167 vulnerable and disadvantaged **young people (aged 12 – 21yrs)** participated in our intensive projects, holiday schools and rolling weekly provisions. In addition, 119 young people from across Bradford attended special one-off classes and recruitment workshops.

This year we increased our work with **Key Stage 2 (7-11yrs)**. This enabled us to target even more disadvantaged children from across Bradford, in particular those who have limited access to high quality arts. This included a week-long summer school in Holme Wood and a half-term Cross Community project, bringing children together from across different areas of Bradford. The majority of those participating live in the most deprived areas of Bradford and/or have English as a 2nd language.



Adults and Elders

DUY's **Gradient Company** continued to achieve: 'Overflowing', choreographed by Gradient member Asmah Salim and co-dancers, was performed both at St George's Hall for the 'The People's Music Hall' event and at East Riding's Community Dance Platform to an audience of 675 people. The company also collaborated with choreographer Balbir Singh and film maker/photographer Tim Smith. 'Weaving the Future' was created as a dance-for-camera piece with Balbir Singh's professional dancers and screened throughout the Saltaire Festival. Gradient also devised 'I Got the Yorkshire in Me', with choreography by DUY's new trainee artists as a curtain raiser to Keira Martin's 'Good Blood'.

"Gradient company means a lot to me and allows me to continue dancing and choreographing whilst networking with other dancers and continuing to learn from professionals. I wanted to be a professional dancer but I now have a child. This group enables me to continue following my passion whilst also being a mother. Gradient will always have a special place in my heart"

(Gradient Dancer)

Our work with adult women 'at risk' continued with the **Bradford Women's Company**, meeting weekly to participate in contemporary dance classes and create work for performances. Referrals continue to come from partner organisations working with vulnerable women: Staying Put, the Anah Project, Together Women and Refugee Action. The company performed their piece 'Crossed Wires' at the grand re-opening of St George's Hall in front of an audience of 1200.

"I am 64 years old and was in a bad place when I joined the Bradford Women's Dance Company three years ago. I was welcomed and accepted with no questions about my past and it has been the best thing that has happened to me for years... I have regained and increased my confidence, made friendship and had fun. It has been a life saver"

(Bradford Women's Company Dancer)

Building on the success of our previous projects at Askham Grange and New Hall women's prisons, we established a new criminal justice partnership with HMP Low Newton, a female prison in Durham. A one week project culminated in a performance with 10 residents and 80 audience members.

Following our intergenerational project in 2019 and a request from those dancers aged 60+, DUY offered a bespoke **elders project**. Dancers attended weekly classes to create a piece of dance theatre – 'A Moment in Time' – for our platform event 'An Evening with DUY'.



Resi/Dance

DUY received funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation to deliver a 4 year programme of work across the Holme Wood estate in Bradford. As a community who often find themselves invisible, defined by difficult circumstances and written off, the project was designed for residents to participate in an artistically ambitious cross-community and intergenerational dance project punctuated by a series of professionally staged performances. 'Resi/Dance' will offer an invigorating model of creative partnership: combining DUY's specialist participatory training, the energy and aspirations of the Holme Wood community and the creative expertise of pioneering choreographer, Gary Clarke.

We have started weekly creative and contemporary dance sessions for: 4-7s, 8-11s, 12-19s (the Holme Wood Youth Company) and adult women. Recruitment and taster workshops have been delivered in local secondary schools (ages 11 – 14yrs) and with local youth groups (e.g. Build a Girl). Cross-curricular and after-school provision is being delivered in a local primary school and we are working in partnership with Yorkshire Dance to co-deliver the Dance On group in Holme wood (55yrs+). In just 5 months, Holme Wood residents have already participated in 5 performance events and sharings and, since the project began, DUY has worked with 566 children, young people and adults.

We are collaborating with The University of Leeds' School of Biomedical Science to evaluate the impact of DUY's community practice and distinctive methodology on the physical, psychological and social health and well-being of Holme Wood residents.

“The Holme Wood, Dance United Yorkshire project has brought a sense of community and togetherness to the estate. It has given kids the opportunity to do something fun and allow for healthy expression. It has also allowed them to develop social skills. It has given me the opportunity to get fitter and make new friends whilst building my own confidence and self-esteem”

(Holme Wood parent – member of the women's company and both children attend 7-11s group)

Arts Award

DUY continues to offer the Bronze and Silver Arts Awards within our intensive projects and youth provision. The qualification remains an integral part of our business plan and artistic mission and is particularly accessible for those young people who are struggling to engage with mainstream education. With the expansion of our work to younger age groups, DUY now regularly offers both Explore and Discover Awards as part of our primary school and community initiatives. During 2019/20, DUY delivered a total of 43 Arts Awards (Bronze and Silver).



“I was going through a very difficult time when I started the project and wasn’t getting on in school. The projects really helped my confidence and doing the Bronze and Silver Arts Award made me believe in myself again. I have now graduated and got my first job! It is working at a school, with children with speech difficulties.”

