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# TEXT TILES PROJECT

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Brief: Age Concern Durham County are looking for a professional textiles artist to work with marginalised older adults to aid consultation work on using Information & Communication Technology (ICT).

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# Age Concern Durham County – Arts based consultation project

## Requesting proposal

### Brief

Age Concern Durham County are carrying out a consultation project with marginalised older adults in County Durham using art to explore thoughts and feelings around ICT. The aim for this project is to commission a textile artist to work with the target group over a period of four – six weeks, creating a display textile piece which reflects the opinions of the group including fears and aspirations.

#### Background:

Age Concern Durham County has developed an innovative approach to helping older people engage with local decision-making.

**EngAge** is a user consultation & involvement programme that gives a voice to older people in County Durham, including hard-to-reach groups like older carers, housebound, people with sensory impairment and people experiencing mental health issues.

Information from EngAge is used to influence the development & delivery of services that impact on older people's lives.

Outreach work is an important part of the programme. Many of these groups can feel isolated so we make a big effort to get out and make contact with carer groups, frontline organisations for hard-of-hearing older people and so on.

Consultation with older people has identified that they have a complex relationship with computers and especially the Internet. Some embrace it whilst others are wary and feel alienated. However as more information and services are accessed via the Internet the EngAge team are committed to enabling older people to share their experiences, views and aspirations around ICT. The **Text Tiles Project** is an integral part of this consultation process.

The commissioned artist will work alongside the EngAge team who will initiate conversations during the making sessions around ICT.

## Project description:

The intention of involving the arts in this consultation project derives from Age Concern Durham County's wish to:

- Relax participants so that they can share experiences, views, barriers, aspirations and opportunities.
- Allow participants to be creative, 'think outside of the box' and be inspired to voice their thoughts and opinions on a deeper level.
- Give participants a sense of achievement, satisfaction and ownership through learning new skills and creating a piece of work.

## Groups involved:

The artist will work with four separate groups in half day sessions over approximately a 4 – 6 week period (further project schedule details can be found below). Textiles has been chosen as it is a sensory art form and the groups involved are likely to include participants with the following:

- Visual impairment
- Hearing impairment
- Mental health issues such as depression
- Low confidence and self esteem

The group numbers are likely to include between 6 – 10 participants and it is important that the artist is flexible to their needs as individuals may not have the confidence to have a large involvement in the actual making.

Due to the nature of this project, the process involved in creating the artwork is very important. Additionally, it is essential that the commissioned artist has good facilitation skills.

## Final artwork:

Age Concern Durham County is a keen ambassador of allowing and encouraging the artist's own creativity. As a result of this, the form of textiles involved and the final piece to be created is for the applying artists to propose.

As the artist will be working with four separate groups, the final outcome could be one large piece that all groups contribute to or a number of separate works created by each individual group. However it is essential that the following are conveyed:

- Fears
- Ideas
- Aspirations
- Benefits

The location for the artwork to be displayed is yet to be decided however it would be ideal if what is created can easily be displayed/ hung and can be moved to different locations.

Preparation/Debrief:

The budget available allows for preparation, development and evaluation time. At the end of the project the artist will be expected to provide a brief report on their experiences during the project. Further details of this will be discussed during the pre project session with Age Concern and the EngAge team.

## Budget

A total of £3,500 is available to the artist for this project.

This is to include:

- Artists fee for sessions with group (approximately 16 half day sessions)
- Artists fee for preparation, development and writing the short debrief report.
- All materials, equipment and associated costs
- Travel and expenses

## Schedule of work

Deadline for proposals:	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2010
Interviews:	Week commencing 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2010
Work to begin:	October 2010

Shortlisted artists will be informed if they are required to attend an interview by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

The start date of the project is negotiable to take into account any prior commitments that the artist may have.

Project timetable:

Week	Session	Leaders
Pre project	Set dates Confirm groups Sign contracts	Artist, Age Concern and Engage team
Week 1	Pre consultation session	Engage team – lead
Week 2	Introductory session	Artist – lead Engage team - support
Week 3	Making session	Artist – lead Engage team – support
Week 4	Making session	Artist – lead Engage team – support
Week 5	Making session	Artist – lead Engage team – support
Week 6	Post consultation	Engage team – lead
Post project	Debrief session	Artist, Age Concern and Engage team

Location/s: To be confirmed

### Person specification

- Have access to own transport or be willing to use public transport to travel to project locations.
- Have experience of working with marginalised groups within the community.
- Have good facilitation skills
- Already hold/be willing to obtain public liability insurance for a minimum of £5million
- Have a current CRB check from the last three years

## Proposal requirements

Please provide a proposal (no more than two sides of A4) of how you would approach this project and what you can offer to enhance the concept and experience, this should include:

- Textile practise you will be using
- Idea for final piece/s which will be created
- Outline of materials you wish to use
- Previous experience you have working with groups of this nature

Additionally, please send:

- Outline of budget including costs for development, fees, materials, debrief report and travel.
- Up to date copy of your CV
- Examples of your work
- Details of up to two referees – name, address, email, contact number and relationship to you.

**The deadline for submitting proposals is 5pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2010.**

Please send proposals and requested documents to:

Christine Wood, Development Manager

Age Concern Durham County, Age Concern House, 7 Atherton Street,  
Durham DH1 4DJ  
Tel: 0191 374 0934

Email: [christine.wood@ageconcern-durham.org.uk](mailto:christine.wood@ageconcern-durham.org.uk)

Website: [www.ageconcern-durham.org.uk](http://www.ageconcern-durham.org.uk)

Both postal and electronic applications will be accepted.

If you have any questions regarding this brief, please contact Christine Wood, Development Manager (details above).

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