

Press Release - For Immediate Release 19 June 2019

## **Dancers shocked at sudden closure of flagship NHS dance medicine clinic**

The recent sudden closure of the Sports and Exercise Medicine clinic at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital (RNOH), which housed the flagship dance injury clinic, has left injured dancers without a treatment plan and has increased waiting times for treatment at other London Dance Injury Clinics.

Helen Laws Head of the National Institute of Dance Medicine and Science (NIDMS) comments *“This decision by the RNOH to close the service without consultation or sufficient planning, after 7 years establishing such vital care for dancers, is hugely disappointing. Specialist dance services such as this enable dancers and dance teachers with training/career threatening injuries to return to work quickly and receive the support they need from a broad team of healthcare experts.”*

The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital dance injury clinic was established in 2012 as the first NHS dance specialist service in the UK. NIDMS has worked to raise awareness of this service and developed further NHS clinics in Birmingham, Bath and an acute clinical service in London, based upon this flagship model at the RNOH. Specialist dance medicine services are imperative for dancers and the trailblazing RNOH clinic has been a vital source of support.

Kim Hutt, Head of Physical Support, London Contemporary Dance School comments *“The RNOH dance injury clinic has provided an exceptional opportunity and service. This clinic quite literally supports the training and careers of hundreds of dance students, teachers, choreographers and dancers. This clinic is an asset to the NHS.”*

The NHS service is essential for dancers who would otherwise struggle to access appropriate care:

*“This is the best dance specific care I have ever received, and it was provided completely free. This meant that I was always able to go to treatments, no matter how much I was struggling financially after slowly returning to work.”*

NIDMS has been able to negotiate continued NHS dance specialist care **at Mile End Hospital, London with Dr Ian Beasley**, and the dance specialist clinics in **Birmingham and Bath** continue to operate as normal, providing their high level of multidisciplinary care for dancers. Those seeking referrals in London are advised to contact NIDMS on 020 7713 0730

or [manager@nidms.co.uk](mailto:manager@nidms.co.uk) for advice and support. All referral information can also be found on our website [www.nidms.co.uk](http://www.nidms.co.uk)

We invite anyone concerned at this closure to show their support for the work of NIDMS in campaigning for the provision of dance specific injury clinics and wider healthcare services. You can do this by signing our petition <http://bit.ly/dancersmatter> and **participating in the #dancersmatter** campaign to highlight the importance of dance specialist healthcare and the lifeline this provides for professional and non-professional dancers.

-ENDs

For further information, images and comments please contact NIDMS on [manager@nidms.co.uk](mailto:manager@nidms.co.uk)

#### - NOTES TO EDITOR –

##### **About the National Institute of Dance Medicine and Science (NIDMS)**

Through shared expertise and a network of multidisciplinary partners, NIDMS works to provide the dance sector with access to high quality, affordable, dance specific healthcare and dance science support services in private practice and the NHS. These services are underpinned by dance medicine and science research, including that developed and implemented by NIDMS partners. Best practice, information and resources are disseminated to the wider dance and health community through educational workshops, conferences and publications. NIDMS partners include One Dance UK, Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, University of Wolverhampton, University of Birmingham, Birmingham Royal Ballet and The Royal Ballet. The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital was also one of the founding partners. Clinical Partners include Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, Royal United Hospital Bath and Mile End Hospital.

[www.nidms.co.uk](http://www.nidms.co.uk)