

MNE Changing Tunes Action Research Application Guidance Notes.

Musicnet East Changing Tunes is based at Hertfordshire Music Service (HMS) and funded by Youth Music's strategic Fund C. It is part of the Alliance for a Musically Inclusive England (AMIE).

We are committed to support other music services and organisations working as music services to embed inclusion in their core and extension work. We do this by sharing our journey and the learning from it-this includes our successes and failures. We believe that music learning should be available and accessible to all children, whatever their background and that it is our job as music services to listen to young people, to develop a diverse offer and a variety of progression pathways for young people, encouraging them to have a musical life which extends into adulthood.

The **Changing Tunes** programme has an overarching research question:
'How can music services, as hub lead organisations, embed inclusion and what are the barriers enablers and benefits of developing this work?'

The programme includes:

- Workforce development and training
- Work with children and young people in Hertfordshire and through our partner music services.
- A National Music Services Working Group in Inclusion run with our partner Music Mark.
- Sharing learning and advocating for inclusive music education through AMIE.

As part of our programme we offer small grants for music services to run action based research to explore the challenges, enablers and benefits of embedding inclusion. Each year two grants of £10,000 are available.

What Will I Get Out of Working with Musicnet-East Changing Tunes?

Our delivery partners all belong to our Working Group on Inclusion hosted by Music Mark. We share experiences and support each other to do better. We promote a research approach to inclusion in which organisations can develop their inclusion offer through and with core and extension roles, which best suits their circumstances and location.

- Developing inclusion work in a supportive network
- Sharing knowledge and learning at manager level and for music leaders and teaching staff.
- Understanding of the full value of peripatetic teaching, including personal and social outcomes.
- Understanding of the priorities and challenges for music services in working with schools and local authority contacts.
- Help to build funding and a business case for inclusion.

Who Is Eligible To Apply?

This year we have extended our invitation to all music services in England. We are particularly interested in

- Bids from small services or services which have not been funded by Youth Music recently or at all.
- Bids from larger services that can provide new learning specific to music services, their core and extension roles, that can be shared with colleagues.

NB: You are not eligible to apply if you currently hold any Youth Music grant. However, if you hold a grant which will end before you begin to use this funding, then you are still eligible to apply.

Interested? Read on....

Your project should explore an inclusion idea or solve a problem that is pertinent to your service and your location.

For example;

You currently offer lessons free of charge for young carers but in practice the take up is low and the drop-out rate is high.

Your project proposal is to run a project that is part consultation with the young people and works alongside a support service for young carers to develop a way of delivering music activity that they access and enjoy. Lowering the drop-out rate and increasing take up.

We ask you to work with **Children in Challenging Circumstances (CCC)**... you should be able to prove that at least 60% of the young people you work with on this project are in this category. You can see Youth Music's definitions and focus below, but our project in particular seeks to work with young people with SEMH, social emotional or mental health difficulty, as a way to prevent them becoming excluded and becoming NEET. We recommend working with a referral organisation to ensure the work reaches the children most in need, and who can triangulate its impact. This can be a SENCO in a mainstream school, a teacher in a PRU or it could be a Local Authority Children's service, a charity or community organisation who work with your target group.

Don't forget that in every school there will be children struggling with mental health issues, behavioural problems or who go home to families with very low incomes. We recommend that, if you have limited experience of working with children in challenging circumstances, you and your tutors spend time finding out about the impact that this has on children. You and your partner school or setting should aim to provide a supportive environment for your practitioners. You can work with children that are not yet excluded but at risk of exclusion: those who may be showing early signs of mental distress, risky behaviour or those who find school life difficult. Hertfordshire Music Service has worked on the idea of being involved in music as preventative self-care for young people.

Youth Music Challenging Circumstances

Our definition of challenging circumstances is the same as Youth Music's-you can see more detail here:

<https://network.youthmusic.org.uk/what-kind-projects-does-youth-music-fund>

Please note that, as other members of AMIE are specialists in working with children with disability and profound special needs, our focus is personal and social wellbeing.

Budget

Your project expenditure can cover individual 1:1 sessions, group workshops or a mix of both. Work should be ongoing and progressive so that the young people at the core of your delivery get at least 3 hours of tuition but ideally ongoing week by week input (ie. 9 x 20 minute lessons)

Costs associated with training, support and critical reflection for your staff can be covered and also the costs of evaluating your project.

We expect that you will provide some match funding-this might include a manager's time to set up and monitor the work and/or a contribution in cash from the setting where you are working, for example remission of fees or Pupil Premium. You do not have to pay this over to us-but you must show that you have used it as part of your project.(advise on percentage?)

Small music services may allocate budget towards buying in project management time to research settings and making connections with local expertise but we still expect delivery to children and young people will form the majority of your project plan.

We are interested in sustainable models-we are happy for you to charge for lessons and workshops if you would need to do this long term to sustain the work, or you might treat this project as a pilot for something sustainable/charged for at a later date.

Hertfordshire Music Service, as grantholder, has the responsibility of reporting back to Youth Music on how their grant has been spent, therefore, we would ask you to show us how you have calculated costs, such as the hourly rate for per teachers times the number of sessions with a student, so that we can report accurately.

You will be asked to report on budget at the end of your activity and this will be checked against your initial proposal-some variation is to be expected but large variations should be agreed with the panel before expenditure begins.

Underspend is particularly difficult to manage and may result in Musicnet-East having less funding in subsequent years, please inform

Nick.Denham@hertfordshire.gov.uk as soon as possible if you are likely to underspend your grant.

Reporting

Please refer to the outcomes framework for Musicnet-East Changing Tunes. You are asked to select the outcomes and indicators you think you will be able to evidence.

You will also be asked to register each young person via Musicnet-East.org.uk. The registration is anonymous but we reserve the right to audit registrations, session times and dates and CPD events identified in your proposal.

During the course of your project, we ask you to collect evidence against the outcomes you have identified and to produce this and 2 case studies before your final payment is released. If successful your funding agreement will cover your attendance at the National Working Group on Inclusion, the requirement to report in person to that group toward the end of your project and the requirements for you to collect and share anonymised data and outcome evidence with the Musicnet-East Changing Tunes team to facilitate reporting to Youth Music. As we are keen to share findings from the project with the sector so that as many people as possible share the learning, we will also ask funded projects to supply material for publication such as film, stills and blogs.

Timeline

- Applications open 5th November 2019
- Applications deadline 23 December 2019
- Processing and selection 6-24th January 2020
- Applicants will be notified in the first week of February 2020
- Successful applicants may begin work either April 2020 or September 2020
- Final evaluation presentation to the National Working Group on Inclusion April 2021

Please Note

Funding is subject to Musicnet-East's Youth Music Fund C grant which is confirmed in January for each successive year. No funding is guaranteed, it will always be subject to review.

Queries and Questions

Please email info@musicnet-east.org.uk , if you would like someone to call you back please include your phone number.