

Wiltshire Music Connect – Inclusive Ensemble Development Brief

February 2020

We are seeking to commission the development of sustainable inclusive ensemble and performance opportunities for young people in Wiltshire.

Individuals or organisations applying for this contract must be able to demonstrate specialist skills, knowledge and expertise regarding SEND and music, and must have all relevant and appropriate legislative requirements in place, including Enhanced DBS checks and insurances. This will be a commission agreement to deliver specific, agreed outcomes, within an agreed timescale, and is not an employment contract.

Background

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.

We connect children and young people in our county with a broad range of music making opportunities and experiences to complement and support what schools offer. Because music is excellent for developing young minds. As well as working with schools and music teachers we work with a growing group 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. We work with a network of quality assured partner providers – our [Associates](#).

Organisations in Wiltshire who currently provide, support or promote participatory music opportunities for young people with SEND include:

- Special schools
- Schools with Resource Bases
- Wiltshire Parent Carer Council
- Barnardos
- Wiltshire Music Centre
- Wiltshire Creative
- La Folia
- Associates with Inclusive Music Aware status
- Mencap

What we have done so far

- Trialled ensembles within three special schools in Wiltshire, with mixed results
- Commissioned workshops and holiday sessions including some with technology targeting young people with SEND and their siblings
- Programmed CPD opportunities to increase inclusive practice awareness and skills
- Launched an *Inclusive Music Aware* status /CPD pledge option for our Associates
- Produced [web pages](#) and a publication
- Invested in a set of 5 Skoogs
- Funded inclusive music projects and programmes through our open Development Fund

What we want to do next

Consultation and feedback from workshops and families indicates a need for the following:

- Out of school opportunities for young people with SEND who have *higher levels of interest or skills in making music
- Opportunity for musical siblings to play together with their brothers/sisters who have SEND
- Using digital technology to enable access

**ie beyond taster sessions or music activity in a play / therapeutic context*

Our **vision** for Wiltshire is for opportunities for young people who may need support, including assistive technology and adapted instruments to join an inclusive county ensemble, which, over time develops links with the existing youth ensembles in the county, and has opportunities to perform at “mainstream” concert performances. The inclusive ensemble would not be restricted to young musicians with SEND.

What we require from the commissioned organisation / individual

Work with the Wiltshire Music Connect lead contact and wider team to gather and analyse existing music opportunities for young people with SEND in Wiltshire, and develop an inclusive ensemble one-year plan which includes

- using music leaders with appropriate experience to lead the ensemble opportunities*
- using appropriate, accessible venue/s
- creative approach to repertoire, technology and adapted instruments
- identifying potential future income or partnership funding
- monitoring, feedback, evaluation and reporting

***At the time of writing** it is envisaged that initial ensemble opportunities could be provided 2 or 3 times across year at weekend or school holiday times, with one performance opportunity, but this may be shaped by further research carried out as part of this commission. It is our intention that a second year of ensemble opportunities could be supported, building on feedback from this commission

Person / organisation Specification

The individual/s or organisation must be able to demonstrate:

- Proven experience in devising, supporting and delivering music opportunities for young people with SEND
- Proven effective project and budget management experience
- Up to date working knowledge of legislative and best practice child protection policies and procedures

It's also desirable that you/your organisation has some fundraising / income generation experience

To apply

We strongly advise potential applicants to contact us for an informal conversation before making an application. To request a conversation please email: ruth.jones@wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk

Submit a proposal (maximum 4 sides A4) by **9am on Monday 9th March 2020** outlining:

- your understanding of this brief
- an outline of your approach and budget
- a summary of relevant experience with examples
- an explanation of who would lead on / carry out this work and why (if you are an organisation rather than an individual applicant)

Shortlisting will take place by on the afternoon of 9th March and shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview in Bradford on Avon on the afternoon of **Wednesday 18th March** to present their proposal and answer questions.

Timescale

- Initial contract agreed March 2020 – work to be completed January 2021 by agreement.

Commission budget

- Up to £10,000 is available for this work