



YMI Annual Plan

2021-22

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Introduction

This 2021–22 Annual Plan for the Youth Music Initiative (YMI) sets out the YMI's ongoing priorities and areas of focus as we begin to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. It will describe how the programme has changed due to Covid-19, how it aligns with the wider work of Creative Scotland's Creative Learning and Young People team, partner organisations and national priorities. It also sets out our initial plans to celebrate the YMI's 20th anniversary in 2022.

The Youth Music Initiative is a Scottish Government music education programme with a vision to put music at the heart of young people's lives and learning. The fund has a total annual budget of £9million in 2021–22. YMI is administered by Creative Scotland, the national body which supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland.

In 2018–19 the YMI programme reached around 244,000 young people (199,000 in school and 44,000 out of school) offering access to an array of projects that focused on a diverse range of musical genres. The programme supports nearly 1,200 jobs and a further 5,749 volunteering, training and development opportunities.

The **2018–19 YMI Impact Report** describes the programme as a 'well-targeted' and 'strategic programme' that 'richly repays the investment it in'. The wealth of evidence submitted in the end of project forms demonstrates how the programme addresses physical, socio-economic, personal and peer related barriers to participation creating opportunities for children and young people to enhance their confidence, creativity, communication and learning skills.

A key strength of the YMI programmes is in the variety of music and music making opportunities that it supports. **The What's Going On Now? Report** published in 2019 highlighted the need for a range of music provision

'Across all styles of music, [...] music technology and production, ensuring that Scotland's young people have the best opportunity of entering a growing global industry.'

The most recent YMI Impact Report states that

'The YMI has transformed the environment for such activities. A much-broadened network of support now exists for young people to develop across a much wider range of styles.'

We believe, now more than ever, that music is integral to the lives of children and young people in Scotland and Creative Scotland looks forward to working in partnership with organisations, local authorities and music educators to deliver the activities set out in this plan in the coming year.

Vision

To put music at the heart of young people's lives and learning.

Aims

- 1) Create access to high quality music making opportunities for children and young people aged 0 – 25 years, particularly for those that would not normally have the chance to participate.
- 2) Enable children and young people to achieve their potential in or through music making.
- 3) Support the development of the youth music sector for the benefit of children and young people.

Outcomes

The updated YMI logic model on pages 10–11 outlines the changes that the programme intends to achieve in the short, medium and long term and how the programme aligns with the **Culture Strategy for Scotland**.

All projects funded through the YMI programme will be required to demonstrate how they intend to achieve one or more outcomes from the logic model. As in previous years, we will continue to support applicants to evidence how their projects contribute to the outcomes of the fund in the short, medium and long term.

2020–21 YMI and Covid-19

The publication of the Culture Strategy for Scotland in February 2020 delivered a clear message: Scotland is a nation where culture is inherently valued in and of itself. It outlined a need to recognise the essential role that culture plays within our everyday lives, especially its ability to empower and transform, across policy areas and in communities.

This strategy had the ability to act as a catalyst for strengthening the youth arts sector. However, within a month after publication the country was in lockdown.

Due to Scottish Government immediate budget pressure resulting from Covid-19, the Formula Fund budget reduced by £1million to £6.2million in June 2020. In this year, the Scottish Government commitment was relaxed¹, and local authorities were asked to prioritise projects which focused on tackling inequality, reaching the funds priority groups² and children and young people identified as being most adversely affected by the pandemic.

Although extremely challenging the response from those working on the YMI Formula Fund resulted in more targeted work, increased partnership working, and huge upskilling and empowerment of the music tutor workforce.

As the summer progressed, it became apparent that the culture and heritage sectors required significant support to protect jobs, cultural venues and help the industry weather the effects of Covid-19. In August 2020, the Scottish Government announced a £59 million funding package to aid in meeting these needs. This funding was sourced from Westminster consequentials.

