

Your ref/eich cyf: Our ref/ein cyf: Date/Dyddiad: Tel/ffôn:

17 March 2023 01443 744803 Paul.Mears@wales.nhs.uk

Email/ebost: Paul.Mears@wales.nhs.uk
Dept/adran: Chair and Chief Executive

PM/TLT

Arts Council of Wales Bute Place Cardiff CF10 5AL

Dear Arts Council of Wales

I write in support of Awen Cultural Trust's application to the Arts Council of Wales Investment review.

As Chief Executive of Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTM), I have the pleasure of sitting on Awen's Advisory Board for the Bridgend County Borough Cultural Partnership and chair the CTM30 Community Leaders Network of which Awen is a member. Richard Hughes and I also sit together on a group of senior leaders along with senior colleagues from the local authority, social housing and the police, designed to improve how we work together to improve the life chances of people across Bridgend.

Awen is an organisation that gets health. It is always open to innovation and collaboration in order to improve the wellness of our communities. As a health board we understand the power of arts and culture as both a direct health intervention and as an engagement vehicle to deliver messaging and get people talking about health and wellbeing.

Should Awen be successful in this funding round, I know that it will only boost our partnership and lead to even greater impact. Programmes such as the Virtual Reality Dementia sessions and the arts interventions through our Wellness Improvement Service (WISE) will only go from strength to strength.

I cannot stress enough how enthusiastic and driven Awen are to making a real difference, that's why I and my colleagues across CTM value them as a partner.

Croeso i chi gyfathrebu â'r bwrdd iechyd yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg. Byddwn yn ymateb yn yr un iaith a ni fydd hyn yn arwain at oedi.

You are welcome to correspond with the health board in Welsh or English. We will respond accordingly and this will not delay the response.

Cyfeiriad Dychwelyd/Return Address:
Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Cwm Taf Morgannwg, Pencadlys, Parc Navigation, Abercynon, CF45 4SN
Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board, Headquarters, Navigation Park, Abercynon, CF45 4SN

Cadeirydd/Chair: Emrys Elias Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive: Paul Mears

I very much hope that their application is successful, enabling Arts Council funding to impact positively on wellbeing across the CTM area.

Yours sincerely

**Paul Mears** 

**Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive**