

# Project Brief

## Healing Spaces

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This brief covers the role of the poet who can demonstrate a strong interest in the use of text as integral to creating a sense of place (placemaking) for the users and staff of the new Crichton Acute Mental Health Hospital, Dumfries which is due to be completed in October 2011.

The poet will have experience in collaborative working and be able to work with the Healing Spaces appointed artist, the project manager and the design team to ensure the smooth integration of text into identified elements/locations mainly within the hospital grounds and courtyards.

The poet's role will be to create texts that support placemaking and contemplation, which stimulate interest and encourage gentle observation of the immediate or wider natural environment.

Healing Spaces has been developed by DG Arts working in partnership with NHS Dumfries & Galloway, following a period of research and consultation by the Project Manager with staff, users, the wider community, the Healing Spaces Working Group, and the Design Team.

## 1. Background

The Crichton Royal Hospital, Dumfries, founded in 1839, pioneered the use of art activity in the treatment of its patients. Painting, drawing and fine needlework were encouraged as well as holding plays, writing a hospital newspaper, exercise and gardening. The original building and gardens were also developed to ensure a therapeutic environment to support recovery.

The existing historic grounds are an interesting example of early 19<sup>th</sup> Century landscaping. The planting and layout of the gardens that we see today was designed by a professor of Botany from Calcutta Botanical Gardens, in the 1920's and contains exotic specimen trees.

The hospital was established as part of a campus, which was designed to focus on health and education. Healing Spaces offers the opportunity to take the original ethos of its founder Elizabeth Crichton and the Hospital's first pioneering superintendant Dr Browne into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The new 85-bed acute mental health hospital will replace the existing unit and facilities.

The new building is currently under construction on a green field site just opposite the Crichton grounds where the current hospital is situated with views of both the engineered garden landscape and the natural landscape beyond.

The new hospital will comprise:

Clinical areas: Intensive care unit, 2 adult acute wards, 2 older adult wards, rehabilitation ward with individual flats.

Patient areas: Gym, sitting rooms, quiet rooms, dining rooms, meeting rooms, tribunal suite, enclosed gardens.

Public areas: Café, main atrium, sanctuary room, gardens, children and family rooms, visiting room, circular walk around the periphery of the hospital grounds.

Staff areas: Changing rooms, staff room, on-call and doctor's room.

All wards have access to gardens.

Walks: 4 graded, waymarked walks have been designed to encourage exercise and enjoyment of the 'outdoors'.

The Healing Spaces artist has been appointed and will take the creative lead for the Healing Spaces project.

## 2. Project aims

The aim of the commission is to develop appropriate and meaningful texts which will be integrated into elements in the courtyard gardens and wider grounds that reflect and support the working, healing and visiting experience.

Integral to Healing Spaces is the delivery of a series of creative workshops focusing on patients and service users in the community to enable participants to experience new ideas and activities that may support them on their journey to recovery. The poet will deliver workshops to identified groups as part of their research, whilst other workshops will be delivered by creative facilitators.

Knowledge and research gathered will inform texts for agreed locations. Texts / words arising during workshops may also be used with the consent of the author, if considered appropriate for the project.

## 3. Project delivery

Due to funding constraints and the very tight time schedule to meet the new build timescale, the commission is pressured and the poet must be available to commit to the tight deadlines.

The poet will deliver texts in consultation with Donald Urquhart, the Healing Spaces Artist regarding materials and locations for the following areas:

- o **Courtyard gardens**  
Internal courtyard gardens. Text will support feelings of calmness and safety and support gentle stimulation and positive distraction. Creative elements will focus on lighting,

seating, paths and walls.

- o **Four walks in the grounds**

A series of waymarked walks have been designed to encourage therapeutic exercise for patients and enjoyment of the outdoors. There are three graded walks within the hospital grounds and a longer walk around the periphery of the site. The focus of the longer walk will be the links between the historic gardens and the new site. This will be achieved through use of text, carved imagery and planting reflecting the historic gardens. An element of storytelling through related texts may be appropriate here.

- o **Approach to the hospital**

There is potential for subtle use of text in seating for the approach to the hospital.

- o **Family garden**

This is a space where families can spend time together. Play and positive distraction are key in this space and may include the use of text.

The artist will take the aesthetic lead and responsibility for the design and delivery of the creative elements, working collaboratively with the poet and project manager, in consultation with the Design Team and the Healing Spaces Working Group. Robyn Marsack, Director of the Scottish Poetry Library will support the process and the poet at agreed points through the project.

The poet will derive material from their research into the rich history of the existing Crichton gardens, the surrounding natural environment, the wider landscape of Dumfries and Galloway and the plantings in the new gardens and courtyards.

Elements where text is to be integrated will be defined by the artist and the poet working together.

It is expected that by commissioning a single artist, working collaboratively with a poet and supported by other professionals, that an aesthetic cohesion throughout the building, courtyards and gardens will be achieved which will support the flow of movement through the building and grounds and enhance relationships between spaces inherent in the architectural design.

Both creative professionals will be managed by the Healing Spaces Project Manager for DG Arts who reports to the NHS New Build Project Group.

## 4. Creative rationale

Healing Spaces seeks to create an aesthetically pleasing, calming, nurturing and reassuring experience for patients, visitors and staff. The creative rationale of 'The Journey' forms the concept for Healing Spaces, within which the following may be considered:

- o the physical journey which people make from across the region to the hospital;
- o the journey which patients make to recovery;
- o the journey of self discovery which patients can begin through creative engagement;
- o the journey of transition from the old hospital site to the new (supporting the process of change for staff);

- o the hospital's journey through history (significant archives);
- o the journeys that will be taken through the hospital and grounds.

The creative rationale in the strategy has been further developed by the artist working with the project manager and design team in consultation with stakeholders. A particular emphasis will be placed on the historic gardens and how their story can be carried through and developed on the new site. The poet will bring their own ideas and areas of interest to Healing Spaces and will be supported and encouraged to do so by the project manager within the remit of the brief.

## 5. Process

The project will progress in three stages:

Stage 1: Research and creative rationale;

Stage 2: Creation of texts for agreed locations;

Stage 3: Implementation and Installation of text

The completion of each stage will be agreed on completion of approval points, requiring sign-off by the Healing Spaces Working Group, prior to proceeding on to the next stage.

### **Stage 1: Research and creative rationale (8)**

The Poet will undertake a period of research and creative rationale development for the identified areas.

The Poet will:

- o Familiarise themselves with the social, cultural and geographical context of the project. This will involve working with the Artist as well as workshops with patients (3 x 1 hour workshops with support from hospital staff), a youth group in Dumfries (4 x 2 hour workshops) and consultation with staff and carers. The workshops will help inform the poet's research.
- o Provide a creative rationale for use of text for each of the identified areas.

The output from this stage will be:

Creative rationale firmly grounded in the research and consultation process. Elements within agreed areas where text will be used. The Poet should demonstrate innovative thinking, be sympathetic to the specific environment of an acute mental health hospital and be aware of the impact that text can have on patients.

### **Stage 2: Creation / selection of texts for agreed areas**

Following approval of Stage 1, the poet, will create their own texts and identify any opportunities for use of text developed during creative workshops.

The output for this stage will be:

- o Text for each agreed element and location;

### **Stage 3: Implementation and installation of text**

Following approval of Stage 2, the poet, will work with the artist to agree the final placement and design of text on agreed elements, the font, layout etc.

The artist will oversee the fabrication of works and working with the Healing Spaces project manager and the NHS the builders and the design team, will oversee the installation of project elements.

## 6. Budgets

New build cost: £27 million

Healing Spaces text based project fees and materials: circa £40,000 ex vat.

Stage 1 Poet's fees are 8 days @ £200 per day, equalling £1,600 ex vat, plus expenses up to £300.

Project stages 2 – 3 will be implemented subject to approvals. All further contracts with the poet will be based upon a daily rate of £200 and fees allocated accordingly, depending on the nature of each project.

DG Arts will manage the budget including payments.

Payment stages will be identified within the contract and will be tied in to approval points (as above). The client will pay the poet at these points, upon approval of work and on receipt of an invoice.

## 7. Timescale

Key dates are as follows:

- o Stage 1 - Research and Creative Rationale will commence with an introduction day in Dumfries Monday **17<sup>th</sup> January 2011**.  
Stage 1 will be completed for **Monday 21st February 2011**
- o Stage 2: Creation / selection of texts for agreed areas: **22<sup>nd</sup> February – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011**
- o Stage 3: Implementation of text. **16<sup>th</sup> March 2011 – October 2011**

The project manager and the poet will agree a detailed timetable on commencement of the commission.

Approval meetings will be programmed within the timetable.

## 8. Copyright and ownership

### Ownership of the Work

Upon completion of the work and final installment of payment to the poet, property and ownership of the work shall pass to NHS Dumfries & Galloway.

### Copyright and Reproduction Rights

Copyright of the text shall remain with the author who is asked to appropriately credit the project, DG Arts and NHS Dumfries and Galloway if text is used in contexts other than Healing Spaces.

The author will undertake not to make or authorise the reproduction of texts for any other public art project.

NHS Dumfries & Galloway and DG Arts shall be entitled without further payment to make or authorise to be made any photograph of the work and to include the work or any photograph in any publication or film, video or television broadcast which is intended to advertise, promote or record the making of the work or the project to which it forms a part. Such items may be sold by DG Arts and NHS Dumfries & Galloway without further payment to the poet.

## 9. Contract

A formal contract will be issued before the poet begins the commission.

## 10. Contact

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