



Northern School of Contemporary Dance

National Portfolio Funding (Arts Council) - Children's Programme Activity & Artist Development 2023-2024

The Children & Young People's Dance Network North (CYPDNN) is a part of the Northern School of Contemporary Dance 's (NSCD) Arts Council funded National Portfolio Organisation (NPO).

In addition to its role in facilitating networking opportunities and coordinating professional development within the North, the CYPDNN also provides a Children's Programme. NSCD's NPO also prioritises artist development for companies interested in creating work for, by, and with children and young people.

Throughout 2023-2024, we provided support to artists and companies from the North by aiding in their funding applications, facilitating research and development initiatives, and conducting pilots both within NSCD and in collaboration with our strategic partners across the region. Additionally, we contributed to rural, library, and other touring activities in various levelling up areas, while also engaging in participatory projects across the North.

In 2023-24 NSCD also prioritised performances for CYP and their families both in house at The Riley Theatre in Leeds and at a wide variety of venues across the North. In this report we aim to highlight some of these activities as part of our NSCD NPO.



Who were the strategic partners in 2023-2024?

We continued to develop partners across the region and have had successful co-funded approaches with several local authorities including;

- [East Riding Council](#)
- [East Riding Libraries](#)
- [North Lincolnshire Council](#)
- [North Lincolnshire Library/Hubs](#)

Artists and companies supported in this year have included;

- [Speedwell Dance](#)
- [Hawk Dance Theatre & The Knotted Project](#)
- [Coalesce Dance Theatre](#)

All of whom have had opportunities created from R&D, sharing to potential bookers and programmers as well as fellow creatives, testing work with CYP and their families and occasional dates to perform through to multiple date tours in a variety of venues including schools, theatre spaces, libraries and hubs.

We also worked alongside [Balbir Singh Dance Company](#) (BSDC) to offer testing of their work Dewey and Indian Biscuits with children and their families in North Bridlington and Beverley.

Through partnership approaches we offered performance opportunities to young dancers in events in **York Theatre Royal (Everybody Dances)** working with **York Dance Space** and the **North Yorkshire & York Dance Hub** and at **The Forum in Northallerton (Dance It Up North)** where participants were able to view the premiere of Coalesce Dance Theatre's 'PANTS' following recruitment of new artists and a development of their initial work that we supported in early research phases in the previous year.

We continued our links to rural touring promoters and schemes in this year, with particular relationships continuing to develop with [Blaize Community Arts \(ArtERY & Live Lincs\)](#) and [Spot On in Lancashire](#). Our partnership in Scarborough included Boys Dance work with [The Brave Project](#) and we delivered **Collingham Collide, a programme for boys dance at Cottingham High School in the East Riding of Yorkshire**. [Cottingham Boys Dance](#)

Other partners this year included;

[Culturapedia](#)

[York and North Yorkshire Dance Network | Facebook](#)

[Dance Mama](#)

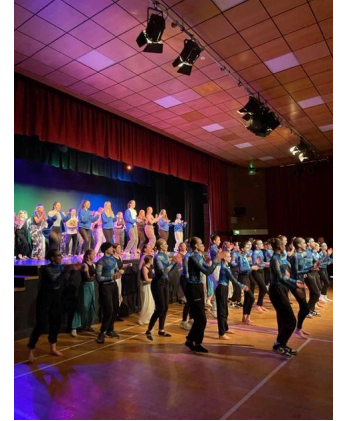
[Primal Instincts Crew](#)

[RTDI](#)

[Northern Consortium of Rural Touring Schemes](#)

Where did the CYP and Families work take place in 2023-2024?

The activity was spread across the region in 2023-2024 with some priority areas continuing. Our main performance and participatory activities took place in Leeds (Hillcrest School/ NSCD Riley Theatre, NSCD Saturday Provision families), North Lincolnshire (Scunthorpe, Brigg, Baysgarth, Ashby), East Riding of Yorkshire (Withernsea, Beverley, North Bridlington, Cottingham, Bridlington, Market Weighton), York (Theatre Royal York), North Yorkshire (Scarborough, Northallerton), Lancashire (Roman Road Library, Edgeworth, Burnley) as well as in Shrewsbury with Arts Alive at Theatre Severn (testing work with SEN families) and at Boston Spa Auditorium as part of an ongoing NSCD partnership with Boston Spa Academy in West Yorkshire. Activity included performances, participatory experiences and workshops as well as pilot and extract testing and research and development with CYP. Our partners and venues were varied and activity took place in a variety of spaces from indoor, outdoor, libraries, halls, schools, studios and reading rooms, theatre foyers and hubs.



Children's Programme Performance and Wrap Round activity in Northern Venues

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Artist Development with companies in the North

Partnerships established across the North to broaden opportunities for touring.

Partnerships have been made between NSCD and Burnley Words Festival, Northern Consortium of Rural Touring Schemes (ArtERY, Live Lincs, Spot On, Arts Out West, Highlights Rural Touring, Cheshire Rural Touring Arts, Culturapeadia, Rural Arts, Arts Alive) Theatre Severn Shropshire, Scarborough Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough YMCA, Theatre Royal York, York Dance Space, Libraries as venues across East Riding of Yorkshire, Lancashire and North Lincolnshire, RTDI Rural Touring Dance Initiative and local community connections with Clay and Wharf Chambers. These connections make important opportunities for touring across the North of England in a variety of venues of varying sizes and for a wide variety of audiences.

Hawk Dance Theatre & The Knotted Project have benefited from input across the NPO Activity including showcases and performances at Burnley Mechanics Institute, East Riding of Yorkshire ArtERY and East Riding Libraries NPO through ERYC, touring in North Lincolnshire through Blaize Rural Touring and Live Lincs, North Lincs Council and NLC Libraries including with National Literacy Week and Community Hubs in Ashby & Scunthorpe.

To provide bespoke mentoring support and development packages for dance artists at any stage in their career across 2023-2024 To work with existing and connect with new partners/organisations to maximise opportunities, longevity, and impact to support artists to develop sustainable practices in the North & beyond.

Artist Development Package 1 – Hawk Dance Theatre & The Knotted Project

The company was successful with their recent ACE bid that we have supported as partner and in addition have been successful with a further bid to the Four National International Fund with partners NSCD, Blaize, NEAT (Scotland) and Atlantic Presenters Association (Canada) the bid was brought together with partners and supports the companies work being tested and performed in Scotland and Canada in 2024. The Greatest Robot will be performed in our partner school at Boston Spa auditorium in February and again in Baysgarth North Lincolnshire in partnership with NLC and North Lincolnshire Libraries.

Links:

[About Hawk - Hawk Dance Theatre](#)

[Theatrical Events & Experiences With & For Young People \(theknottedproject.co.uk\)](http://theknottedproject.co.uk)

Artist Development Package 2 – Speedwell Dance Thumbelina & May and the Mountain Witch

Activity has included a half day in the studio to re-rehearse the show extracts and a 20 minute showcase on January 12th at the Northern Dance Get Together – to 65 audience/attendees.

Link: [Rachel Dean / Speedwell Dance – Dance Artist, Performance Maker, Educator \(racheldeandance.co.uk\)](https://racheldeandance.co.uk)

Artist Development Package 3 – Coalesce Dance Theatre PANTS

Coalesce Dance Theatre have benefited from input from across the NPO Activity including performances at Burnley Words Fest in June 2023 and with the Northern Consortium of Rural Touring Schemes (East Riding of Yorkshire ArtERY, Spot On Rural Touring, Burnley Mechanics Institute) and have new partnerships for their work.

The company was successful with their recent ACE bid which is supported by NSCD as partner. Activity recently has included joint meetings with East Riding Youth Dance, East Riding Council, Montgomery Theatre Sheffield and North Lincolnshire libraries to facilitate some performances and engagement with CYP. The company performed twice as part of our partner event Everybody Dances York at York Theatre Royal (November 2023), spreading the message of taking care of yourself and good mental health. They also performed ‘PANTS’ twice and led workshops with Secondary aged young people at Dance It Up North Northallerton in March 2024.

Link: [Coalesce Dance Theatre](https://www.coalcedance.com)

BSDC Balbir Singh Dance Company

Having been approached by BSDC to help make links to the regions libraries in order to test the company work ‘Dewey’ we were able to work with partners at Blaize and East Riding Libraries to set up a day in March 2023 at North Bridlington Library and bring in two school groups to view and engage with the work. Further performances may now happen following this initial opportunity. Links were also made with strategic partners by email and zoom which then led to an opportunity for pop up performance of Indian Biscuits and Tea on Village Greens. This took place in Beverley on 30 March and performed to audiences of CYP and their families.

Link: [Balbir Singh Dance Company](https://www.balbir.com)



Continued Professional Development and Networking

Dance Mamas Live & Online July 2023

Dance Mama Live! Was piloted in 2019 and in 2023 the team partnered with us at NSCD to provide a Dance Mama Live! In Leeds at NSCD. The event was hybrid both in person and online options were offered. The event presented an adults workshop with Hannah & Drew Wintie Hawkins of Yorkshire Dance Space and a Children's performance of Hawk Dance Theatre & The Knotted Projects *The Greatest Robot Ever*. There was a webinar with a live audience with Balbir Singh and Anna Ehnold-Danailov.

Link: [dancemama](https://www.dancemama.com)

The Northern Dance Get Together

The Northern Dance Get Together at NSCD (January 12, 2024) was a networking event that brought together dancers, choreographers, participation and learning officers and other industry professionals from across the North of England. The event attendance was 70 people from a range of dance companies, NPOs, and venues as well as freelancers from a range of genres and contexts from the North West, North East and Yorkshire regions.

Key themes of the event included fostering collaboration and innovation within the northern dance community, addressing challenges such as access to training and performance opportunities, and advocating for the recognition and support of dance as a vital art form in the region. Discussions also revolved around the development of a cohesive dance strategy for the North of England, with an emphasis on nurturing talent, workforce development, promoting diversity and inclusivity, male-identifying dance both in work and learning and participation and enhancing the visibility of northern dance on a regional and national scale.

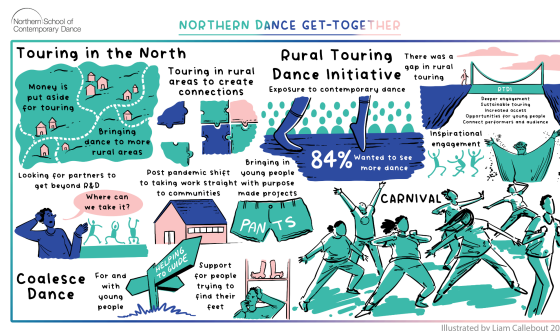
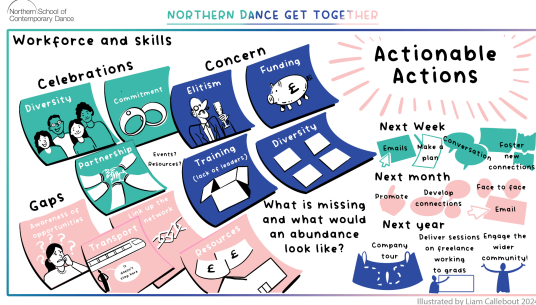
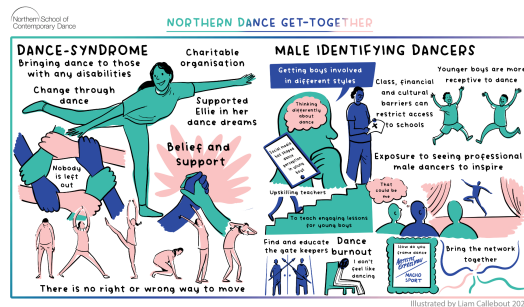


The day included workshops from Carnival dance with RJC to Break dance with the Primal Instincts Crew and showcases including May and The Mountain Witch (Speedwell Dance) and Primal Instincts Crew.

Moving forward, participants at the Get Together expressed a commitment to continued dialogue and collaboration, with the aim of establishing a unified dance strategy that addresses the needs and aspirations of the northern dance community. This includes initiatives to enhance training and professional development opportunities, create platforms for showcasing northern talent, and advocate for increased funding and support for dance at a regional and national level. The CYPDNN strategy is informed by members from across the North and this event fed into strategy and next steps.

The Northern Dance Get Together at NSCD was a catalyst for driving positive change and sustainable development within the northern dance sector through collaboration, strategy and actions across the North.

With a live scribe illustration of the day by Liam Callebout who captured the ideas, conversations, and showcases at the conference. Link: www.liamraphael.co.uk



How many people took part in the NSCD NPO CYPDNN and Artist Development work for CYP and their families?

Throughout 2023-2024 we engaged with people as participants, audiences, in workshops and interactive sessions and we offered and funded a number of artist days as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Performances | 29 |
| Performances Pilot/Sharing | 8 |
| Artist Days | 121 |
| Participants | 1328 |
| Audience Numbers CYP under 18 | 1287 |
| Audience Numbers Adults over 18 | 567 |
| CPD no of people working with CYP | 96 |