(Previous Project Participant and Performance Company Member)



Choreographic Innovation





Matthew Bourne's New Adventures: Civil Blood

This partnership with New Adventures was a response to Matthew Bourne's 'Romeo and Juliet'. We worked with New Adventures' Resident Artist Paul Smethurst and long standing company member Sam Archer to create new choreography with a group of vulnerable and disengaged young people from Bradford. The piece – 'Equals' – was thrillingly performed by 19 young people at The Riley Theatre, Leeds.

"It is rare to instantly click so strongly with an organisation who share the same values of artistry and community. Their passion for the transformative power of dance to inspire change and be accessible for all is infectious and palpable. We needed their guidance and experience every step of the way and we felt exceptionally supported as we journeyed into an area of community dance practice we were less comfortable with. Our strong partnership made the almost impossible happen and our project exceeded all expectations...it was a privilege to collaborate, share learning, and create something exceptionally special with DUY"

Paul Smethurst, Resident Artist – New Adventures

Tamsin Fitzgerald – Artistic Director, 2Faced Dance Company

We invited Tamsin Fitzgerald to work with our artistic team in a choreographic collaboration. Tamsin shared her own choreographic practice and approach and offered ongoing artistic mentorship to the DUY team. The collaboration led to the creation of a new piece 'Trash or Treasure'.

"Working with DUY was an incredible experience...To have the time, space and support to plan a project in the detail that DUY did is extremely rare. It shows the dedication, ambition and drive that the company have to really want to make a difference to the lives of young people. I thoroughly enjoyed my time imagining, testing, creating and pushing the team to try things just that little bit differently. I have taken back the detail, the openness and the planning time when working on youth projects."

(Tamsin Fitzgerald, Artistic Director, 2Faced Dance Company 2020)

Balbir Singh Dance Company and Tim Smith Photography

DUY's Gradient Company collaborated with Balbir Singh and his professional dancers to create a dance-for-camera piece in response to Tim Smith's photography project 'Textile Futures'. A combination of photography, film and performance offered an insight into the transformation of textile technologies for the 21st century. A specially commissioned film featuring Gradient was displayed throughout the Saltaire Festival and seen by approximately 1000 people.

Artist Training and Talent Development

An Introduction to Dance United Yorkshire's Practice in Social Inclusion

DUY's bespoke training, with emphasis on our distinct methodology, increases awareness of learner behaviour, develops skills in behaviour management strategies and improves understanding of the group process and communication. The traditional 4-day course has been delivered throughout the year in a range of settings and has been adapted for different groups and varying timeframes.

During 2019/20, courses were delivered in partnership with Northern School of Contemporary Dance, New Adventures and New Dance Wales. In addition, we delivered in-house training for the Resi/Dance Trainee Artists and the DUY delivery team in Wrexham. A total of 41 dance practitioners and support workers took part in DUY training.

“The training I received from DUY has been so valuable to my teaching practice. It has developed my delivery and how I respond to different behaviours, particularly with young people. It has also given me the confidence to trust in my own choices and thoughts. I re-visit the toolbox of behaviour management strategies frequently and this continues to help me in many professional situations.

(Rachel Gittins, New Dance Wales Artist)

Partnerships with Further and Higher Education

We deliver lectures and workshops for colleges, universities and conservatories across the region and offer placement and peer mentorship opportunities. In the past year, 82 students from the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Leeds Beckett University, York St John University, University of Central Lancashire, Bradford College and others engaged with workshops and/or placements. Our relationship with the Northern School of Contemporary Dance is especially strong with 30 2nd and 3rd year students undertaking placements, assisting with choreography and performing alongside our young people.

“My time with Dance United Yorkshire was an invaluable experience. It showed me the power dance can have in a community setting -, teaching discipline, teamwork and creativity. It has definitely inspired me to work in a youth setting in the future”

(NSCD 3rd Year Student)

Gradient Dance Company

Gradient is integral to our support of cultural diversification and DUY's aspiration to retain new and diverse dance talent in Yorkshire, whether young professionals who originally trained with us (many of whom are the first in their family to have entered higher education) or undergraduates/graduates who have experienced DUY's methodology through our HE and FE teaching and placements. The company is also becoming increasingly self-directed with three Gradient members now having choreographed pieces on their peers. Gradient provides key training, performance and professional development opportunities for young adult dancers at a critical juncture in their professional lives.







