

MICRO-COMMISSION BRIEF: WELFARE BANNER



**NATIONAL
COAL MINING
MUSEUM**



**Spectrum
People**

Ciswo
THE COAL MINING CHARITY

University of
HUDDERSFIELD
Inspiring global professionals


Creative Minds



Esmée Fairbairn
Communities &
Collections Fund



AT A GLANCE WE'RE LOOKING FOR...

- An artist to co-create a large-scale community banner celebrating the heritage and present-day role of miners' welfares
- Someone confident working with community groups across former coalfield areas, including people with lived experience of physical and mental ill health
- A creative practitioner able to design and deliver engaging workshops shaped by our capabilities approach
- An artist who can explore themes of sports, creativity, leisure, the historic role of welfares, welfares today and community support
- Someone able to produce a durable, exhibition-ready banner for display in NCMME's Welfare Exhibition (February 2027)
- We would welcome applications from artists from former mining communities as well as those with lived experience of physical and mental ill health

Deadline:
5th October 2026

Micro-commission:
£3,500 (plus travel
expenses)

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Welfares Reimagined is a two-year creative health and heritage project exploring the past and present role of miners' welfares in coalfield communities, funded by the Museums Association's Esmée Fairbairn Communities and Collections Fund. It is a partnership project being delivered by the **National Coal Mining Museum for England (NCMME)**, **CISWO**, the coal mining charity, **Spectrum People**, **Creative Minds** and the **Creative Health Hub at the University of Huddersfield**, working alongside former mining communities, including people with lived experience of mental and physical ill health.

Miners' welfares were once the social, cultural and educational heart of coalfield life. From the mid nineteenth century, miners contributed from their wages to build institutes and halls that belonged to the community. After 1920, the Miners' Welfare Fund expanded this provision, supporting pithead baths, medical centres, recreation grounds, scholarships and rehabilitation. Welfares offered libraries, reading rooms, sports grounds, dance halls, allotments, concerts, youth activities, convalescent homes and places for political organising.

By the mid twentieth century, they had become vibrant hubs of everyday life — football and rugby teams, brass bands, drama groups, art classes, cinema nights, gala days, horticultural competitions, children's parties, weddings, union meetings and community celebrations. They were places where people learned, rested, recovered, connected and created.

Today, many welfares still serve their communities as sports clubs, social venues or community spaces, while others are at risk. Their legacy remains powerful, representing pride, solidarity, creativity and the collective spirit of working-class life.

Welfares Reimagined celebrates both this heritage and its present-day relevance. Through artist-led workshops with former mining communities and creative health partners, we will co-create a large-scale banner capturing themes identified by the project's lived experience Community Panel: sports, creativity, leisure, the historic role of welfares, welfares today and community support.

The final banner will be a centrepiece of NCMME's Welfare Exhibition opening February 2027.



WHAT YOU'LL DO

Plan and deliver co-creation workshops with community groups.

We're envisioning 8 half-day workshops across four venues in South & West Yorkshire

Development of a banner, incorporating outcomes from community workshops, reflecting welfare heritage, creative health and lived experience

Help create a banner and workshops to draw on themes including sports, creativity, leisure, the historic role of welfares, welfares today, and community support.

Creation of a durable, exhibition-ready banner suitable for long-term display and be used as part of the Museum's handling collection.

Documentation of the creative process for digital and exhibition use

WHAT WE'LL DO

Booking workshops with community groups — arranging dates, rooms and logistics with groups identified through our Community Panel.

Providing delivery support if needed — offering practical help during sessions where required.

Providing heritage resources — giving access to objects from the Museum's collection and supporting research to help shape workshop content.

Collaborating on evaluation — working with you to document the creative process, using our existing methods and any creative approaches you may bring.

WHO WE'LL WORK WITH

People from former coalfield
communities, including former miners
and their families

Adults and young people with lived
experience of poor mental or physical
health

Community organisations linked to
miners' welfares

Museum visitors and online audiences



HOW WE'LL WORK

Welfares Reimagined uses a capabilities approach, focusing on what creative activity enables people to do and be in their everyday lives. Our framework is based on the Five Ways to Wellbeing — learn, take notice, connect, give, be active. It guides all creative health activity across the project, and is the framework we use for project evaluation. We ask artists to design sessions that support some of these capability areas and reflect the historic role of welfares as places of learning, vitality, connection and community life.

CAPABILITIES FRAMEWORK

Work / Learning — Skills development · Confidence and progression · Creative and informal learning · Volunteering pathways

Health / Vitality — Emotional wellbeing · Resilience and regulation · Sense of safety · Energy, motivation, vitality