Details of NSCD NPO CYPDNN & Artist Development Activity relating to CYP and families

| Date | Venue | Postcode | Area | Company/contact | Partners |
|----------------|--|----------|----------------|------------------------------|--|
| 2023 | | | | | |
| Thu 11 May | The Riddings Scunthorpe 2 perf schools | DN17 2JL | North Lincs | Hawk/Knotted | N Lincs Council/ Libraries/Sch/ LiveLincs |
| Fri 12 May | The Riddings Scunthorpe 2 perf schools | DN17 2JL | North Lincs | Hawk/Knotted | N Lincs Council/ Libraries/Sch/Live Lincs |
| Fri 12 May eve | Scunthorpe Central Library public | DN15 6TX | North Lincs | Hawk/Knotted | N Lincs Council/ Libraries/Sch/ Live Lincs |
| Fri 19 May | Hillcrest Schools multiple perf/ws | LS7 4DR | Leeds | Hawk/Knotted | NSCD L&P |
| Sat 20 May | NSCD Studio 4 Saturday Programme | LS7 4BH | Leeds | Hawk/Knotted | NSCD L&P/Public/Saturday programme |
| Wed 21 Jun | Burnley Mechanics Conversations showcase | BB11 1BH | Burnley Lancs | Hawk/Knotted/ Coalesce | Northern Consortium/ Burnley Mechanics |
| Sun 9 July | Dance Mama Event Leeds NSCD Perf | LS7 4BH | Leeds | Hawk/Knotted/ Yorkdancespace | Dance Mama/NSCD |
| July | Cottingham Boys Dance Taster Day | HU16 5PX | East Riding | Hawk Dance Theatre | ERYD/Cottingham HS |
| 23-Aug | Edinburgh Festival/ Instagram Take Over | | | DanceSyndrome | DanceSyndrome NPO |
| Aug 23/Sp 24 | Scarborough Boys The Brave P | YO12 5LF | Scarborough | CIC The Brave Project | The Brave Project/ Scarborough 6th Form |
| | 16 sessions YMCA & Other Scarborough Venue | YO11 1DY | Scarborough | CIC The Brave Project | The Brave Project/ Scarborough 6th Form |
| 08-Sep | York & N Yorkshire Dance Hub | | York & N Yorks | | |
| 05-Oct | Teams Josh Hawkins & East Riding | | online | | |

| Date | Venue | Postcode | Area | Company/contact | Partners |
|-------------|--|----------|------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 17-Oct | Teams Josh Hawkins Greatest Robot | | online | | |
| Thu 19 Oct | Cottingham Library East Riding | HU16 5QG | East Riding | Hawk/Knotted | Blaize/ArTERY/ERYC |
| Fri 20 Oct | Cottingham High School (Boys Dance) | HU16 5PX | East Riding | Josh Hawkins/Josh Wild | |
| Sat 21 Oct | Market Weighton Library (Robots) | YO43 3JP | East Riding | Hawk/Knotted | Blaize/ArTERY/ERYC |
| Tue 24 Oct | Roman Road Library (Robots) | BB2 3UY | Lancashire | Hawk/Knotted | Spot On/ Culturapedia |
| | Barlow Library Edgeworth (Robots) | BL7 0AP | Lancashire | Hawk/Knotted | Spot On/ Culturapedia |
| Wed 25 Oct | Theatre Severn Shrewsbury | SY3 8FT | Shropshire | Hawk/Knotted | Arts Alive/ Theatre Severn |
| | Theatre Severn Shrewsbury | SY3 8FT | Shropshire | Hawk/Knotted | Arts Alive/ Theatre Severn |
| Wed 1 Nov | The Angel Ballroom Brigg | DN20 8LD | North Lincs | Hawk/Knotted | LiveLincs NLC NL Lib/Hubs |
| | The Angel Ballroom Brigg | DN20 8LD | North Lincs | Hawk/Knotted | LiveLincs NLC NL Lib/Hubs |
| | Ashby Community Hub | DN16 2UT | North Lincs | Hawk/Knotted | LiveLincs NLC NL Lib/Hubs |
| Thu 2 Nov | Ashby Community Hub | DN16 2UT | North Lincs | Hawk/Knotted | LiveLincs NLC NL Lib/Hubs |
| | Ashby Community Hub | DN16 2UT | North Lincs | Hawk/Knotted | LiveLincs NLC NL Lib/Hubs |
| Mon 6 Nov | Cottingham HS Boys Youth Dance | HU16 5PX | East Riding | Josh Hawkins/Josh Wild | East Riding Council |
| Mon 13 Nov | Cottingham HS Boys Youth Dance | HU16 5PX | East Riding | Josh Hawkins/Josh Wild | East Riding Council |
| Thu 23 Nov | York Theatre Royal Everybody Can Dance | YO1 7HD | York | Y&NY Dance Hub/ York Dance Space | York Dance Space |
| | York Theatre Royal Everybody Can Dance | YO1 7HD | York | 2 Performances PANTS | Coalesce Dance Theatre |
| | York Theatre Royal Everybody Can Dance | yo1 7hd | York | 2 performances OGTM | Coalesce Dance Theatre |
| Sun 26 Nov | Brid Spa Dance Platform | YO15 3JH | Brid East Riding | Boys Performance Josh Hawkins | Hawk Dance Theatre/ERC |
| Thu 30 Nov | Company MEK workshops NSCD | LS7 4BH | Leeds | Company MEK/Serafina | Company MEK |
| Mon 11 Dec | Online Meeting Emyr NEAT/Hawk/APA | | Online | Four Nations Fund Partners Meeting | NEAT/NSCD/Blaize/APA/Hawk/Knotted |
| Wed 20 Dec | Snowed In - Anatomical Dance | LS7 4BH | Leeds | Performance RILEY THEATRE | General Public/L&P/CYPDNN |
| Thu 21 Dec | Snowed In - Anatomical Dance | LS7 4BH | Leeds | Performance RILEY THEATRE | Hillcrest School Pupils |
| Thu 21 Dec | Snowed In - Anatomical Dance | LS7 4BH | Leeds | Performance RILEY THEATRE | General Public/ L&P/CYPDNN |
| 2024 | | | | | |
| Fri 12 Jan | Northern Dance Get Together | LS7 4BH | Leeds | Workshops/ Performances | Various RTDI/ Coalesce & Bursaries |
| Fri 12 Jan | Speedwell Dance Showcase M&TMW | LS7 4BH | Leeds | Workshops/ Performances | Speedwell Dance |
| Fri 12 Jan | Primal Instincts Crew | LS7 4BH | Leeds | Workshops/ Performances | Primal Instincts Crew |
| Mon 15 Jan | ACE meeting at NSCD | LS7 4BH | Leeds | Strategic Meeting Yorkshire NPO Dance | |
| Jan | Workshop Northern Rascals @ NSCD | LS7 4BH | Leeds | Workshop | Northern Rascals/ NSCDL&P |
| Thu 25 Jan | RTDI Menu Launch | | online | RTDI National Menu | RTDI/Dance Companies x 6 |
| Fri 2 Feb | Meeting with The Montgomery Theatre | | Sheffield/Online | Planning re new area of work | |
| Sat 17 Feb | Baysgarth Hub N Lincs | DN18 5DT | North Lincs | Hawk/Knotted Robot | North Lincs Council/ Lib/ Blaize/ LiveLincs |

