

SOUND IT OUT EVALUATION PROCESSES

Sound It Out follows full and thorough monitoring and evaluation processes to ensure that all of our programme opportunities are delivered effectively and meet intended outcomes. In addition, Sound It Out staff receive regular supervision and appraisals during which targets are set and appropriate professional development identified.

In a very practical sense, we ensure that we track our project opportunities in order to make sure they meet intended outcomes through a very thorough system of monitoring and evaluation. The Artistic Team and project partners meet regularly to review and agree milestones and progress towards achieving the project aims and outcomes. Sound It Out ensure that the participants, beneficiaries, audience, project staff and partners regularly contribute to project monitoring in an appropriate format, encouraging stakeholders to voice their views on the development of the project/programme on an ongoing basis. Beneficiaries complete short monitoring and evaluation forms about the programme sessions and are encouraged to contribute to plenary type discussions at the end of each group session. Community contacts, partners and venue staff are asked to comment on any significant observations made as to the impact of the project on the local community and on the participants and people involved.

The following quantitative measures are used to measure the impact of our project activity:

- The number of participants / trainees/ audiences reached.
- Details of age, gender and ethnicity of those engaged with will be kept and measured (where appropriate).
- The diversity of participants engaged with through each project (where community cohesion is an aim).
- The level of activity (number of projects/ number of sessions, etc) we are able to offer through our inclusion strand.
- The number of communities engaged with (wards, constituencies, different community organisations, etc).
- Working with partners (local police and community safety officers) to identify if there is any impact of a sustained programme within local communities, e.g., reviewing level of racist incidents/crime over the duration; reviewing levels of adults in purposeful activity, etc...
- Working with partners (Refugee Council/ Home Office, etc) to identify numbers of exiled adults with an interest/skill/home country qualification in music accessing our opportunities/ training/ employment in music.
- The number of new strategic links and partnerships made.
- The number of Refugee Community Organisations engaged with.

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The following qualitative measures are used:

- The quality and depth of new strategic links and partnerships, and activity/outcomes produced as a result of these partnerships.
- The profile of the organisation for its work in this area.
- Inviting comments from the local communities we engage with as to the impact of the programme on their community. The impact of the project on challenging any negative attitudes towards refugees and asylum seekers is not statistically measurable. However, audiences are encouraged to complete questionnaires about their responses to the opportunities provided through the project. In addition, staff at the local venues/ or community centres take part in the evaluation of the project.
- Assessing the understanding of others sectors in the value of using the arts to address social change (through increased engagement with these sectors).
- Reviewing the impact of the work on exiled artists - any progression into education / employment / training (where relevant).
- SWOTs for each participating trainee artist.
- Evaluating the musical development of participants.
- Reviewing the impact of the work on 'host community' participants.
- Reviewing the impact of our programme on exiled artists.
- The ongoing tracking of a percentage of trainees and participants through case studies regularly reviewing the impact of their involvement and their development.
- Reviewing the impact of the project on partners – how the strategic partnership working between organisations involved has impacted on each organisation's development and on the signposting/progression routes for exiled artists and communities interested in participating in the arts.

Sound It Out is also keen to work with an appropriate research student of Birmingham City University in order to develop an external evaluation of the impact of our work in this area, specifically on the benefits of using music to address social change and community cohesion.

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