

Expressions of interest invited:
issued 13th September 2017, closing date 11th October

Wiltshire County Youth Choir

Wiltshire Music Connect is the Music Education Hub for Wiltshire.

Music Education Hubs are funded by the government through Arts Council England and are a key part of the National Plan for Music Education.

Our vision is that the highest quality and range of music making opportunities are available to **all** children and young people in Wiltshire. To achieve that, our mission is to support & develop a vibrant community of music makers and a diverse range of high quality learning opportunities which are open to all, and celebrate achievement.

As well as working with schools and music teachers we work with a growing community of people involved in a much wider range of music activity, including bands, clubs and groups, promoters, festivals and venues – with both professional and volunteer musicians and music supporters.

The brief:

We are seeking to support and invest in an organisation (or partnership of organisations) with proven knowledge and expertise in singing and choirs to develop and launch a county-wide youth choir for Wiltshire.

The choir should be inclusive and accessible* for young people across the county, and not associated with just one specific location or venue. So, for example a county choir may consist of sub- regional groups plus a county-wide get together from time to time. There could be a junior and senior choir. A wide range of styles and genres should be available, and the choir should plan a major performance at least once a year.

Young people could be recruited from schools via our music clusters, building relationships directly with schools as well as with parents and carers across the county. Our recent data suggests there are between 100 and 150 choirs or singing groups in Wiltshire schools.

Those leading the choir should work with the music hub to create links with appropriate music and cultural organisations in the county, and at regional and sub-regional levels. For example by encouraging auditions and high-quality experiences with other organisations and events, working with schools to promote and encourage vocal tuition (subsidies), school choirs, progression, and encouraging collaboration with the county youth orchestras. We are also particularly interested in maximising existing and emerging singing leadership skills in the county.

Those leading the choir would be required to develop a business plan, aiming for sustainability in the long term, i.e. not reliant on core funding from the music hub.

The choir should aim to launch in Spring 2018, for a two-year development programme, with agreed targets and outcomes.

Funding available to support development over two years is up to £20k

To express / register your interest and discuss this proposal in the first instance please contact Ruth Jones by 11th October 2017 ruth.jones@wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk

**What do we mean by access and inclusion? Membership of the choir should be affordable, and needs to take into consideration young people, parents and carers who rely on public transport across the county. Meeting, rehearsal and performance venues must be accessible, and all music leaders involved must be reflective, inclusive practitioners. Repertoire should provide a wide range of singing styles and genres.*