

OPEN DOORS

Community Music Provider Brief: Music participation community events - 2026

Introduction and Background

Open Doors is an arts programme delivering free, creative activities across Newark and Sherwood.

Our projects encourage people of all ages and abilities to have fun, connect with their community, and experience something new. Our programme includes visual arts, creative writing, music, heritage, creative play, and performing arts for everyone to enjoy and take part in.

Funded by Arts Council England and delivered by Newark and Sherwood District Council, you'll find our team running activities in museums, libraries, schools, theatres, and other venues across the district.

We inspire children, families, young people, D/deaf and disabled people, and underserved communities, allowing everyone in Newark and Sherwood to experience the joy and benefits of arts and culture.

Music participation community events

As part of the 2026-2027 Open Doors arts activity programme, we are looking for an expert community music provider to deliver a set of three activities during between May 2026 and February 2027, based on successful Open Doors activities delivered in 2025.

The first activity is a series of **musical walks** set in parks, taking acoustic musical instruments and musicians to parks, offering new types of arts activity and new ways to enjoy parks. This activity will appeal to all ages and include opportunities for park users to experiment with instruments. Through this, musicians will interact with park users through uplifting performance and conversation.

The second activity is a series of **pop-up interactive musical performances** in busy community locations such as supermarkets and highstreets. Members of the public will experience live music performances, with opportunities to see and hear musical instruments. These events will inject joy and fun into everyday settings.

The third activity is a series of weekly/fortnightly **music, singing and dance café sessions** provided in partnership with a community venue, for people living with Dementia, learning disabled people and their families and cares. These sessions are to support wellbeing and reduce isolation.

All activities will be located in the north or west of the district of Newark and Sherwood, in places with low cultural engagement.

If you are an experienced community music provider in our region, and deliver accessible, inclusive, environmentally responsive music activities, we want to hear from you.



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Scope of the work

The community arts provider will:

- Liaise with the Open Doors team to agree and secure locations
- Liaise with site staff at community locations
- Book and support musicians to deliver participatory music activities
- Work with our Marketing and Design Assistant to share marketing materials produced by Open Doors that promote events
- Carry out Risk Assessments for all activities and share these with the Open Doors team
- Collect and share participant data at events, including numbers, age categories and postcode and verbal/written comments
- Meet monthly with Open Doors staff

Embedded throughout, will be the expectation to work in inclusive, accessible and environmentally friendly ways.

Outputs

The community music provider will deliver:

- 4 x ½ day musical walks events in parks, engaging approximately 150 people per event
- 4 x ½ day pop-up music events in community locations, engaging approximately 150 people per event
- 12 (minimum) x music wellbeing cafés, engaging approximately 15 people per event

Timeline

Planning will start in May 2026 with activities to start as soon as possible.

Budget

The total budget available is £15,000.00 (excluding VAT). This will cover all management, production, facilitation and delivery costs.

Eligibility

To be eligible, the community music provider must be a registered in the UK. We are particularly keen to work with organisations in our region.

Expressions of Interest and Quotations

Please send a short expression of interest outlining:

- Why you are interested in working with us
- Evidence of delivering community music activities for similar demographics
- A quotation, summarising each activity and management fees

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Closing date

Please send your expression of interest and quotation for this work to:
katy.culbard@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

The closing date is **12pm Thursday 30th April 2026**.

Assessment Criteria

We will look at your relevant experience of providing high quality, accessible participatory music experiences in community settings, the value for money you can offer, how you demonstrate social impact, and your commitment to inclusivity and to reducing environmental impact.

Contracting

Once selected, the community music provider will be offered a contract drawn up by Newark and Sherwood District Council to include:

- Payment schedule
- Reporting requirements
- Safeguarding expectations
- Data sharing agreement

If you would like this document in a different format, please email:
opendoors@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk