

1. The Group was welcomed to this meeting of the APPG for Performing Arts Education and Training by Glyndwr Jones, CDMT Director. Attendees of the meeting were as follows: Lord Aberdare, Lord Clancarty, Anna McMorris MP (Chair), Honor Miller (Office of Anna McMorris MP), Alex Davies-Jones MP, and Jonathan Edwards MP. Apologies were received from Lord Grade, Lord Taylor of Warwick, Baroness Wilcox of Newport, and Lord Vaizey of Didcot.
2. The minutes of the last meeting of the group were confirmed to be an accurate record of the discussions that took place.
3. Election of Officers 2023
  - 3.1 Anna McMorris MP noted that the election of Officers for the APPG must take place on an annual basis. All current Vice-Chairs of the Group were invited to stand again, and all did so readily.
  - 3.2 Subsequent to a vote, the following were confirmed as Vice-Chairs of the Group for 2023/24: Lord Aberdare, Simon Baynes MP, Sir Peter Bottomley MP, Lord Clancarty, Lord Clement-Jones, Baroness Featherstone, Lord German, Sharon Hodgson MP, Jack Lopresti MP, Baroness Merron, Lord McNally, Lord Taylor of Warwick, Lord Vaizey of Didcot, Baroness Wilcox of Newport, and Lord Wood of Anfield.
  - 3.3 Anna McMorris MP was also re-elected as Chair for a further year, and Glyndwr Jones thanked her for her contributions to the Group's mission.
  - 3.4 It was confirmed by the Secretariat (CDMT) that the financial value of staff time donated to the group for the reporting year 2022/23 falls in to the bracket of £4,501 - £6,000.
4. Presentations by CDMT Accredited schools' Principals
  - 4.1 Mr Jones welcomed a group of Principals from CDMT's Accredited schools for the purpose of engaging with Parliamentarians on matters affecting their provision. Representatives from these providers were as follows: Shirley Coen (Bird College), Tracey Lee (Performers College), Emma Lucia (Drama Studio London), Sean McNamara (Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts), Amanda Skoog (English National Ballet School), Justine Walmsley (Urdang Academy), Jessica Ward (Elmhurst Ballet School), Liz Wilson (The Oxford School of Drama) and Sarah Wilson (Laine Theatre Arts).
  - 4.2 Providers shared their experiences of delivering world class vocational training, particularly noting that they operate in an uncertain funding environment despite the consistently high graduate outcomes they deliver to the industry through the excellence of their training. In the context of these providers guaranteeing at least thirty contact hours per week, it was noted that government could consider extending world class uplift funding to these institutions in tandem with introduction of the Lifelong Loan Entitlement. Further, in line with the ongoing Dance and Drama Awards review, it would be helpful if the DfE enhanced how much each provider is allocated per head and the means-tested maintenance allowance, presently unavailable to those with a household income of more than £30K annually.
  - 4.3 It was further noted that recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing cost of living crisis means that performing arts schools are experiencing demanding energy costs, particularly those who have high consumption levels in order to keep studios sufficiently warm to operate safely. Training providers are further challenged as they now must provide additional support to young people who are experiencing rising costs in rent, coupled with increases to food and utility bills.
  - 4.4 Anna McMorris MP, and the other Parliamentarians in attendance, thanked the awarding organisation representatives for sharing so candidly their experiences, and noted that their work is hugely valued as part of the UK's performing arts education sector. Next steps will include CDMT compiling their experiences into a report to be circulated widely among the Parliamentary networks.
  - 4.5 Further, the APPG agreed that a manifesto document for the sector would be a helpful future priority.