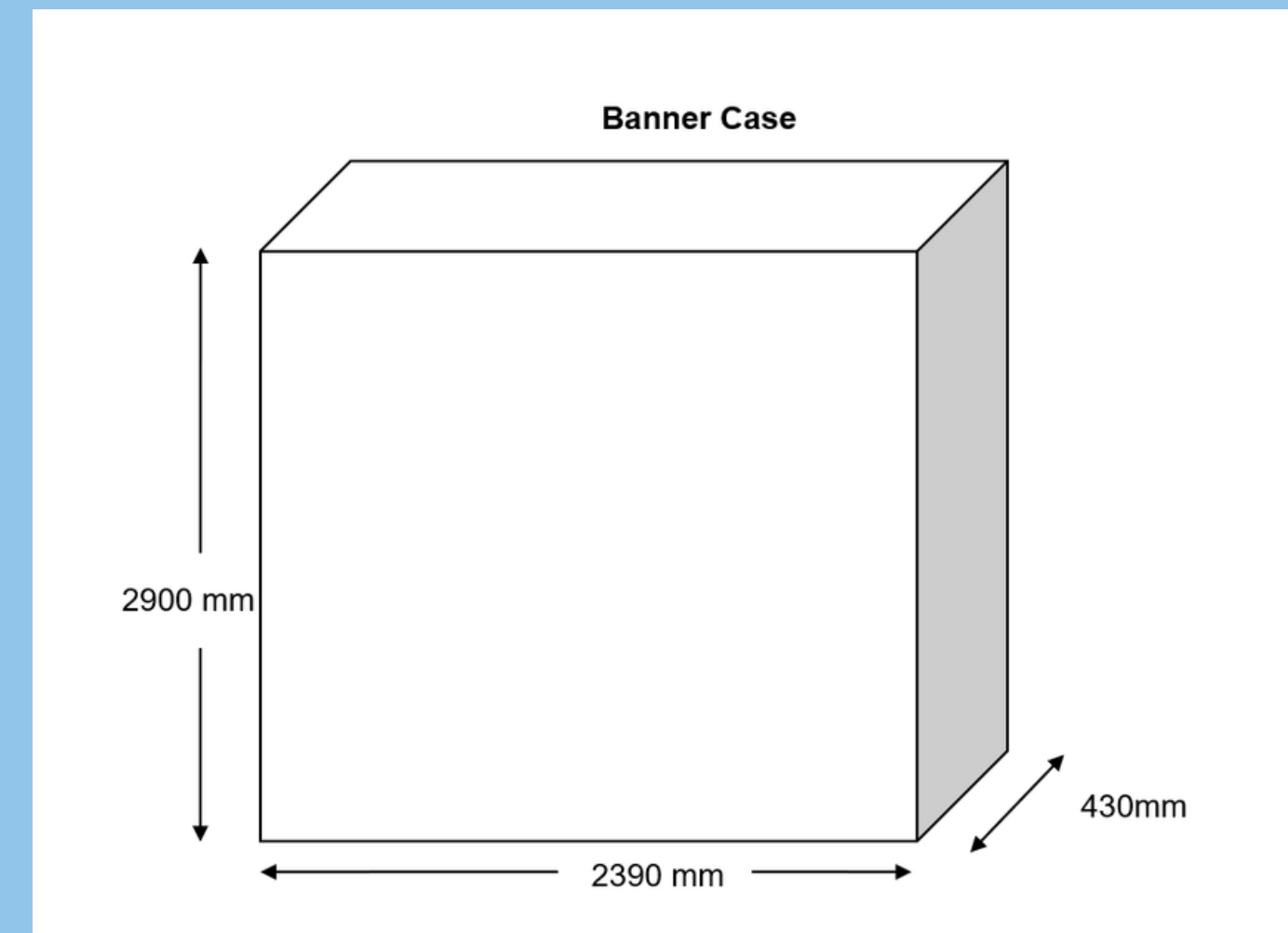
Relationships — Trust and belonging · Social confidence · Peer support · Staff–participant relationships

Community — Identity and pride in place · Feeling welcome in heritage spaces · Participation and ownership · Civic connection

WHAT WE WILL CREATE

We are open to artistic approaches, but the banner should:

- Reference the heritage of miners' welfares
- Be bold and visually engaging
- Incorporate co-created elements from workshops
- Be durable and suitable for long-term display
- Allow contributions from multiple groups and abilities
- Must fit existing banner case (pictured).



USEFUL TO KNOW

Total Artist Budget:
£3,500 (plus travel expenses)

Key Contacts:
Imogen Walsh – Community Engagement
Coordinator
Amy Boothroyd- Learning Coordinator

Delivery Partners:
CISWO, Spectrum People

Main Site:
National Coal Mining Museum for England (WF4 4RH)

Delivery Sites:
Community Venues in South and West Yorkshire

Project Timeline:
Expression of Interest due: 5 October 2026
Artist appointed: 9 October 2026
Workshop planning: Mid–Late October 2026
Deliver workshops: November–December 2026
Final banner assembly: January 2027
Banner installed in Welfare Exhibition: February 2027

HOW TO APPLY

Proposals can be submitted in any format, such as a short video or a side-of-A4. Send to imogen.walsh@ncm.org.uk

Proposals should include:

- Idea for the banner
- What you would include in the workshop to achieve the banner outcome and support our capabilities framework
- How you will allocate the budget
- How the project will be accessible and inclusive
- How you can support evaluation, including documenting the process of creating the banner
- Examples of previous work — ideally including experience of community engagement in former coalfield communities and/or working with people with lived experience of physical and mental ill health
- Confirmation of public liability insurance

Accessibility is important to us. If you require any accessibility support with the application process or have any queries, please contact imogen.walsh@ncm.org.uk.

Application Deadline– 5th of October

