

OPEN DOORS

Young People and SEND Music Provider Brief - 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 projects for young people with special education needs and disabilities

As part of the 2026-2027 Open Doors arts activity programme, we are looking for an expert community music provider to deliver music-making projects with young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) between May 2026 and February 2027.

We would like to place music practitioners with existing groups or schools to work with young people aged 12-24 years on creative music making projects in their settings. Activities will offer young people opportunities make music with both analogue and digital instruments. Project themes will be built around what is important to young people and the setting, and will result in opportunities to record and perform music. Open Doors, as a registered Arts Awards Centre will work with the music provider to design and process Arts Awards for young people taking part.

All activities will be located in the district of Newark and Sherwood, in particular, supporting people living in areas where there are less arts opportunities.

If you are an experienced music provider in our region, can offer expertise and passion for inclusive music-making with SEND young people, and your work is environmentally friendly, we want to hear from you.

Scope of the work

The music provider will:

- Liaise with the Open Doors team to agree and secure groups and locations
- Liaise with staff at groups to agree dates and young people attending
- Agree the themes for each project in collaboration with young people
- Design accessible and inclusive project activities

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- Book and support musicians to plan and deliver participatory music activities
- Work with Open Doors staff to co-design Arts Awards
- Risk Assess all activities
- Deliver weekly workshops for each project
- Design accessible ways to capture feedback from participants at the start, during and at the end of projects
- Collect and share participant data including numbers, age categories, postcodes, using templates provided by Open Doors
- Liaise with group leaders to plan a celebration event at the end of each project for a wider audience
- Work with Open Doors Marketing and Design Assistant on the production of graphic materials relating to performances
- Supply recorded songs to group leaders and Open Doors
- Meet monthly with Open Doors staff for monitoring and support

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

Outputs

The music provider will deliver:

- 2 x 10-session projects with between 10 and 20 young people (per group) and their carers / teachers
- 2 x sets of recordings at the end of projects
- 2 x celebration performances at the end of projects
- Arts Awards completed by all young people taking part

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 participatory music activities with young people with SEND

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- The age range you are interested in working with
- The music specialisms you can offer
- A quotation, summarising each activity and management fees

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**](mailto:opendoors@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk)