



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New report highlights importance of helping young people access spaces to make music.

Funding from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport enabled UK Music, working with the London-based music charity Sound Connections, to support a two-year pilot Rehearsal Spaces project (from 2009-2011)

In a newly published report, commissioned by Sound Connections, a number of significant achievements and recommendations have been highlighted exploring how the programme can develop onto the next phase.

The project established 14 music rehearsal spaces for young people aged between 8 and 25 located in urban and rural areas of England experiencing multiple deprivation. The funds were used to provide instruments and equipment, and contributed towards the cost of necessary capital works, such as sound proofing. The vast majority of the spaces were located in local authority owned buildings – often existing community spaces.

Typically, participants came from within a 5-mile radius of the space. The project also enabled 19-25 year olds to act as volunteers, running sessions themselves and using the space independently. There were approximately 33,000 visits to the spaces, three quarters of the young people were aged between 11-18 years and the gender balance was 68% male. The entire project gave paid work to 65 people, including music specialists, youth workers and project managers.

A number of achievements were cited in music, personal and social development. Many spaces supported young people from poorer socio-economic neighbourhoods in to employment, education and training. Working in groups raised self-esteem, taught young people how to deal with anger and take responsibility for their own health. Excitement and hope fostered a passion for music-making.

Spaces created safe and attractive rooms and activities, offering an alternative to the school curriculum to help reduce anti-social behaviour, leading to public performances that improved the perception of young people amongst the wider community. One location involved young people in deciding how to spend £10,000 on their space while another hosted a German and a Chinese orchestra to launch its Olympic week. Participants were also encouraged to retrieve instruments from their lofts and to enter local and regional talent competitions.

Many spaces assisted young talent to make headway in the music industry. One space formed a partnership with Field Music, nominated for a 2012 Mercury Music Prize, and whilst rioting took hold of our cities in the summer of 2011, another space working, with its young people, took over an empty high street shop to record young people's music.

Participants in the project performed at Glastonbury and Reading Festivals and at the Royal Albert Hall. One band was invited to record their songs at the prestigious Sawmills and Rockfield recording studios, going on to win the 'Best Live Act' at The Exposure Music Awards. Another won the Student Band of the Year award while other bands supported McFly and Bombay Bicycle Club. One artist had his track played on BBC 1Xtra.

Jo Dipple, Chief Executive, UK Music said: "Two years ago we helped launch the Rehearsal Room Scheme with DCMS. The project was born as a reaction to a lack of facilities for young people. As expected the spaces, all over the UK have been very well attended. The spaces have had a huge impact on the individuals and the local music scene in the 14 areas. This report shows us what work needs to be done and UK Music is excited to be leading this challenge. The industry is fully behind the scheme and we look forward to working with the spaces and developing the next generation of creative talent. "

Philip Flood, Director, Sound Connections said: "This report highlights the crucial importance of helping young people access spaces in which to develop their own music. The positive results of this are very real, not only for their musical but also social and personal benefit."

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Notes to Editors

Sound Connections

Since 2002, Sound Connections has an outstanding track record in developing, supporting and empowering individuals and organisations to deliver high quality music-making for children and young people in social need across London. They do this through innovative music programmes, high quality information and training provision, and cutting edge research and advocacy.

Over the last ten years they have supported over 6,500 music practitioners to work with over 45,000 children and young people, through projects involving youth justice, special educational needs, looked after children, refugee communities and youth groups.

Sound Connections is funded by Youth Music

UK Music

UK Music is the umbrella organisation which represents the collective interests of the UK's commercial music industry - from artists, musicians, record producers, songwriters and composers, to record labels, music managers, music publishers, and music licensing societies.

UK Music consists of:

- Association of Independent Music (AIM) representing over 850 small and medium sized independent music companies;
- British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors (BASCA) – with over 2,000 members BASCA is the professional association for music writers and exists to support and protect the artistic, professional, commercial and copyright interests of songwriters, lyricists and composers of all genres of music and to celebrate and encourage excellence in British music writing;
- The BPI represents more than 350 music companies, from major labels to the smallest independents, accounting for more than 85% of all recorded music sold in the UK;
- Music Managers Forum representing 425 managers throughout the music industry;
- Music Producers Guild representing and promoting the interests of all those involved in the production of recorded music – including producers, engineers, mixers, re-mixers, programmers and mastering engineers;
- Music Publishers Association, with more than 260 major and independent music publishers representing close to 4,000 catalogues across all genres of music;
- Musicians Union representing 32,000 musicians;
- PPL is the music licensing company which, on behalf of 51,000 performers and 8,500 record companies, licences the use of recorded music in the UK;
- PRS for Music is responsible for the collective licensing of rights in the musical works of 75,000 composers, songwriters and publishers and an international repertoire of 10 million songs.