

Switch It

Music to transform young lives

Project outline



Background

Hartlepool Council has been successful in its bid to Youth Music's 'Fund B', securing £99,987 over thirty four months to support young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) or who are at risk of becoming NEET due to circumstances affecting their educational engagement.

The project will run from October 18 – May 21 with provision in two community based projects. Music leaders will work alongside targeted youth support workers to develop specialist skills enabling musical and social/personal outcomes. Switch It will use new approaches to establish a common language that both community music providers and Early Intervention Services can use to monitor and measure developments in young people's social and emotional capabilities.

Participants

Young people who are NEET or who are at risk of becoming NEET due to circumstances affecting their educational engagement.

This includes children and young people who:

- are aged 16 – 19 and not in education, employment or training (up to the age of 25 if they are identified as having SEND)
- are aged 13 - 19 and experience disruption in their education due to family related or economic difficulties (e.g. young people who attend a PRU, are looked after, are young carers, are suffering from neglect or domestic violence, or receive free school meals)
- are aged 13 - 19 and experience disruption in their education due to issues around transience (e.g. young people who are travellers, asylum seekers, refugees, or who have English as an additional language).

Aim's

- To develop the musical proficiency, creativity and performance skills of all young people participating in the project.
- To develop each young person's confidence, self awareness and resilience through tailored musical activities, addressing barriers to engagement and achievement.
- To improve young people's social skills particularly communication and team working.
- To develop the skills, knowledge and confidence of youth work and music practitioners working with young people with complex issues.
- To improve Early Intervention Services understanding of the value of community music.

Venue/projects

- 3 x 15/16 week programmes per year
- 2 sessions per week at the Centre for Excellence in Creative Arts (CECA)
- 2 sessions per week at Throston Youth Project.
- Maximum of 12 x participants per project

Workshops

Session A

Focus: musical development

Details: workshops following musical targets set by each young person. Group work towards recordings/performances.

Contact time: 1.5 hours contact time, 0.5 hours staff reflection

Staffing: lead musician x 1, co-delivery musician x 1

Session B

Focus: personal, social development and accreditation

Details: music workshop responding to young people's needs, issue based (where appropriate) eg song writing exploring emergent themes.

Arts award development, pastoral support, discussion and reflection activities with young people, music leaders and the targeted youth support worker, Individual Development Plan (IDP) & Social Emotional Capability Assessment Tool (SECAT) completion and monitoring.

Accreditation: Young people will undertake accreditation according to their level of need; Arts Award Explore/Bronze/Silver will be the primary focus with the Youth Achievement Award or Rock School Grades being offered where appropriate/possible.

Contact time: 1.5 hours contact time, 0.5 hours staff reflection

Staffing: lead musician x 1, targeted youth support worker x1

Musical content/development

Music leaders will plan programmes based on individual and group aspirations and progression over a 15/16 week cycle. Programmes will be informed by IDPs, the lead musician will also discuss what the young people want to achieve collectively as a group. Each programme will lead to the creation of a recording or performance providing a focus and a reference point for musical development.

Monitoring development/evaluation

Young people's musical development will be tracked through the completion and review of IDPs at the start and end of each programme; the Lead Musician will oversee this process.

The SECAT will track young people's personal and social development. The targeted Youth Support Worker will facilitate this process conducting baseline and end point reviews to capture key information. The project co-ordinator will collate information for monitoring and evaluation.

Staff development

Session observations and action plans will underpin the youth worker's and music leader's development creating an environment of continuous improvement and reflection.

The service will provide a CPD programme to improve the skills of music leaders to staff working across this programme and the wider Tees Valley area through our partnership with musinc. The programme will include the level One Introduction to Youth Work (entry level), the Level 2 Certificate in Youth Work Practice (JNC recognised, for those with experience). A bespoke programme that will respond to both practitioner and young people's needs will be developed and may include understanding autism, awareness of mental health problems, understanding behaviour that challenges etc dependant on the issues presented by young people during the course of the project.

Participation Group

The young people's participation group will meet twice a year, this will provide an opportunity for young people from both locations to come together to review the project and develop plans around workshop content and the overall direction of the project.

Visits to performances & cultural events

Switch It will provide opportunities for young people to visit professional performances and cultural events as a source of inspiration and to gain a broader understanding of the creative industries and potential career pathways.

Referrals

New participants will be recruited through the project co-ordinator and/or the targeted youth support worker; thorough referral processes will establish young people's needs, issues and musical aspirations. Referrals will come from a range of organisations including schools, universal settings, housing providers, social care etc where there has been an identified additional need for support around personal and social development and social and emotional capabilities.

Fees

Workshops subs are 50p per session, inability to pay will be managed on an individual basis .

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