As part of this announcement, £4.25m was allocated to support youth arts activities across all art forms. The development of the Youth Arts Fund was based predominantly on the existing principles and processes of the YMI. This funding aimed to: ensure creative opportunities for children and young people existed across Scotland during Covid-19; enhance the current capacity of Scotland's youth arts infrastructure; and increase commissioning and employment of freelance artists and creative practitioners. The existing structures of YMI allowed Creative Scotland to distribute these emergency funds across the sector quickly and efficiently. More information on the Youth Arts Funds can be found on the **Creative Scotland website**. The Culture Strategy for Scotland is now being revisited by Creative Scotland and the wider arts and culture sector. The Strategy, alongside learning from challenges over the previous year, will shape key developments in the sector moving forward. The YMI team will continue to support those who were funding through the Youth Arts Emergency Funding, in addition to YMI projects throughout 2021-22.

¹ The Scottish Government commitment for the Formula Fund is that every school pupil in Scotland should be offered a free year of music tuition by the time they leave primary school.

² For a list of the priority groups of the fund, see page 12

The Youth Music Initiative in 2021–22

On 8 April 2020, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) warned of the ‘grave physical, emotional and psychological effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on children’. The UNCRC called on States to focus on 11 key areas, including the recommendation to *maximise all opportunities for children to enjoy their rights to rest, leisure, recreation and cultural and artistic activities and address structural inequalities that constrain these rights*¹

As the restrictions ease, **we are committed to ensuring that children and young people in Scotland benefit from the unique qualities of music, culture and creativity to support their health and wellbeing.**

We have been astounded by the dedication and creativity of those working in Scotland’s youth music community despite the significant pressure that the pandemic has created. Tutors and freelancers have been required to adopt new ways of working, new technologies and new working environments whilst maintaining and building relationships. **We are committed to providing ongoing financial support to enable strategic youth arts organisations to lead on the development and delivery of training, mentoring and CPD** to meet the needs of the sector.

Through the reinstatement of the Access to Music Making and Strengthening Youth Music Funds **we will support individuals and organisations to lead on the delivery of new projects that will support the recovery and future renewal of the youth arts sector.**

As part of our targeted activities in 2021–22 **we will be working in partnership with the sector to address inequalities and increase opportunities for children and young people to engage and progress in a diverse range of music making opportunities.**

In addition to our core work, we will work with the Scottish Government, MEPG and other major stakeholders to develop a Covid-19 recovery plan for music education to support

the implementation of the recommendations of MEPG highlighted in the **The Music Manifesto for Scotland**, including the Scottish Government commitment to abolish fees for music education in Scotland.

Ongoing Development Activity

- 1) Providing advice and guidance for prospective applicants and funded projects through meetings and telephone/email support, working with all applicants to strengthen their impact.
- 2) Supporting project activity in a range of settings across Scotland that reaches children and young people from the funds priority groups.
- 3) Enhance the youth music workforce and infrastructure by sharing learning and encouraging collaboration by hosting meetings, supporting ongoing training and development.
- 4) Providing support and advice for funded projects to effectively evaluate and report on the impact of YMI.

¹ **Treaty bodies Download (ohchr.org)**

Areas of Focus in 2021–22

We have identified the following areas to prioritise in YMI's 2021–22 delivery, with a focus on reaching those who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

THEME	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY
Contribute to tackling inequality and supporting the needs, health and wellbeing of children and young people in Scotland, especially those most adversely affected by Covid-19.	<p>Undertake an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) to identify and provide tailored opportunities groups of children and young people currently underrepresented in our programmes or not engaged in music making.</p> <p>Continue to support the creation of partnerships between YMI programmes, Local Authority services including social work and integrated hubs and third sector charities to ensure provision is reaching children and young people most in need.</p> <p>Demonstrate and advocate for the recognition of the impact of participation on children and young people's health and wellbeing.</p>
Work in partnership with the sector to broaden ways in which children and young people can engage with music and in music-making, through exploring diverse genres, cultures and career pathways underrepresented in current opportunities.	<p>Undertake an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) to identify and provide targeted programmes that support progression opportunities for children and young people from the funds priority groups.</p> <p>Build connections and partnerships with organisations and festivals working to represent diverse music making genres, cultures and artists for the benefit of the sector.</p> <p>Support more opportunities to commission new work from young people through the Youth Arts Fund: Bursary programme with an additional £50k of YMI funding.</p>
Support opportunities for work force development, building on learning and delivery undertaken in 2020-21 to meet the ongoing needs of the youth music sector.	<p>Deliver a programme of training, mentoring and peer support in partnership with key sector bodies and organisations.</p> <p>Commission research on issues arising from Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) to support planning for targeted workforce development.</p> <p>Contribute to the wider cultural sector by engaging with and protecting the rights of freelance practitioners. Raise awareness of and advocate for Fair Work principles.</p>
Develop plans to celebrate 20 years of YMI	<p>Create and deliver a targeted communications plan to mark and celebrate 20 years of YMI in 2022.</p> <p>Design targeted projects that create opportunities for the groups highlighted in the EQIA.</p> <p>Profile the work of young people engaged in music focused projects as part of the Youth Arts Fund: Bursary programme.</p>

