

Youth Music Initiative 2019/20 – Outcomes



The Youth Music Initiative (YMI) was set up by the Scottish Government in 2003 to *'put music at the heart of young people's lives and learning.'*

Since then, YMI has been funded each year with around £9m by the Scottish Government and reaches hundreds of thousands of young people every year

YMI seeks not only to provide music education, but for this to impact other areas of children's and young people's wider development.

It includes a commitment to reach children who would not normally have a chance to participate in music making activities.

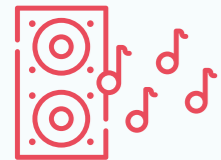
Activity is delivered via four strands: Formula Fund, Access to Music Making and Strengthening Youth Music and the YMI CPD and Training Fund (not included in this evaluation).



Creating Access for All

The 2019/20 projects reached 278,726 children and young people.

278,726
Participants



The vast majority of Access to Music Making participants were reached via the Scottish Book Trust's YMI-funded projects (88,736, includes 30,000 visitors to an online resource).

Projects struggled to deliver all intended activities, largely due to Covid, but many were able to continue some level of provision through adapting to digital teaching. Many reported seeing value in a 'blended online/offline approach' going forward.



'It helped us explore other ways of delivering the program, for example teaching remotely or online will potentially enable us to reach more schools and pupils.'

95% of Access to Music Making projects focused on young people in areas of social and economic deprivation.



Projects address the challenging circumstances and needs of the young people they work with through pro-active recruitment, ongoing support and flexible approaches to maintain engagement.



'It forces groups to work creatively with those target groups and not just to go with those that are easy to engage. It challenges [us] to look beyond what is easy and accessible and make a real difference. Which in turn [...] can lead to bigger change.'



Enabling children and young people to achieve their potential in/through music making

Through their participation in music-based activities, children and young people developed transferable skills as well as greater levels of confidence which translates into other areas.



'Starting music at a young age gives children the freedom to express themselves, to be creative, to find different ways to play an instrument. It provides the capacity to try things without getting them wrong. So, if you start that early, it will bring out this capacity to try and experiment and be creative.'

Activities supported the mental health and wellbeing of young people, impacted their mood, and provided valuable opportunities in areas such as emotional expression and relationship development.



'Wellbeing became our individual and collective priority, as did connectivity, communication and holistic cares that include approaches to health, to personal growth and to professional development.'

Engagement with traditional local/ Scottish music genres supports the development of young people's understanding of heritage.



'The experience is giving [the children] a sense of place in the country and the world.'

YMI activities regularly provide a forum for young people to influence and make leadership choices, thereby developing their confidence and decision-making skills.



'We had comments from people attending the little gigs that it was difficult to distinguish who was staff and who was participant as everyone had a part to play and all were so on the ball. The young people were co-creating – things were not done to them, but with them.'



Supporting the development of the youth music sector for the benefit of children and young people via training and CPD

YMI supported 985 music education posts; predominantly of a temporary and/or part-time nature.

985
education posts

231
volunteers

277
trainees

YMI provides an opportunity for on-the-job experience in music education for people in a wide range of roles. Those involved in Formula Fund projects include teachers and musicians as well as volunteers, music students and youth workers. 231 volunteers and 277 trainees were involved in Access to Music Making / Strengthening Youth Music activities.

3,411 people benefited from training and CPD linked to YMI activity, with the largest proportion (72.5%) delivered via the Formula Fund.

3,411
people benefited



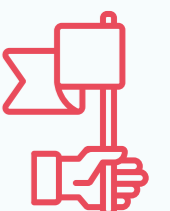
The need to work within lockdown restrictions resulted in new learning through innovative practice and sharing among staff and across the sector. Some ideas have proved so successful that they are intending to maintain them.

'There was a huge upsurge in a 'can do attitude [within the team, with increased] problem solving and thinking in different ways to facilitate delivery to young people.'

Grantees were highly positive about the support provided by CS in dealing with COVID-19 restrictions:



'It was really good to know the flexibility was there from Creative Scotland.'



Note: All quotes are from YMI grant recipients