



soundLINC

soundLINC Inquiring Minds Process® (IMP®)

Context

From 2015 – 2018 soundLINC developed and delivered an ambitious music programme in Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire. The Company is one of 13 organisations who received a grant from National Foundation for Youth Music for their Fund C programme.

Fund C organisations were required to work at two levels: direct delivery and strategic.

Direct delivery included work with children and young people experiencing challenging circumstances to engage in creative music-making and develop musically, personally and socially. Strategic work included growing the capacity for inclusive working through development of expertise for self, others and partnership working.

Children in Challenging Circumstances are young people whose challenging circumstances act as a barrier to accessing music-making. These challenges may be:

- **economic** – children and young people whose family income restricts or prevents their participation in music-making, because it is unaffordable or inaccessible.
 - **relating to a life condition** – children and young people with a condition which makes their participation in music-making more expensive or complex, such as a disability or sensory impairment.
 - **relating to a life circumstance** – children and young people who are living in situations which makes their participation in music-making more expensive or complex, such as looked-after children, young carers or those living in rural isolation.
 - **behavioural** – children and young people whose behaviour means they need additional support or specialist services in order to be able to participate in music-making, such as young offenders or young people at risk of exclusion.
- Sound Connections (2014), supported by Youth Music*

Musically Inclusive practice

The Aim of soundLINC Fund C programme was *To develop sustainable models of Musically Inclusive practice for Children in Challenging Circumstances (CCC) and the organisations and adults that support them, including parents and carers.* This aligned to Youth Music's ambition to achieve a Musically Inclusive England. soundLINC believes 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 funds to improve outcomes for their young people 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'.

Inquiring Minds Process[®]

soundLINCS developed Inquiring Minds Process[®] as an essential ingredient for Fund C. It is:

- a creative response to the experience of being a community music organisation that provides developmental activities for CCC
- considered to be an approach that will deliver the aim of developing sustainable models of Musically Inclusive practice
- is consistent with Youth Music's ambition to achieve a Musically Inclusive England

For each IMP project, soundLINCS brings together keen and interested people from a minimum of two strategic partners and combines them with the Company's workforce of experienced Music Facilitators who lead activities with participants. Their work includes facilitating music making with CCC and leading workforce development programmes with strategic partner staff.

The strategic partners usually include a non-music organisation (such as Local Authority Children's Services, Leaving Care Service or Youth Justice Team) and a Higher Education Institute that collaborates to design, undertake and oversee Research Activities.

Each of the 'paired' partners (non-music organisation and HEI) are in contact with each other and working with the participants. Each IMP project incorporates 3 elements:-

1. INPUT - Develop relevant questions in relation to CCC and their workforce through discussion. What question/s do partners need to be answered?
2. Seeking answers through:
 - a. wider discussions / information gathering within the relevant sector, including Academics and Music Facilitators
 - b. research based activities including: studying published and grey literature; refine research questions; establish methodologies; agree ethics; identify outcomes and outputs
 - c. practical delivery of music development activities by Music Facilitators with groups, organisations and individuals
 - d. gather and analyse 360° feedback from all involved, including reflective diaries and journals
3. OUTPUT - Documentation is the method to scale-up and transfer learning from a single project to the wider sector. Documentation includes Academic papers, published research, evaluations, descriptions of methodology and practical examples, resources and training packs.

soundLINCS has been involved with six IMP projects to date. They have all been primarily funded by National Foundation for Youth Music. The projects are summarised here - <http://www.soundlincs.org/toolkits-reports/>