

Musical Progression in Outer London Boroughs



A report for Roundhouse produced by

WIRED4MUSIC

The music council for young Londoners hosted by Sound Connections

INTRODUCTION

Between November 2013 and December 2014, Roundhouse and Wired4Music came together to consult young people aged 16-25 across the outer London boroughs¹ of Enfield, Haringey and Barnet. We wanted to find out about young people's musical journeys, what opportunities they have to make music and what they want in the future. We also wanted to strengthen the voices of young people in these boroughs, deepening the connection between their ideas and the musical offer from their respective music education hubs.

AIMS

The aims of the project were:

- To amplify the voices of young people from Enfield, Barnet and Haringey in pan-London conversations about the future of music education, training and opportunities.
- To find out more about what young people across these boroughs currently know about the opportunities available; what opportunities they think are missing and to initiate a forum for active discussion between young people and service providers; from music and youth services, to schools and art organisations.

THE PROCESS

We designed a consultation process that enabled young people to discuss career pathways and opportunities to progress, discover creative opportunities available across London and feed their views and experiences into a London-wide conversation about the future of music for young people. By working closely with music and youth services, we set up a number of consultations with young people from each borough. Each consultation session was led by Wired4Music staff and co-facilitated by young leaders.

Enfield: we met with three separate groups of young people at the Dugdale Centre, Ponders End Youth Centre and Chace School; bringing them altogether for a final session at the end. This process was effective but took time in order to build strong relationships with Enfield service providers.

Barnet: we met with three separate, small groups of young people at Canada Villa and Finchley Youth Centres. There was no final session to bring the groups together making the process somewhat fragmented.

Haringey: the aim was to meet with one large group in Haringey. Unfortunately only two young people attended the session at Alexandra Palace so we were unable to capture a wide range of

¹ The average spend on arts/culture for inner London boroughs (excluding the City of London) in 2013/14 was £26.58 per head, over £6 higher than the average spend by outer London boroughs (£19.99 per head). It is worth noting that the outer London average is below that for England as a whole (£21.84) – *Understanding the Value of Arts And Culture, London Councils report Oct 2014*

opinions from young people. We were, however, joined by a number of partner organisations from the borough.

COMMON FINDINGS AND CREATING A MUSICAL WISH LIST

Over the course of these consultations, we were struck by the common threads between what the young people were feeding back in each borough. Tying this feedback in with additional consultations which have since taken place in Brent, as well as conversations taking place within and through Wired4Music, we have compiled the findings from the 'musical wish lists' created by the young people consulted in all four boroughs:

- 🕒 **Networks & communication** to **connect** with other creative young people, to **share ideas** and find new partners for **collaboration** and to **receive information** on all of the opportunities available both within their boroughs and London- wide.
- 🕒 **Platforms** to **perform to peers** and hear new music performed by peers, to be **celebrated** and **encouraged**; to build **confidence** and **develop** as artists.
- 🕒 **Access** to free or low cost, high quality **spaces** and **facilities** to **write** and **create** music, **collaborate**, **jam** and to be **inspired**.
- 🕒 **Professional development** to **enable** young people to develop their **skills**, **learn** about the industry and **explore** career pathways.

CHALLENGES

The consultations were hugely positive in reflecting the great musical opportunities available to young people through the music and youth services in outer London boroughs that do not have a great wealth of culture on offer outside of this. There were, however, some challenges faced and areas for improvement. These included:

- 🕒 **Time:** trust-building with the local authorities, schools, youth projects and young people themselves takes time and there is often red tape to overcome.
- 🕒 **Staff and sustainability:** a number of staff involved in the original consultation plans left midway through the process. Handovers and following up were not always reliable or effective, which had time implications and, on occasion, lack of support.
- 🕒 **Communications leading to fragmented offers:** there was often a disconnect or divide between service providers working in the same boroughs; with some colleagues unaware of what the other was offering. This meant that young people were often unaware of opportunities on offer within their own home boroughs.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Our findings indicate that there are huge similarities between the needs of musical young people in each of the four boroughs we worked with and the 'wish list' can be viewed as the first recommendation. The findings also indicate that organisations could improve the offer to young

people by staying connected with colleagues inside and outside of their borough, signposting young people and therefore creating a wider pool of opportunities. The process of these consultations is threefold in that it:

1. Gives young people a voice
2. Identifies and responds to local need
3. Strengthens partnerships both within and outside of boroughs

A number of young people from each of the boroughs signed up to Wired4Music and have since contributed to conversations around the manifesto, as well as joining youth-led discussions at the Arts Council (Haringey representative) and our annual youth voice symposium Rising Futures; held in partnership with Roundhouse (Brent representative). Wired4Music recommend that organisations, music hubs and local authorities speak directly with young people; giving them a voice and platform to regularly feedback the information such as is found in this report, and to have a say in shaping their musical experiences. Organisations should, therefore, move away from programming *for* young people and toward programming *with* young people. This format is mutually beneficial and it inspires and enables organisations to create high quality offers by connecting them directly with the audience their programmes are aimed at.

About the team



Roundhouse is a legendary cultural venue in Camden, offering year-round projects for 11-25 year olds interested in music, theatre, spoken word, circus, broadcast and new media. Young people are at the heart of everything we do. Roundhouse is also an Arts Council Associate Bridge Organisation, working to connect the cultural offer for young people in north London.



Sound Connections is a leading music organisation that empowers young people and those who work with them by developing innovative programmes, developing the workforce, and carrying out research and advocacy to create change through music.



Wired4Music is the music council for young Londoners hosted by Sound Connections. We have recently initiated the Wired4Music Manifesto, a groundbreaking campaign that celebrates everything that is great about music in London, and tackles the challenges that prevent some young people from fulfilling their musical dreams.

Partners

The following partners helped to make this project possible: Enfield Music Service, Enfield Youth Support Service, Chace Community School, Palmers Green School for Girls, Millfield Theatre/ Pymms Park Festival, Woodhouse College, Barnet Music Service, Barnet Youth Services, Barnet Education Arts Trust, Finchley Youth Centre, Canada Villa Youth Centre, Haringey Music Service. We also worked with Jacksons Lane, Alexandra Palace, Haringey Arts Festival, Strong Voices, Bruce Castle Museum, Triangle Centre, Brent Music Service, Claremont High School, Brent Youth Services, Granville Youth Centre. Our thanks to all the young people and staff who took part.

APPENDIX

Venues, organisations and opportunities used by the young people who took part in these consultations can be found below.

Places

- [Enfield Music Service Saturday Centre](#)
- [Dugdale Centre](#)
- [Millfield Arts Centre](#)
- [Unity Hub](#)
- [Canada Villa Youth Centre](#)
- [Sound Skool](#)
- [Finchley Youth Theatre](#)
- [Finchley Music Centre](#)
- [Arts Depot](#)
- [Barnet College](#)
- [Unity Radio studio](#)
- [Bernie Grant Arts Centre](#)
- [New River Music Studios / Tottenham rehearsal rooms](#)
- [Rich Mix](#)
- [Stoke Newington Music Studios](#)
- [Roundhouse](#)
- [Hackney Empire](#)
- [The Big Busk](#)

Opportunities / projects

- [Futureversity](#)
- [Rithmik Music Project](#)
- [Haringey Arts Festival](#)
- [Poetry Society](#)
- [Wired4Music](#)
- [Enfield Youth Wind Band](#)
- [Enfield Youth Symphony Orchestra](#)
- [Enfield Jazz Orchestra](#)