

# Joined Up Music Case Study

## Introduction

Mid Wales Music Trust was established in 2009 by musicians and music lovers to increase access to high quality live music and music making in Mid Wales, especially Powys which is the largest and most sparsely populated county in England and Wales. The charity has a particular interest in music education and has developed a highly respected programme for schools including workshops and performances.

## Challenge

The project responded to the challenge of extending access for children and young people in Powys to high quality music making and performance experiences. The rural nature of Powys, its distance from urban centres, and the lack of a county music service, all combine to make access to music education a real challenge here. Music provision is limited and fractured, delivered by small charities and voluntary organisations who don't have the resources or remit to provide a centralised, county-wide infrastructure.

The Trust want more children to have the opportunity to experience live music, to develop their skills and engage with their cultural heritage. They also want to ensure that the programme they and other arts charities and organisations deliver has the greatest possible impact in terms of creative, social, personal, and educational development.

## Solution

The Trust established a partnership model, bringing together music charities, arts venues and schools to develop a programme of activity to extend access to music and music education, sharing their expertise, increasing the impact of the work their individual organisations are carrying out, and strengthening the ongoing sustainability of their work.

### Project partners:

Mid Wales Music Trust (Lead partner)

South Powys Youth Music

Theatr Brycheiniog Brecon

### Sinfonia Cymru (Years 2 & 3)

Wyeside Arts Centre Builth Wells (Years 2 & 3)

Hafren Newtown (Years 2 & 3)

### Lead Schools:

Penmaes School, Brecon, south Powys (special educational needs)

Clyro Primary School, near Hay on Wye, south Powys

Builth Wells Primary School, mid Powys

Newbridge on Wye Primary School, mid Powys  
Buttington Trewern Primary School, north Powys  
Carreghofa Primary School, north Powys

Mid Wales Music Trust designed a project that brought together:

- participatory workshops (music, creative writing, stage design) aimed at enabling young people in the lead schools to discover and develop their musical and creative skills
- interactive music and storytelling performances open to all primary school featuring outstanding professional musicians which introduce young audiences to live music in an engaging way
- whole class instrumental taster sessions at the lead schools (primary only) aimed at extending access to instrumental playing for young people in Powys

## Benefit

The project enabled them to deliver the following activities over three years, from 2017 – 2019 (please see Phyllida Shaw's independent evaluation for a more detailed description of the project activities):

- 34 x ½ day song-writing and performance workshops at primary, SEN and secondary schools across Powys
- 20 x ½ day art and design workshops at primary and SEN schools across Powys
- 3 new shows for primary schools, commissioned by Mid Wales Music Trust and interweaving narrative with a range of original and classical music to present live music in an engaging way for young audiences
- 14 x interactive performances presented at Theatr Brycheiniog, Wyese Arts Centre and The Hafren open to all local primary schools
- A specially designed online resource pack to enrich the audience experience for young people attending each of the three shows, including an introduction to the show, links to the music featured, and guide tracks/sheet music for the 'whole audience' songs which everyone joined in with
- A series of 6 x weekly instrumental taster sessions delivered for a whole class in each of the lead primary and SEN schools in 2018 and 2019
- An independent evaluation of the project conducted by Phyllida Shaw

## Result

These are described in more detail in Phyllida Shaw's Evaluation Report.

- A stronger relationship with Powys schools
- A stronger relationship between arts organisations in Powys and beyond
- Workshop participants valued the opportunity to experience professional musicians playing their instruments up close;

- Workshop participants valued the opportunity to work alongside professional musicians, creating new music and having their ideas listened to and incorporated in those new works;
- Workshop participants valued the opportunity to work alongside professional artists, learning new skills and creating high quality stage designs for the shows;
- Young people who participated in the instrumental taster sessions were able to perform a short concert to the rest of the school/family/friends after six sessions; many expressed an interest in continuing to develop their skills through ongoing lessons in school;
- Teachers noted that pupils who were typically uninterested or distracted in class were more attentive and engaged, often surprising their teachers by their willingness to get involved in the songwriting and stage design activities;
- Engagement with the performance on stage was enriched for those pupils who had been involved in creating the stage designs as they had an additional connection with the production;
- Engagement with the performance as a whole was enriched for those pupils who performed their new songs as part of the show as they had an additional connection with the production and those musicians who had led their workshop;
- Teachers reported that engagement levels for the audience as a whole was high, with some noting particular engagement from pupils with behavioural difficulties in school.

## Project Outputs/Outcomes

Output (Case Level Indicator)	Achieved
No. of feasibility studies	0
No. of networks established	0
No. of jobs safeguarded	1
No. of pilot activities undertaken / supported	1
No. of community hubs created	0
No. of stakeholders engaged	6
No. of participants supported (awareness raising events only)	0

Outcomes	Achieved
No. of jobs created	8 = 0.22 FTE
No. of communities benefitting	5
No. of businesses benefitting	22

## Project Contact Details

For more information please contact:

## Partners/Match Funders Logos



## Project Details

Key Data	Project Specifics
Delivered by:	Mid Wales Music Trust
Start Date:	January 2017
End Date:	November 2019
LEADER Theme:	3. Exploring new ways of providing non-statutory local services 1. Adding Value to local identity and natural and cultural resources

## Financial Details

Description	Amount	%
Total Expenditure:	£83,465.40	100.00%
RDP Funding:	£66,324.00	79.4629%

Match funding:	£17,141.40	20.5371%
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Case study completed on: 17 December 2019

