

Early Years Foundation Stage Music Project: Tri-Music Together

Press Release: September 2018

Young children benefit from exciting music project and free guidance for teachers

The Tri-borough Music Hub and a group of consortium partners has delivered a highly-successful project on a local scale, with national impact, having benefited from being awarded £100,000 by Youth Music Charity to support music in the Early Years.

Thanks to funding from the national charity Youth Music, a 2-year workforce development project between 2016-18 took place across three London Boroughs - Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, and Westminster. Over the last two years the project focused on improving music provision for birth to 5 year olds and has had a significant impact having worked with 249 Early Years (EY) Professionals, 120 EY settings and 148 Musicians, and was led by the Tri-borough Music Hub.

The Tri-Music Together project was open to all EY Practitioners across the three boroughs and engaged with those working in maintained schools and nurseries; children's centres; and private, voluntary and independent settings. The project also offered CPD opportunities to musicians who worked with partners in the Tri-borough Early Years Consortium (TBEYMC).

The TBEYMC project was supported by Youth Music and using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. The partners in the consortium, (listed in the Appendix) worked with the EYFS Strategic Lead, Nicola Burke; with the entire project and its outcomes evaluated by Dr. Jessica Pitt. The strategies explored throughout the project are being viewed as models for how all Music Education Hubs nationally can work with Early Years settings and practitioners.

Legacy

One of the aims of the project was to create resources to support EY music and to create a legacy. [Musical Development Matters](#) is a brand-new guidance document that has been written to support those who work with young children in early childhood. The guidance complements the non-statutory guidance document *Development Matters* that EY practitioners use in EY settings across the country.

Musical Development Matters has been published by Early Education and is co-badged by Youth Music. It has been written to help raise the profile of music in early childhood and to support those working with children in early childhood not only in the Tri-borough, but further afield. It is available to download for [FREE](#) from Early Education, with supporting materials available from [Youth Music](#). *Musical Development Matters* forms part of the ongoing legacy of the project and is currently being promoted via a range of EY and music education networks across England.

At the end of the 2-year project celebratory event at the Royal Albert Hall, Darren Henley CEO, Arts Council England said: *“The Tri-Music Together project brings together highly qualified musicians and Early Years practitioners; exemplifying the impact that our music hubs can have. This sharing of practice, has built stronger relationships and deeper understanding. It’s provided a legacy through tools and resources that will continue to raise the quality of music provision in Early Years settings. This is an example of a successful partnership with a focus on a local place that is able to make its offerings more accessible. This, we know, is of paramount importance when it comes to engaging the parents and carers of Early Years children. Projects such as these are crucial steps along our journey towards equality of opportunity, helping everyone reach their potential, regardless of background.”*

Stuart Whatmore, Manager of the TBMH, said: “The partnership working in this project has led to a deeper knowledge and understanding of the local EY scene. The collaborative approach has helped to bring together a range of people who want to share practice, learn from each other, and discover areas for further development. I am thankful to everyone involved who has contributed to the positive outcomes this has generated, and we are looking forward to continuing this area of work.”

The TBEYMC are awaiting news on further funding and aim to continue to build on the success of the past 2 years; maintain support and develop EY music provision in the Tri-borough and support others to support EY music across England.

Any settings or organisations that would like to find out more information are encouraged to make contact with the Music Hub info@triboroughmusicclub.org. For more information visit the [website](#); sign-up to the monthly [e-newsletter](#); or follow us on [twitter](#).

Project Overall Aim:

To develop a sustainable network of outstanding Early Years music practice between Early Years settings and a consortium of Tri-borough Music Hub partner organisations to support children’s creative and musical entitlement through workforce development, targeted activity, and evaluation.

Outcomes:

1. To embed high quality music-making across Tri-borough EY settings, especially those with high proportions of children in challenging circumstances.
2. To develop a better understanding among partner organisations of the needs of pre-school children in challenging circumstances across the Tri-borough areas, and the parents/carers/staff responsible for them.
3. To improve the skills and knowledge of music practitioners about the Early Years Foundation Stage including the characteristics of effective learning
4. To develop and strengthen the music-leading skills of Early Years professionals across the Tri-borough area.
5. To increase knowledge of innovative practice and excellence in EY music-making across the music education and Early Years sectors.

Partners in the consortium:

1. Chickenshed Kensington & Chelsea
2. Creative Futures
3. Inspire-works

4. LBHF Children's Centres
5. Music House for Children
6. RBKC Children's Centres
7. Royal Albert Hall
8. Royal College of Music
9. Sound Connections
10. The Voices Foundation
11. Tri-borough Music Hub
12. Tri-borough School Standards, Children's Services, EYFS Lead Adviser
13. WCC Children's Centres
14. Wigmore Hall

About Youth Music

Music-making is life-changing. Every year, Youth Music provides more than 75,000 young people with the opportunity to make music, helping them to overcome the challenges they face in their lives. Their music projects support young people to develop their creative and social skills, make positive contributions to their community and improve their wellbeing.

Youth Music's ongoing research allows them to identify the best ways to engage young people and drive fresh thinking in music education. They also provide a growing online community for thousands of music education professionals.

Youth Music know that many young people still need our help. Join their mission to give every child the chance to make music. Visit www.youthmusic.org.uk

About the Tri-borough Music Hub

The award-winning [Tri-borough Music Hub](#) (TBMH) is the lead organisation that oversees the delivery of music education in three West London boroughs - the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham; the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea; and City of Westminster - working with schools, pupils, the workforce and the community. Through an agreed shared-services model, it is a centralised Local Authority service which receives core funding from the Department for Education via the Arts Council England delivering an extensive programme of musical learning in and out of school.

The overriding [strategic](#) purpose of the TBMH is three-fold:

- (1) to **engage with all schools** in the Tri-borough area, in order to reach all pupils and provide them with access to high-quality music education opportunities.
- (2) to **raise standards** and **support musical progression** for all pupils.
- (3) to ensure a **broad range of outstanding musical opportunities** for pupils, parents and the community.

This is supported by the overarching themes of all TBMH provision, as stated in their [Music Strategy](#): **Inclusive — Exceptional — Inspiring — Progressive — Sustainable**.

Alongside the three Local Authorities, the TBMH Strategic Partners are two internationally renowned organisations - the Royal Albert Hall and the Royal College of Music. In addition, a dedicated and quality-assured group of delivery partner organisations, with evidence of a successful track record, work to meet the TBMH's strategic aims and positively contribute to our stakeholders.