

# The story so far



Talent Hub Year 1:  
March 2019



by Robert Laycock

## What is the Talent Hub?



The Talent Hub is a 3 year project which aims to:

- Find 10 talented dancers with a learning disability or autism
- Help them to train to become professional (this might be getting a job as a dance maker, a dance leader or dance performer)



- Work with a leading choreographer to make a dance piece



- Take the dance piece on tour to venues in England during 2020



Share what we learn from the Talent Hub to help dance organisations:

- Be more inclusive
- Be more accessible
- Know how to support dancers with a learning disability or autism

## Who is involved in the Talent Hub?



The Talent Hub **Dance Artists** – these are the 10 dancers who are taking part in the project.



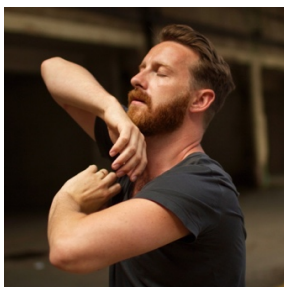
The **main project partners:**

- TIN Arts
- Yorkshire Dance
- Inclusion North



The **impact group** – this is made up of:

- People from other organisations connected to our work
- People from other arts organisations (such as venues and funders)
- An evaluator called Robert



**Theo Clinkard** who is the choreographer making the dance piece.

## How will we know we are making a difference?



We are working with an evaluator called Robert Laycock from People Purpose Planning.

Robert's role is to help us find out what is good about the Talent Hub and what we can improve to make it better.



This report is about the first year of the Talent Hub - from October 2017 to September 2018.



In this time, the main things that happened were:

- Telling the public about the Talent Hub
- Finding dance artists to join the Talent Hub
- Bringing the dance artists together for their first residential. This is where the dancers all lived and worked together for a week in Leeds.



## How will we know we are making a difference?



This first report aims to answer these questions:

1. What are the dance artists' experiences of dance in the past? What are their experiences of the Talent Hub in the first year?



2. Has the project changed the way TIN Arts, Yorkshire Dance and Inclusion North work? How and in what ways?



3. Has the project changed the way the other arts organisations work? How and in what ways?



To answer these questions we:

- Asked the artists
- Asked the main project partners
- Asked the members of the project Impact Group

## What have we learned so far? A summary.



### The Dance Artists

The project has attracted a varied, talented and ambitious group of dancers.



or



In the future, some would like to perform dance **on their own**. Some would like to perform dance in a **group**.



Others want to become dance makers and dance leaders.



They enjoyed the first residential and are excited about the future.



### Project partners

All project partners have found that being part of the Talent Hub is helping them make their own work better.

T!NARTS



**TIN Arts** are getting stronger and more resilient.

This means that the staff at TIN Arts are feeling more confident about what they do and are trying out new ideas.



## What have we learned so far? A summary.

YORKSHIRE  
DANCE

The project is helping **Yorkshire Dance** become more inclusive in all its work.



Being part of the Talent Hub is giving **Inclusion North** new opportunities. They are able to work with and influence the arts and cultural sector because of the Talent Hub.



### Other Arts Organisations

The project is changing the way arts and cultural organisations in our Impact Group are working.

The Talent Hub is helping them:

- talk more openly about ideas and issues to do with inclusion
- have a better understanding about how to support artists with disabilities
- make their ways of working more accessible and inclusive
- communicate better with people with disabilities
- think differently about leaders within arts and cultural organisations. This change could help bring new opportunities for the development of arts leaders with disabilities.



## Challenges



TIN Arts, Yorkshire Dance and Inclusion North have all experienced some challenges during the first year of the Talent Hub.



This includes:

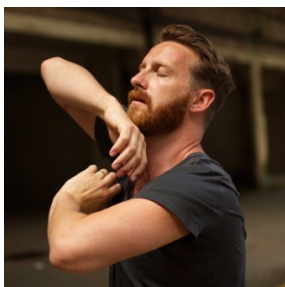
- Having enough time to complete the work they have been given.



- We want the Talent Hub to influence all the work the project partners do. This is challenging and can take a long time.



- Making sure that marketing material (such as the website and posters) is inclusive and accessible.



- Working on new things that the organisations might not have done before. For example, hosting residential weeks and working with a new choreographer.



## Recommendations



The project partners would benefit from spending time together to think about some of these challenges and how to solve them.



They could:

- Look at how to reduce pressure by finding ways to make sure everyone has enough time to do their work, perhaps by sharing the work differently.



- Make time to meet up and talk about the challenges experienced so far. This would mean they could try and find solutions together.



- Look at how much time is available for evaluation and check that there is enough time to show the impact of the project in the next 2 years.

## Next Steps



The report shares the impact of the Talent Hub in Year 1.



The learning contained in this report will inform Years 2 and 3 of the Talent Hub.



At the end of Year 2 (Autumn 2019) a new report will be made and published in Spring 2020.