

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Music Education Hub

Lead Partner: SoundStorm

Access and Participation Statement

As lead partner of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Music Education Hub, SoundStorm is responsible for providing students from across the conurbation with the opportunity to access high quality, progression opportunities. In addition, we work with schools, Hub Partners and a diverse range of other organisations to provide performance opportunities throughout the year and offer an Access Fund to those students experiencing financial or personal hardship.

SoundStorm and the BCP Music Education Hub

Guiding Principles

- To place young people's needs at the centre of decision making and service development
- To map and facilitate pathways for progression and practice development across a range of genres, from Early Years onwards, in response to particular local needs
- To minimise financial, geographical and personal barriers to participation
- To enable young people to make a positive contribution to society through participation
- To raise aspirations by enabling young people to enjoy inspirational events
- To build in legacy and develop capacity wherever appropriate
- To strengthen links between partner organisations at all levels from strategic to operational
- To communicate effectively and share information and good practice
- Recognising the inspirational impact it can have, to encourage participation in performance, as listener or participant – in all types of setting – wherever possible
- To encourage creativity and innovation within music education

Three tier governance structure

Management Board: Monitors regular activities, scrutinises budgets, approves forward plans and inputs strategic intelligence relating to priority areas from Bournemouth and Poole council representatives.

Strategic Advisory Group: Supports and develops new and existing strategies, inputs stakeholder needs and approves plans for the year ahead. It is the key link for schools to input strategically into the direction of the Hub.

Hub Partner Network: All delivery partners are invited to twice yearly networking events to receive information about strategies moving forward, undertake CPD, network with other providers and input their thoughts into the strategic development of the Hub (Hub Partners are represented on the Strategic Group).

Diversity Statement

We will:

- treat everyone fairly;
- offer fair access to services;
- be socially inclusive;
- be transparent in all that we do;
- value all those who access and deliver our services including but not limited to young people, their families, Hub partners, peers and colleagues

SoundStorm and the Hub partners will not tolerate homophobic, racist, sexist or any other unjust, unfair or unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation by any of its staff, contractors or partners. This includes those who deliver services on its behalf or its customers. Where discrimination has taken place, action will be taken in line with BCP Council policies and procedures.

This includes the provision of and access to services whether supplied directly by SoundStorm, or by organisations or freelance contractors acting on SoundStorm and the Music Education Hub's behalf. In providing services, SoundStorm and those acting on its behalf, must be able to demonstrate that they have taken into account the needs and characteristics of those accessing the service and in view of these, have considered the appropriateness and accessibility of the services being offered.

SoundStorm as lead partner of the Hub, is responsible for managing the enrolment process for these groups and opportunities and administering the Access fund; they are therefore tasked with ensuring a policy of fair access and participation is adhered to.

The Hub's approach to access and participation reflects BCP Council's Corporate Equality and Diversity Policy (available here <https://bit.ly/3d712nW>) and the Equality Act 2010.

As council employee's and lead partner of the BCP Music Education Hub, SoundStorm, their associated Partners and all organisations sub-contracted by the Hub, are expected to comply with and work to the same code of conduct and procedures.

Hub Operating Context

The Hub is committed to an open access approach to enrolment and participation in its events, projects and ensembles, which reflects the council's Diversity Promise. This means applicants are considered irrespective of their background, race, sex, sexuality etc. This statement outlines the Hub's approach and includes instances where exceptions may occasionally apply.

The Hub's out of school ensembles, progression and performance opportunities provide a platform for musical development. Wide-ranging benefits from music-making and participation are now widely understood; there is also evidence that disadvantaged young people may benefit most.

Music Education Hubs offer targeted strategies to minimise the impact of poverty on musical progression; SoundStorm is committed to reviewing how Covid 19 will impact learning and will continue to review it's policies in line with Government advice and local intelligence.

Programme Implementation

Local needs are identified via ongoing qualitative feedback, an annual School's Music Audit and through the school Hub membership process set within the annual programming and planning cycle. In compliance with Hub funding requirements (Department for Education), budgets are agreed in advance with Arts Council England (ACE), responding to and reflecting the needs analysis and local area intelligence as above.

Exceptions to open access

Whilst the Hub operates an open access policy as outlined above, there are occasions when the Hub, under contract to Arts Council England and the Department for Education, will develop opportunities (ensemble, progression and performance) that are targeted; this may for instance include recruiting students from a particular socio-demographic profile or who hold a particular Grade or level of musical competency.

Where an offer is targeted, this will be clearly communicated during the recruitment process and via all marketing/promotions. Where appropriate, auditions will be held to ensure that students meet the required level of competency. Students and parents are expected to sign up the Hub's **Participant Agreement** (available on request and on registration for an ensemble).

Access Funds Applications

Applications are assessed by panel on a four-weekly cycle; they are scored against four key criteria (**financial need, special needs, additional information and musical impact**) with a minimum score of 15 (against a possible 40) required to be eligible for the award/part of the award. Candidates cannot reapply to the fund within 12 months of a successful award. Decisions are final but feedback is available on request by emailing info@soundstorm-music.org.uk

Disruptive behaviour

Where disruptive behaviour is deemed to be having a negative impact on the learning experience of others, SoundStorm will in the first instance contact parents/carers to discuss these concerns. If behaviour continues to be a problem, we then reserve the right to withdraw access to the ensemble. In such circumstances, no refund of fees will be forthcoming.

Appealing a decision or raising a complaint

Please address your concerns to Daniel Somogyi at daniel.somogyi@bcpcouncil.gov.uk or in writing to:

Mr Daniel Somogyi
SoundStorm Team Leader
Bournemouth learning Centre
Ensburry Avenue
BH10 4HG