

Challenging Circumstances Peer Learning Scheme 2015-2016



Host organisation information and submission form.

Introduction

Sound Connections is looking for organisations and projects to host a peer learning placement (lasting no longer than one day) at a project or activity for young people facing challenging circumstances.

The Peer Learning Scheme is a development of a pilot 'work shadowing' scheme Sound Connections ran for its [Challenging Circumstances Music Network \(CCMN\)](#) members in spring 2015. Four music leaders took the opportunity to experience a day in the life of a CCMN organisation. [Heart n Soul](#) (creative arts company working with people with physical and learning disabilities), [Fairbeats!](#) (music charity working with refugees and asylum seekers), [Good Vibrations](#) (running Indonesian gamelan projects in prisons and secure hospitals) and [The Village School](#) (SEND 4-19 school in Brent) all opened their doors to an individual willing to learn more about the organisation and its practices, as an opportunity to reflect on and develop their own.

The benefits of peer learning

Peer learning is a means to develop the community of practice for music in challenging circumstances across London. It benefits both the host organisation/project and the guest learner.

If you're a host organisation/project, you can benefit from:

- Gaining a fresh perspective on your work from an objective outsider working in the same field.
- Promoting your activity and sharing your work.
- Developing new relationships and networks, and potentially building your pool of practitioners.

Guest learners in the pilot work shadowing scheme reported the following benefits:

"These techniques [learnt on the placement] will translate easily and very effectively into the workshops I already run."

"[The placement] encouraged me back into my direct practice as I have had a break due to illness. I found it enjoyable to be in the atmosphere and it renewed my interest in the younger age group as I have been away from it for a while"

Applying to be a Peer Learning Scheme 2015-2016 host

Thanks to funding from [Youth Music](#) we are delighted to be able to develop the scheme, opening it to more organisations and practitioners, during 2015-2016. We are redefining it as 'peer learning' to emphasise that this is an opportunity for people of all levels of career experience – equally beneficial to those starting out in their music leading career; experienced teachers and practitioners interested in moving into work in challenging settings; or those with years of experience in the challenging circumstances field keen to gain new ideas and perspectives. This reflects Sound Connections' commitment to delivering



high-quality Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for the music education workforce.

At the moment we're looking for projects and organisations keen to become a host, offering a placement of no longer than one day.

- **Who can apply to host a placement?**
Any project or organisation running high quality music-making activities for young people facing challenging circumstances.
- **What's the timeframe?**
We are looking for placements on weekdays or weekends from October 2015-February 2016.
- **How long are the placements?**
The placements range from a 1-2 hour session to a maximum of one full day.
- **What is the commitment for the host organisation?**
Once we have filled the placement you have offered, we put you in touch with the guest learner to confirm date, time, location and any other practicalities such as safeguarding checks in line with your own policy. We also recommend you have a short briefing/planning conversation. Finally we ask you to complete a short feedback form after the placement.
- **Who might your guest learner be?**
The placement scheme is open to any emerging or established practitioner keen to develop their practice, knowledge and pool of experience in the field of challenging circumstances. Both individuals (i.e. freelance practitioners) and employees of arts organisations may apply.
- **What about cost?**
The placement itself is free, and Sound Connections will provide a bursary to those taking up a placement as a guest learner to cover loss of earnings and travel expenses. There's no funding available for host organisations.

Timeline

- Deadline for applications from host organisations – **Wednesday 30 September 2015**
- Applications open for guest learners to apply – rolling applications until all placements are filled
- Feedback due within two weeks of hosting a placement



Submission form for host organisations

Please complete the form below and send to zoe@sound-connections.org.uk to submit your organisation as a host for the work shadowing scheme.

Name of organisation/project:	
Brief description of organisation/project:	
Name of contact and contact details (email address and phone number):	
Brief description of session/activity you'd like to offer for a peer learning placement (<i>please list more if there's more than one placement session/activity you can offer</i>):	
Will the placement involve observing an activity or will there be an opportunity for the guest practitioner to engage in active participation?	<p><i>Circle as appropriate:</i></p> <p>Observation only / Active participation</p>
Activity location (please include full address):	
Date(s) and time(s) on offer (October 2015-February 2016):	
Any other information you'd like to share about the placement:	