# Booking Information **'Did Not Attend'**

A new short play by CoCreate Theatre Group



Designed for groups & communities with lived experience of poor mental health - including staff, carers & anyone with an interest in supporting access to healthcare.

# Book Your FREE Show for February 2024 Touring Monday 5th Feb - Sunday 18th Feb 2024

In February 2024, CoCreate Theatre group would like to share with you a new informal theatre performance and conversation called '**Did Not Attend**'.

<u>CoCreate</u> Theatre group is a group of adults, with lived experience of poor mental health or illness, together we've been developing theatre skills, and creating a short 'Forum Theatre' performance that we'd like to share with other groups with similar lived experience.

**'Did Not Attend'** is about discovering more about the reasons people with poor mental health might miss NHS appointments, and imagining new solutions and changes together that might improve this.

Missing NHS appointments can have serious implications for health and can even lead to premature death, so the NHS want to make sure people attend their appointments so they can recover and stay well. Missed appointments also cost the NHS millions of pounds every year and increases waiting times when our NHS is already very stretched.

#### About CoCreate

CoCreate Dorset CIC is an arts and mental health & Wellbeing organisation, we are lived experienced led, and use creativity to support recovery, and wellbeing maintenance.

## What is the play about?

Forum Theatre is a form of theatre where the actors play out a story where a character faces a difficulty or challenge, and then the audience suggest different ways the play could go.

We see the play twice; the first time the audience watch the story, the second time they can stop the action and suggest different ways the actors might react to try and improve the outcome.

This play will focus on some of the reasons we think NHS appointments get missed, and then with the audience we'll try and discover some ways things could improve or be done differently together.

( PA)

SUPPORTED BY

HARITIES

NHS

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#### What will happen?

CoCreate theatre group are offering this play free of charge to you and your group. We'd welcome you to host it, and help invite people in your networks and groups to attend.

We will tailor the length of the session to your needs - 60 minutes, 90 minutes or 120 minute options are available.

We can bring drinks, biscuits and cakes to share.

Ideally we need a good sized room, with some chairs for the audience - if you have a group but need help finding a suitable venue, we can help with this.

#### **Session Example**

- We'd like to start the session with some introductions from us, and you If there's time we could also play a
  few warm up games together.
- We'll give you a bit more info about why we're doing this and what we'll do with the feedback and ideas we share.
- We'll perform the play for you to watch, and then we'll perform it again this time with the help of ideas from people in the audience.
- We'll close the session with group discussion and reflection.

Forum is a lively, fun, informal and friendly style of theatre, we don't need a stage, lights or special technical support, just a warm welcome and open mind.

We work inclusively and accessibly - if you need us to consider any adaptations, or access needs to enable people to attend, talk to us!

The theatre group, and you as our audience will be well supported by three experienced members of the CoCreate team.

### Why is this happening?

**'Did Not Attend'** is a CoCreate Project commissioned by <u>CAN</u> (Community Action Dorset) and <u>Public Health</u> <u>Dorset</u>, and is an active and creative way to find out what people affected by the issues think; though the creative conversations we have, we aim to better understand a broad range of perspectives, and ideas for change - we'll create a report using this feedback to share back with CAN and Public Health Dorset.

By attending the performance, and talking about the issues it raises with people it affects, we hope we can really understand the barriers, and contribute to improving access to healthcare.

#### How can I find out more and/or book for my group?

Did Not Attend is available for FREE to community groups around BCP and Dorset

#### Please contact Gemma Alldred - Project Director

T: 07957 68 95 68 E: <u>info@cocreate.org.uk</u>

Book now - dates and times available between Monday 5th Feb - Sunday 18th Feb 2024

'Did Not Attend' is Supported by funding from NHS Charities Together via Dorset County Hospital Charity in association with Dorset Community Foundation

Poster Image from Freepik.com

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