

INVITATION TO TENDER – LEARNING PARTNER FOR IDEA PROJECT

July 2022

We're seeking a learning partner for a new Inclusion, Diversity, Equality and Access (IDEA) Project to:

- Share learning across a network of organisations
- Conduct a feasibility study

1. Background

About Youth Music

We believe that every young person should have the chance to change their life through music. Yet our research shows that many can't because of who they are, where they're from or what they're going through. Our insights, influence and investment in grassroots organisations, and to young people themselves, means that more 0–25-year-olds from can make, learn and earn in music.

[Youth Music](#) is a national charity funded thanks to the National Lottery via Arts Council England, players of People's Postcode Lottery and support from partners, fundraisers and donors.

One of our strategic objectives is to catalyse change in sector practices around equality, diversity and inclusion. For the last ten years we have promoted inclusion in music education through a range of campaigns and strategic funding programmes.

2. About IDEA Project

IDEA is an ambitious pilot project seeking to create the first ever national Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access (IDEA) accredited standard for music education. By accredited standard we mean something like [Investors in People](#). The standard would be the first recognised kitemark of its kind in music education.

The project is broken down into three phases:

Phase 1 – June to September 2022

- A diverse group of industry experts have been brought together to draft the beta version of the IDEA accreditation framework.
- Eight Music Education Hubs lead organisations are selected to be part of the pilot programme through a competitive process.
- A learning partner is commissioned to undertake research and analysis throughout the pilot phase, to inform a final set of recommendations for future roll out.

Phase 2 – September 2022 to April 2023

- Music Education Hub pilot projects get underway. Each pilot is assigned a specialist mentor to identify objectives, working through the IDEA framework. They receive a small amount of seed-funding to implement objectives or buy-in additional expertise.
- Mentors and pilot projects are brought together at termly intervals by the learning partner using an action research approach.
- Youth Music undertakes three IDEA framework consultations with children and young people.
- Open access online seminars disseminate learning across the music education sector.

Phase 3 – April 2023 to July 2023

- Music Education pilot projects end, and their participation is evaluated by the learning partner. The learning partner produces a feasibility study which contains recommendations for future roll out of the accredited standard.
- The IDEA framework is revised based on learning from the pilots. It is designed and packaged with learning materials and the youth voice integrated. The framework is made available as a free resource to ensure a legacy from the project (even if the accredited element is not recommended for roll out).

The primary funder and key stakeholder for IDEA Project is Arts Council England. Youth Music is also making a significant contribution and we are seeking additional funding opportunities to strengthen IDEA's learning and external communications. If we are successful, there is potential for the value of this contract to increase.

3. The Brief

Youth Music is engaging a learning partner to:

The National Foundation for Youth Music, The Print Rooms, 164-180 Union St, London SE1 OLA
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- **Pilot project action research:** share learning across the eight Music Education Hub pilot projects through an action-research style approach. By 'action research' we mean something that involves critical reflection leading to changes in practice, for example using the four stages of plan, do, review, improve.
- **Learning programme:** work with Youth Music to develop a learning series to disseminate learning in real time. Youth Music will do the administration and contracting, working with the learning partner to programme the series. This is intended to support Music Education Hubs to meet the requirements outlined in Arts Council's [22-23 relationship framework](#).
- **Feasibility study:** conduct a feasibility study exploring the viability of a formalised, national IDEA accreditation for the Music Education sector. The study will use learning from the pilot projects and learning programme as well as other appropriate data sources to analyse the practicality of such a scheme, and the conditions that would be required for success. Responding to the question: "Should we proceed with developing IDEA into an accredited framework for national roll-out and if so, how?"

Learning partner requirements

The learning partner will need to have a track record of:

- Delivering learning programme/s.
- Conducting action research, evaluations and/or feasibility studies.

The learning partner will demonstrate an understanding of:

- The principles of Inclusion, Diversity, Equality and Access.
- The music education sector.

The learning partner will have the following attributes:

- A commitment to advancing inclusion, diversity, equality and access practices within their own organisation.
- A human, authentic and no judgement approach, with the ability to build trust with people.
- A flexible attitude, open to change as the project evolves.
- A collaborative, participatory and accessible approach.

Whilst proposals are sought primarily from agencies and organisations, we will consider applications from freelance consultants who meet the learning partner requirements.

4. Deliverables and methodology

We are open about what methodologies are employed for the action research and feasibility study. All methods used should model good accessibility and, where possible, be participatory.

Key milestones and deliverables

- Delivery of termly half-day action research sessions for Music Education Hub pilot projects (online)
- Attendance at termly 2 hour reflection sessions for the core team and Music Education Hub IDEA mentors (online)
- End of November 2022 – submission of a short report summarising progress to date
- End of May 2023 – submission of feasibility study
- End of June 2023 – submission of final feasibility study
- Monitoring – 2 hour kick-off meeting and monthly one hour telephone or Zoom check-ins

5. Contract value and duration

- The maximum budget available for this project is £12,000 (inclusive of VAT)
- Contracting is expected to be in place by the end of August 2022 and the contract will run to the submission of the final version of the feasibility study, expected to be the end of June 2023.

6. Proposals

Proposals should be emailed to carol.reid@youthmusic.org.uk by 6pm on Friday 5 August 2022.

Proposals should include:

1. A proposal (no more than 2,000 words) describing:
 - a. How you meet the learning partner requirements
 - b. Your proposed methodology
2. CVs for the main project team
3. Budget overview, including day rates
4. An attached example of your previous work that is relevant to this brief
5. Names and contact details of two referees

7. Key Information

Timings Overview

Friday 5 August	Deadline for proposals to be submitted
Friday 12 August	Shortlisted candidates notified
Thurs 18 / Fri 19 Aug	Online interviews with shortlisted candidates
End Aug	Appoint successful candidate
End Aug / early Sept	Kick off meeting

Youth Music Project Team

- Carol Reid – Strategic Lead
- Jana Jammal – Project Management
- Remi Fairweather-Stride – Learning and Insights lead

8. Other considerations

Confidentiality

All information regarding Youth Music provided throughout this process is strictly confidential.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The successful candidate will believe in our vision of a world where every young person can change their life through music. They will share our values around equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Environmental Sustainability

We are committed to good practices around environmental sustainability and aim to work with partners whose practices are environmentally conscious.



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