



sound**LINCS**

## **Community Music Activity Pre-Conference Presentation**

Tblisi, Georgia - 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Spoken presentation by soundLINCS in relation to Theme Two:  
Partnerships and Social Cohesion

### **Title**

Community Music supporting change in Musical Inclusion through partnerships, research, practice, and an Inquiring Mind

### **Abstract**

soundLINCS is a not-for-profit community music organisation based in Lincolnshire, England.

In response to Youth Music's (YM) vision to develop a Musically Inclusive England, soundLINCS developed its Inquiring Mind Process (IMP).

IMP is a creative response to our experience of being a community music organisation that provides developmental music making activities for Children in Challenging Circumstances (CCC) and workforce development activities for the adults who support them. IMP is considered to be an approach that will deliver our aim of developing sustainable models of Musically Inclusive practice, and is consistent with YM vision for a Musically Inclusive England.

soundLINCS believe that models of Musically Inclusive practice are most likely to be sustained when they are supported by the non-music sectors with primary responsibility to care for, support or educate CCC. The underlying principle is that non-music sectors often have statutory responsibilities (and commensurate funds) to improve outcomes for CCC and are more likely to act upon the positive impact that music can contribute if they are involved in discussing, shaping, witnessing and benefitting from the projects that they agree to partner with. This approach can be encapsulated in the phrase 'demand led not grant fed'.

For each IMP project, soundLINCS brings together keen and interested people from a minimum of two strategic partners combined with its workforce of experienced Music Facilitators (MFs). The partners usually include a non-music organisation (such as Local Authority Children's Services, Leaving Care Service or Youth Justice Intervention Team) and a Higher Education Institute that collaborates to design, undertake and oversee Research Activities. Other partners have included Music Education Hubs, a Hospital and a Housing Association.

Each IMP project comprises:

1. Input - Develop relevant questions in relation to CCC and their workforce through discussion.

2. Seek answers through:-

- a. wider discussions within the relevant sector
- b. research based activities
- c. practical delivery of music and workforce development activities
- d. gather and analyse 360° feedback

3. Output - Documentation to scale-up and transfer learning from a single project to the wider sector.

Completed IMP projects identify challenges and benefits for partnerships and research within the context of Musically Inclusive practice for CCC and their workforce. Changes in key personnel, confusion of purpose and workforce fatigue can obscure excellent practice. Conversely – consistency, clarity of purpose, and sustained engagement enables excellent practice to shine through and support wider change through credible documentation such as papers, resources and toolkits.