| Date | Venue | Postcode | Area | Company/contact | Partners |
|--------------|---|----------|------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Tue 20 Feb | BSDC & East Riding Libraries/ ERC zoom meeting | | East Riding | BSDC Dewey/ Indian Biscuits | |
| Sat 9 March | Boston Spa Auditorium 2 performances public | LS23 6RW | Boston Spa | Greatest Robot | |
| Fri 15 March | BSDC at North Bridlington Library | YO16 6YD | Brid East Riding | Indian Biscuits schools perf/ workshop | BSCD/ERYC/ERLIB/BLAIZE/ArtERY/Sch |
| Sun 17 March | The Forum Northallerton DIUPNORTH | DL6 1LP | N Yorkshire | PANTS 2 performances | Coalesce Dance Theatre/YDS |
| Sat 30 March | Beverley Library , East Riding | HU17 8HE | East Riding | BSDC Indian Tea & Biscuits | BSDC/ERC/ERLib/Blaise |

Our goals and aims at CYPDNN

The Children and Young People’s Dance Network North (CYPDNN) exists to offer networking opportunities, coordinate professional development and share dance activity across the North. By working together we can ensure children and young people have the same access to opportunities, regardless of where they live. Our main aims are:

- To strengthen the voice of the sector to advocate and promote dance
- To broaden the offer to children and young people through collaboration

CYPDNN is a support organisation for the dance sector in the North and we welcome contact, collaboration, partnerships and initiatives that forward our aims.



Coalesce Dance Theatre- ‘The Old Green Time machine’ R&D at NSCD Saturday School



Hawk Dance Theatre and The Knotted Project- ‘Inside the Igloo’ at Crowle Library North Lincs

Children & Young People's Dance Network - Ways to connect



Email
cypdnn@nscd.ac.uk



Website
<https://www.nscd.ac.uk/cypdnn/>



Instagram
[@CYPDNN](https://www.instagram.com/CYPDNN)



X (Twitter)
[@Cypdancenetwork](https://twitter.com/Cypdancenetwork)

You can join CYPDNN as a member FREE – to receive newsletters and updates about CYP dance across the North Sign up via this link: <http://eepurl.com/dDNDLT>

Or via QRcode here:



Children and
Young People's
Dance
Network North

Northern School of
Contemporary Dance