NEW/ADVENTURES

Partnership Development

We are a development organisation aiming to reach marginalised people and communities locally, regionally and nationally. To succeed, we recognise the importance of nurturing current and past relationships as well as developing new relationships. During the year we forged new partnerships across arts and culture, education, social care, criminal justice, health, and business. Our partners support us by referring participants, co-creating new choreography, artistic mentorship, inviting us to platforms and events, providing rehearsal and performance space, advocacy, funding, marketing and publicity, strategic development, legal and financial advice and project development. Some of the most significant of new partners have been Matthew Bourne's New Adventures, Bradford Youth Service (Tong Ward), Bradford Chamber of Commerce and Bradford Leaving Care (whose responsibilities include unaccompanied asylum seekers):

“Working with DUY has been one of the most exciting and rewarding things we've done with our young people this year. We have had a group of young people who enjoyed an experience that they would never otherwise have had which has helped broaden their perspectives. The fact that within a few months of coming to the UK one of our unaccompanied asylum seekers was taking a lead role in a production at a Leeds theatre is one of the most inspiring things I've seen any project achieve with one of our young people.”

(Andrew Kenyon, Service Manager, Children in Care)

“I was invited to DUY's celebration of becoming a charity and I saw some of our district's most vulnerable and isolated people come to life on that stage. I immediately knew this was the charity I wanted to back in my first year as Chamber president”

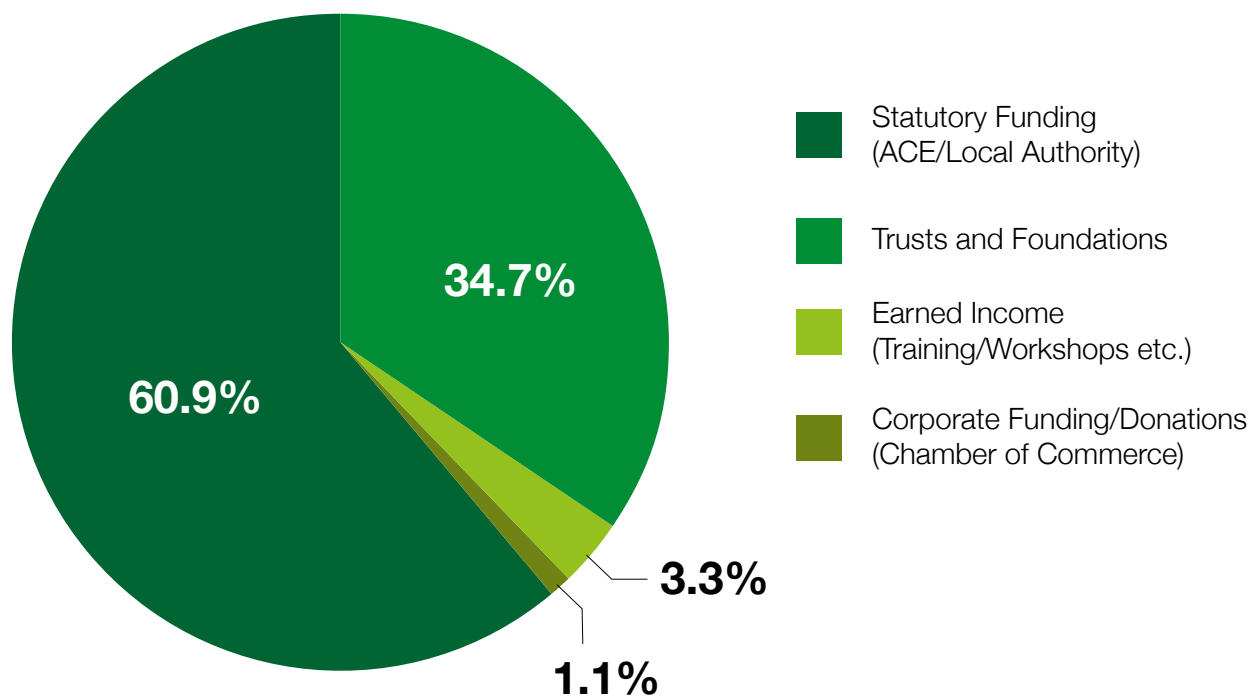
Suzanne Watson, President of Bradford Chamber of Commerce 2019-20

Finance

	2019/20 £	2018/19 £
Income	200,138	155,054
Expenditure	125,551	160,678

Funding and Donations 2019/20

The pie chart below shows the sources of income for Dance United Yorkshire.



Overall Impact

During 2019/20, DUY engaged **1,439** children, young people and adults in projects, classes, workshops and training.

During 2019/20, DUY engaged an audience of **5,954** through in-house performance events and a range of platforms, conferences and events across the region.

The feedback received from participants, audience members, partners and funders has been overwhelmingly positive throughout 2019/20 and we intend to continue building on this success in 2020/21.

Staff and Governance

Dance United Yorkshire Team

Artistic Director:	Helen Linsell
General Manager:	Duncan Bedson
Dance Programmes Manager:	Romina Thornton
Dance Outreach Manager:	Leanne Hudson
Trainee Artists:	Stephanie Donohoe Adrienne Melling
Fundraiser:	Bridget Eadie
Freelance Support Workers:	Emma Robertson Abbie Padgett

Board of Trustees

Blair Davies (Chair)

Hannah Robertshaw

Keira Martin

Nikki Crane

Stephanie Derrick

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