Sefton Performers Network minutes - 7th of July 12-2

People present

Maggi - Sefton CVS, Annie - in Another Place, Nigel - Allen, Abi - Collective Encounters, Chas - Sound City, Richard Talbot, David Eddy- Sefton - MBC, John - Heritage Officer, Karen - Salt and Tar, Cat - Volunteer Centre, Lauren- Sefton CVS, Emma - People First, Tricia - People First, Rebecca - People First, Henry Churney, Peter - Simple Reflective Places, Becca - In Another Place, Maria - Rule of threes, Joe - Sefton libraries, Brian - MYA Space, Ian - Scrapyard CIC, Jess Miley - Salt and Tar, Hannah - Living Well Sefton,

Just a minute updates -

Each member of the group spoke about their activities for up to one minute, and flyers were shared. We really encourage people to continue to share through the Whatsapp group as that seems to be working well.

Sound City

Chas presented on the opportunities which are available through Sound City. These included opportunities for volunteering, for getting involved with the community statue that is coming to Bootle and also the Summer of Music. For more information contact Chas - chas@soundcity.uk.com

Pride in Place

Lauren presented on Pride in Place in Bootle. She stated that The Bootle South area has been selected to take part in the UK Government's Pride in Place programme — a long-term investment programme designed to support community-led change and strengthen local neighbourhoods. The programme is managed by Sefton Council for Voluntary Service in partnership with Sefton Council as the Accountable Body. You can find out more about the programme here: **www.prideinplacebootle.org.uk**

We are trying to ensure we capture the voice of the community to shape the 10 year vision for the funding and I would be delighted if you would be happy to help us encourage people to take part and complete the survey. This survey can be sent to staff, volunteers and clients. If you have any events that I could come to and speak to people please do let me know.

You can find the Pride in Place Bootle survey here.

Southport 26 and The Atkinson

David updated on the progress of 'Southport 26.' The next event that will be run will be Books Alive in October in 2026 with more information to be shared soon.

Feedback from Big Top was also very positive and David thanked the Performers Network for their role in helping with the consultation for the application. The next steps are to recruit for the Heritage Officer, and following this the funding through the community grants programme will be made available. Key events are as follows,

- Taking Centre Stage: Female Artists in the Atkinson's collection. 13 June to 27 Feb 2027
- Antiquita – sculptures by Syrian artist and archaeologist Zahed Taj-Eddin. 13 June to 10 Oct 2026
- Always Something New – artworks by father and son metalworkers Brian & George Fell. 13 June to 17 Oct 2026
- The Angels of Mons – exploration of a Great War legend in partnership with the Mons Memorial Museum in Belgium. 27 June to 17 Oct 2026

Feedback on the Performers Network

The group met and discussed the way they would like the Performers Network to grow going forward. Discussions centred on key questions which included information on what skills and resources participants would like to learn and share, and what extra support is needed by groups to flourish. This information will be used to scope a potential funding application to support creativity in Sefton whilst also linking in with the cultural strategy for Sefton. The steering group also will continue to meet to shape an agenda which is as relevant as possible to the people who attend.

Bootle International Festival

Maggi, Annie and Abi fed back on the Bootle International Festival. They stated that the Bootle International was a fantastic success as nearly 1000 people attended and there were over 20 community groups who took part. The format of the day included workshops, and a 4 hour variety show. Performances included Ukrainian Hip Hop, Pakistani Bollywood dancing, Irish dancing, Brazilian martial arts demonstrations,

African drumming, Nigerian choir singing and a Congolese Fashion show. Stall holders included Living Well Sefton, People First, Ykids and Regenerus. It was a wonderful atmosphere, kind, welcoming and the performances were of a very high standard. There were some people who stayed for the whole day, and came back from last year. It was great fun, and lovely to be part of such a big celebration in Bootle.

Salt and Tar

Karen shared that the festival has gone on tour to the Lock and Quay this year. Key acts playing are Billy Ocean, the Saw Doctors, The Waterboys, and Nile Rogers and Chic. Scrapyard Studios will be leading on a grassroots music stage prior to the main stage acts starting, and tickets are still on sale for some of the nights. The Salt and Tar are also leading on a street art project which will result in noticeable changes on Washington Parade.

Heritage Project

As part of the Sefton CVS Hearts of Gold project John will be leading on free heritage walks in Netherton, Formby and Bootle, over the summer on Walk Wednesdays. The walks are for groups and for the general public and don't have to be on a Wednesday. There will also be a number of workshops offered where people can tell us about the people, places and events that are important to them in Sefton. You can John on john.maguire@seftoncvs.org.uk to discuss further.