

Music and the Youth Sector – the challenges and opportunities

Challenges (post-its)

- Funding
- Signposting
- Schools knowing about the support networks available
- Lack of people who care about young people
- Schools
- Commitment/time
- Money
- Knowing who to connect to
- Finding young people who can benefit from our offer
- Violence/postcode wars
- Feeling like you have to reinvent the wheel
- Age gap
- Distribution
- Accessibility
- Knowledge
- Accessing space out of traditional work hours
- Finding partnerships and making time for them
- Staff with knowledge
- Where to go after recording tracks – what are the next steps?
- Resources
- Finding a way to distribute music for young people
- Finding a support network
- Offer more guidance and direction around being independent in the music industry
- Educate police and youth through music
- Understanding the value of music
- Reaching the “hard to reach”
- Accessing the communities who need us
- Fear – wrong area, of failing peer judgement, money troubles
- No partnerships with organisations who can provide positive pathways (jobs/paid work) in music
- Freedom of speech
- How to best utilize facilities
- Making connections
- Staffing and consistency of volunteers
- Knowledge of what is needed/wanted
- Clear ways to connect artists with young people
- Availability of flexible roles
- Social media

Challenges (discussion)

- Funding the youth sector – how do we pay for specialist services to help our young people? (currently relies on volunteering which can be inconsistent and lets our young people down)
- Supporting young people into paid music opportunities – where do we go to find these opportunities? How can young people network to find their own opportunities? Lack of awareness of opportunities?
- Finding good music professionals who want to work with young people - where are they? How do we collaborate?
- Professional studios not wanting to/not knowing how to support local young people e.g. discounts on space/track production
- Young people and artists not being exploited for 'free labour' – how can we safeguard against our young people being exploited long-term in this way? Our young people do not have the ability to take unpaid opportunities long-term (young carers/ parents/ families who need 18-24s to work and earn etc)
- How do we support these young people to get the same opportunities as young people who come from backgrounds that allow them to take unpaid work to get ahead in the industry?
- Time poor and under resourced: how do we collaborate regularly to achieve together?
- Working in and around drill
- Young people desensitized to knife crime etc
- Some areas off bounds – gang related territories
- Finding ways to collaborate with other agencies/youth centres
- Finding musicians/workshop leaders to run workshops
- There is no well-known network system for support with workshops/studios

Opportunities (discussion)

- Recommendations from organisations, eg Sound Connections, Roundhouse etc for freelance tutors
- Apprenticeships – showcase/ provide training for young people in a range of different music areas.
- A platform where people can access tangible opportunities
- Professional music studios working with local youth organisations
- Youth Music 'Give A Gig Week'
- Set young people up as a freelancers so they understand how to do invoices etc
- Opportunities for self-expression (without censorship)
- Greater visibility/make activities easier to find (not a well-kept secret)
- Affordable to consistent access to affordable spaces
- Sharing knowledge – youth workers with understanding of context and music
- There are many underutilized music studios



- Finding ways to hear young people's voice – podcasts, interviewing, local residents, young people to talk about their stories
- Local radio shows to educate/promote and facilitate avenues for young people to show their skills, eg artists, interviewers, DJs, curators etc
- Signposting, sharing wider opportunities, partnerships, sharing resources, visits, group outings, sharing audiences
- Funding – linking with partners, forward planning, sharing knowledge, co-writing bids
- Partnership funding – working together, bursary agreements between music and youth organisations, taking risks on new opportunities
- Exchange – rather than musicians working for free, youth organisations could work collaboratively with musicians and young people to fundraise (which also helps young people get new works skills)