Policies, Plans and Partners

YMI's impact extends into culture, education, health, youth work and communities. We will continue to work in partnership to prioritise our activities to align with local and national policies and plans including:

A Culture Strategy for Scotland

The **Culture Strategy** aims include placing culture as a central consideration across all policy areas (such as health and wellbeing, education and reducing inequality); opening up the potential of culture as a transformative opportunity across society; and extending opportunities that enable people to take part in culture throughout their lives. The YMI will continue to contribute significantly to all of these aims. The Culture Strategy notes the contribution that culture can provide to the life chances of all people and that more needs to be done to support equal opportunities to access, participate and develop a career in the cultural and creative sectors. This aligns closely with YMI programmes both in school and outside of school, as they provide a universal offer to primary school children, further opportunities for young people in target groups and support young, emerging musicians.

Creative Scotland Annual Plan 2021–22

Creative Scotland's Annual Plan outlines a refreshed Strategic Framework that will guide the organisations work in 2021–22 and beyond. It places Equality, Diversity and Inclusion as a key priority with a commitment to increasing the diversity of who receives and benefits from our support. YMI is a key programme in supporting this work.

Creative Learning and Young People Team

The Creative Learning and Young People Team (CLYP) are committed to increasing the quality and quantity of opportunities for everyone to engage with the arts, screen and creative industries. We believe that this has huge benefits for individuals and society, particularly for children and young people, in terms of skills development, employability and health and well-being. The CLYP team lead on the delivery of targeted funding programmes and work in partnership with youth arts, education and third sector partners to advocate for, and strengthen the youth arts sector in Scotland. In response to the pandemic, we will continue to develop our partnerships, including those directly with young people, to ensure that we are supporting the recovery of the youth arts infrastructure.

Time to Shine

Published in 2013, **Time to Shine** is Scotland's first National Youth Arts Strategy. It sets out a ten-year vision to enable Scotland's children and young people to flourish and achieve in and through the arts and creativity. To date, the strategy has supported a broad range of activity, introducing the establishment of the National Youth Arts Advisory Group, the Nurturing Talent Fund, a programme of Creative Traineeships and three UNCON events. In all areas of delivery, the programme aims to create platforms for children and young people to make their voices heard in the design and delivery of programmes. The YMI will continue to work with and learn from the Time to Shine programme to raise the profile of youth arts activity.

Creative Learning Plan

Scotland's Creative Learning Plan was first published in 2013, setting out a shared vision for the importance of creativity in education which has resulted in a growth in a shared language and common understanding of creativity and creativity skills. The changing landscape and impact of Covid-19 has required a rapid rethinking of Scotland's education, skills employability and careers provision. In response to this the plan will be refreshed in 2021. The YMI will ensure that programmes align with the refreshed Creative Learning Plan, once published.

UNCRC

In March 2021, the Scottish Parliament unanimously passed the **UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill**, which will see the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) incorporated into Scottish law. The UNCRC is the 'gold standard' across the world for children's rights. It covers all aspects of a child's life and sets out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. We will continually review how we are respecting and protecting children's rights through our work.

Our first report in relation to the UNCRC can be found here: **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Report 2020 | Creative Scotland**

Corporate Parenting

Creative Scotland officially became a Corporate Parent in April 2016, as part of the **Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014**.

As a Corporate Parent, Creative Scotland has a responsibility to understand and respond to the needs of care experienced children and young people. We aim to increase engagement with looked after children and young people as well as care leavers in the projects we fund through prioritisation of applications for these priority groups and through learning from our EQIA.

You can find more information on our role as a Corporate Parent here: **Creative Scotland's Corporate Parenting Plan | Creative Scotland**

Strategic Partners

YMI will continue its connection with key partners representing the youth music sector including the YMI Formula Fund Lead Contacts, Music Education Partnership Group (MEPG), Heads of Instrumental Teaching Scotland (HITS), Music Education Policy Group (international), Arts in Education Recovery (AiERG), Scottish Instrumental Music Teaching Network (SIMTN) and the Cross-Party Group on Music. The YMI team will continue to gather information on how the YMI programme could be strengthened and how it fits with wider developments in instrumental teaching, classroom music and community music.

Appendix 1: YMI Vision: Putting music at the heart of young people's lives and learning

Activities	Short-term outcomes	Medium-term outcomes	Long-term and national outcomes	Links	Cultural Strategy theme(s)
What happens?	What changes do we expect to see from YMI projects and activities over one year?	What changes do we want to see the YMI programme and projects achieve over three years?	What longer term changes should the YMI contribute towards?	How do outcomes link with the Cultural Strategy for Scotland's aims	
Children and young people aged 0 to 25 years have access to high-quality and diverse music-making opportunities both in school and out of school	Children and young people have more opportunities to take part in enjoyable and quality music-making opportunities Children and young people who would not normally have the chance to participate take part in music-making opportunities	More children and young people from a range of backgrounds take part in quality music-making	We are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society	Open up the potential of culture as a transformative opportunity across society	Transforming through culture
	Children and young people develop their music and music-making skills (CfE ¹ link successful learners) Mandatory outcome for Access to Music Making	Children and young people develop a desire to learn – whether in music or in other fields	Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals and effective contributors	Extend opportunities that enable people to take part in culture throughout their lives	Empowering through culture
	Children and young people develop their skills for life, learning and work* (CfE links effective contributors and confident individuals)	Children and young people progress their musical talent and enjoyment through ongoing participation, learning, training and employment in the field of music	Children in all parts of Scotland have a fair chance to develop and achieve their potential		
	Children and young people increase their awareness of music and culture across Scotland, the UK and the world (CfE link responsible citizens) Children and young people influence or lead youth music opportunities, and have their voice heard in design and delivery (CfE link responsible citizens)	Children and young people are strong contributors to local communities through cultural activity	We have strong, supportive and culturally aware communities who value the arts Our young people are responsible citizens	Continue to celebrate Scotland's extraordinary cultural contributions	Empowering through culture
The youth music sector is supported through resources, networking and learning opportunities	People delivering youth music develop their skills and confidence Mandatory outcome for Strengthening Youth Music Organisations in the music sector and beyond work together to create progression opportunities that strengthen the youth music sector for the benefit of children and young people	The youth music sector develops, strengthens and becomes more sustainable The contribution of music to learning is acknowledged and embedded in decision making in Scotland	We are supporting our services to be high quality, continually improving, efficient and to provide innovative responses to people's needs	Develop the conditions and skills for culture to thrive, so it is cared for, protected and produced for the enjoyment and enrichment of all present and future generations	Strengthening culture

Funding Routes

We will operate the following YMI funding routes this year:

1. School Based Music Making

Purpose: Reinstatement of the YMI Scottish Government commitment: every school pupil in Scotland should be offered a year of free music tuition by the time they leave primary school.¹ For projects delivered beyond the above commitment, the purpose is: to tackle inequality and engage young people (of any school age) who otherwise would not participate in meaningful, quality music making opportunities.

Who can apply: This is a targeted fund for Scotland's 32 Local Authorities and Jordanhill School. Activity supported through this route commences at the beginning of the academic year in August 2021.

2. Access to Music Making

Purpose: To create access to high quality music making opportunities for children and young people aged 0–25 years outwith school time.

Who can apply: Organisations and individuals can apply for funding between £1k–£30k for up to one-year of delivery. Targeted funding applications for up to £70k are invited by Creative Scotland for activity which strategically address the aims of the programme.

3. Strengthening Youth Music

Purpose: To support individuals, organisations and networks in undertaking strategic action or training that will strengthen the youth music sector in Scotland for the benefit of children and young people.

Who can apply: Organisations & individuals can apply for funding between £1k–£20k for up to one-year of delivery.

¹ Equating to a minimum of 12 hours' music tuition per pupil. Where possible, programmes should be sustained over a period of time throughout the academic year.

4. YMI CPD and Training Fund

Purpose: To support individuals, organisations and networks who work outwith school settings to undertake training and continuing professional development that will strengthen youth music in Scotland for the benefit of children and young people.

Who can apply: Awards to individuals will generally be between £100 to £750, while the range for organisations will normally fall between £500 and £5,000. This fund is managed by the Scottish Music Centre. Visit the [Scottish Music Centre](#) website for information on how to apply.

Priority Groups

We will continue to prioritise applications for funding in 2021–22 which seek to:

- Deliver the reinstatement of the Scottish Government commitment and ensure all school children have access to one year's free music tuition by the time they leave primary school (School Based Music Making fund).
- Tackle inequality and increase engagement from young people who are less likely to participate. Young people who are less likely to take part include but are not limited to those who:
 - reside in areas of social and economic deprivation. For more information on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), please visit the [Scottish Government website](#)
 - are experiencing or at risk of experiencing harm and neglect
 - are looked after (as defined by the Children (Scotland) Act 1995) and care leavers (as defined by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014). For more information please visit the [Scottish Government website](#)
 - are in the early years (0–5) of their life
 - are from minority ethnic communities
 - have a disability and/or additional support needs
 - are at risk of offending or have previously offended
 - are young carers (as defined by the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016) and/or young parents
 - are experiencing homelessness or who have been homeless
 - are experiencing mental ill health

Funding Deadlines

FUND	APPLICATION DEADLINE
Local Authority Formula Fund for School Based Music Making	31 March 2021
Access to Music Making / Strengthening Youth Music Funds	6 September 2021
Training and CPD Fund (managed by the Scottish Music Centre)	From April 2021 with a rolling deadline until the funds are allocated

The YMI team provides pre-application support, manages the assessment process, and provides post-application guidance for successful applicants as well as feedback for unsuccessful applicants.

Budget

Activity	2021-22 Budget
Funding – Formula Fund (Schools-based music-making)	£6,538,725
Funding – Access to Music Making	£1,423,890*
Funding – Strengthening Youth Music	£107,654*
Targeted work	£650,000
Development – Evaluation, Advocacy, and Learning Events	£80,000
Contribution to Creative Scotland Overheads	£200,000
Total	£9,000,269**

* The overall budget level is subject to change at the discretion of the Scottish Government.

** The YMI Formula Fund will award a total of £7,188,456 for the 2021/22 academic year. The figure above is the accounted for figure and reflects actual payments to the local authorities for the financial year.

Reporting on YMI's Impact

Creative Scotland will be engaging with an external evaluator to undertake a full evaluation of the YMI programme in 2019–20 that will assess the outcomes of the investment for individuals and communities across Scotland. This evaluation will also report on the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic (March 2020–July 2020) and the impact on participants and those delivering YMI activities.

In addition, we will undertake an independent evaluation to understand the overall impact that the various strands of Youth Arts Funding which was distributed in 2020–21, including YMI. We will use these findings to understand the impact the Youth Arts Fund has had on children and young people, on freelance artists and creative practitioners and on the youth arts sector in Scotland.

We will share the reports, learning and impact with a range of stakeholders including Scottish Government to evidence the need for continued support.

Your Views

We welcome your views on this plan and how we could improve delivery of the Youth Music Initiative in future. Please contact Morag Macdonald on 0330 333 2000 or email morag.macdonald@creativescotland.com



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