

UPFADERS

YOUTH MUSIC PROJECT

Upfaders is Yorks' groundbreaking accessible DJ, MC and music production project for disadvantaged young people aged 13-18 years.

The project was conceived in 2009 and delivered high quality modern music services to Yorks most disadvantaged young people; they excelled and our funding continued...we have been repeat-funded by Youth Music and partner agencies until September 2015 to the tune of £70000. Beyond this term we have even more ambitious development plans.

In 2013 the project was expanded significantly through new Youth Music funding and a strategic partnership with Door84, York's leading independent youth provision.

Having evaluated the original projects we have remodelled and expanded the project to offer more opportunities to even more young disadvantaged young people, working with a large team of partner agencies supporting young people in York.

We have also expanded our staff team to four people; two dedicated youth music specialists, a youthwork lead/manager and a marketing and admin professional.

In the local music education landscape, we fit beneath the Jam Factory and York College, working in partnership with them to create a viable route for any young person onto one of their lower level courses. We are also part of the York Music Hub and are part of the music hub strategy group, representing disadvantaged and at-risk young people.

The project now contains four main elements:

Open Sessions: (Mondays 5.30-7.30 at Door84 Youth Space for people age 8 – 17 years and Wednesdays 6.30-8.30pm for 13-17 years. Entry cost £1)

These sessions have an informal feel and are led by one of our music specialists who delivers 'turn up and try it out' format DJ/MC activities within the regular youth club session and space. These sessions are a great way to introduce young people to the activities and gauge their interest level. It is a very warm, supported environment which is friendly to young people with disabilities and mental health/confidence/socialisation issues. You do not need to refer young people to these sessions, they are open access. However if you would like to attend to support a young person that is fine, you may also wish to notify us of a young persons planned attendance if you feel they would benefit from attending independently but may need a little additional support.

Girls Group: (Thursdays 4.30-5.30pm, Entry Cost 50p)

We have found that girls excel in our activities but often hesitate to engage in a mixed sex group. These groups address that problem by offering a general session for girls delivered by a female music trainer/youth worker where music activity is weighted. The

intention is to increase girls confidence, increasing engagement in open sessions and other areas of the project. Formal referral to this group is required as this is a 'closed' session with limited places available. We welcome all girls to this session but insist that referring agencies support young people at sessions if it is felt that they would not cope unsupported in a group session, or if their behaviour might be unreasonably disruptive.



Illustration 1: The Youth Club space has several large rooms inc TV, IT.

Advanced/Intensive 10-week Projects: (Thursdays 6-8pm, entry £1)

These are our original projects for up to 8 young people structured around a process of music creation, practice then performance at an end-of-project gig. These projects are suited to young people from all backgrounds, but demand a high level of interest in music and our best results are with young people aged 16 and over.

Sessions are delivered by our most experienced staff in a separate space to our open sessions, using the very latest equipment. These projects have reliably achieved impressive outcomes with the most disadvantaged and challenging young people. To maximise the potential gains for young people, we do not encourage friends/siblings to join projects together. When recruiting participants we look to make feasible groups – this may be in terms of age range, behaviour, or disability – if a referral does not fit a project we will prioritise them for inclusion in the first suitable group.

Each young person must be formally referred is properly inducted before joining a project. An individual development plan is created with each young person including targets for musical learning, personal development and other relevant goals identified by the young person themselves and their referrer. Project members are then closely supported by our team and by referrers throughout the ten week project where they will create their own music and develop performance skills for an end-of-project gig. During this process they will work towards an Arts Award and also be accompanied on a visit to other local music education providers. On completion of the project, every young person is encouraged to progress further be creating new goals and an action plan. They are then encouraged to stay involved with the project in open sessions, to perform at more gigs, and to mentor peers.

Other elements of intensive projects include feedback to parents/carers/referrers/other agencies (where this is desired), masterclasses and talks from industry professionals, and personal support outside of weekly sessions to maximise attainment and wellbeing. We regularly provide references for participants looking to continue their development in a formal setting and will support their applications - we have excellent relationships with local providers, who highly value the standards of learning we achieve.

The outcomes from these projects in terms of musical learning and wellbeing/confidence gains are dramatic when suitable referrals are made and properly supported. We welcome young people from all backgrounds and for this reason we insist on full support from referring partners to maximise young peoples attainment. Due to the small group size we can work effectively with young people with strong support needs, be they behavioural, offending or mental health related.





Illustration 2: The closed projects take place in the Guardhouse space - a friendly and well equipped space.

Quarterly Gigs:

Scheduled to coincide with completion of closed projects (see above) Gigs may be held in our own performance space or at commercial music venues in York.

Truly credible and relevant, these gigs are the highlight for closed project members, but also for the youth community. As well as performances from participants, we encourage audience involvement and performances from previous participants and young people who have made sufficient progress at open sessions/girls groups. Entry to these under-18 gigs typically costs £1/£2, with a dry bar policy in place at licensed venues.

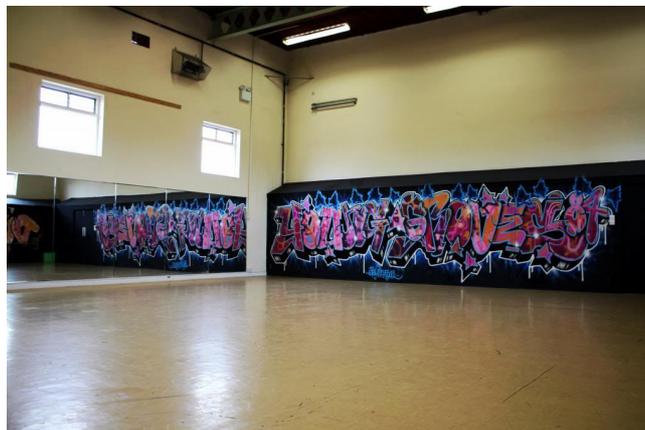


Illustration 3: Our own performance space. We also use commercial venues and festival opportunities for performances when appropriate.

Outreach Sessions:

We have a budget to deliver 1 community outreach session per month for the duration of the project (24 sessions total). If you work in a geographical or demographical area which you feel is not accessing our activities, and would like to expose young people to modern music activities, you can request for us to come to you. We will bring equipment and expertise to get young people interested and aware of the other project opportunities. These sessions are free and are allocated based on need – where we identify 'cold-spots' or where these are brought to our attention by agency requests. We will set up pretty much anywhere!

Making a referral:

If you would like to refer a young person we would first suggest they attend an open session to see how they like the activities on offer. If this isn't feasible or you are sure of their interest level then you can refer to either the girls group or an advanced/intensive project.

Our referral forms are designed to be comprehensive but simple – the more information and background you can offer us on the young person you are referring, the better we can support them and adapt our delivery to suit, offering them the best possible experience – please tell us as much as you can, we have a rigorous information management and data protection system.

Travel costs:

We are currently unable to subsidise travel costs for young people travelling to sessions but in exceptional circumstances we will waver the costs of joining the girls group and advanced projects if finance is a genuine barrier to access.

Contacts:

Upfaders is based at Door84 Youth Space, 84 Lowther Street, The Groves, York YO317LX.

You can find out about upcoming events at www.door84/youth/upfaders

To contact our staff team directly, please email to door84@hotmail.co.uk and we the most appropriate staff member will respond as quickly as possible.