

New Report Aims To Help More Of Suffolk's Young People Make Music

Britten Pears Arts, Festival Bridge and Suffolk County Music Service are working with the **University of Suffolk** to produce a report on music provision across the county for young people aged 0 – 25.

Using the [new National Plan for Music Education 'The Power of Music to Change Lives'](#) as a guide, the organisations are collaborating to gain a better picture of the ways young people across Suffolk are engaging with music both in and out of school. The findings will be used to identify areas for development over the next 10 years to ensure more young people can experience the benefits of music.

The research will include young people at its heart, as well as education providers from all stages, arts organisations and artists. The planning for the research has already begun with a consultation involving representatives from 17 schools and music organisations across Suffolk.

The new National Plan for Music Education was published on 25 June, replacing the first plan which was published in 2011. It aims to see all children and young people receive a high-quality music education in the early years and in schools, that they have the opportunity to progress into musical careers, and that all music educators work in partnership to ensure young people have equal access to this, regardless of their circumstances. The responsibility for delivering this in Suffolk sits with a partnership known as the Music Education Hub, which is currently chaired by the Suffolk County Music Service and includes organisations such as Britten Pears Arts, Festival Bridge, Suffolk Artlink, and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra who are resident in Lowestoft.

The new National Plan for Music Education was created by the Department for Education and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and was assembled by an [expert advisory panel](#) in response to a national music education consultation report.

This research will be carried out by Associate Professors [David James](#) and [Stuart Agnew](#) at the University of Suffolk who have collaborated on a range of research and evaluation projects exploring the lives and service provision for children and young people in the region over the last decade.

David James, Associate Professor in Sociology at the University of Suffolk says “We are very pleased to be invited to develop a report in partnership with Britten Pears Arts, Festival Bridge and Suffolk County Music Service to map current music provision across Suffolk. We will develop a collaborative and children and young people centred report to plan to allow the full spectrum of music organisations to increase future engagement with music over the coming decade. We are looking forward to exploring the implications of the new National Plan for Music Education and working alongside a wide range of music organisations across Suffolk. We anticipate that a major focus will be on increasing diversity and equality alongside developing excellence in music education.”

Roger Wright, Chief Executive of Britten Pears Arts says: “Young people across Suffolk all deserve access to music, whether that’s attending a performance, learning an instrument, singing in a choir or having great musicians visit their school. By working together on this research and considering the voices of children and young people around the county, we hope that we can create a collective approach to address the gaps and make sure all young people have access to opportunities in the years to come.”

The findings of the report will be published in 2023. Britten Pears Arts invites anyone who wants to be involved, contribute to the research, or keep up to date with its progress to get in touch by emailing community@brittenpearsarts.org

Images can be found here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tdewsjplg1yyf9a/AABpdyjOzQFij0py3GFxngvaa?dl=0>

For further press information please contact:

Callum Given | Head of Community, Britten Pears Arts | cgiven@brittenpearsarts.org | 01728 687163



Notes to Editors

David James is an Associate Professor in Sociology and Course Leader for Sociology, Criminology and Politics programmes at the University of Suffolk. David sees himself as an educator dedicated to helping students to learn effectively within the social sciences. He has a keen interest in social change, social theory and the study of materiality.

Stuart Agnew is Associate Professor for Criminology at the University of Suffolk and has held several roles within University of Suffolk since he joined in 2008 from University of Teesside. Having previously been the Course Leader for Criminology at University of Suffolk and contributing to the MA Criminology: Crime & Victimisation, his focus is on expanding the partnership between the University of Suffolk and Unitas. As such, he coordinates and develops the academic provision that is validated by University of Suffolk but delivered by Unitas through distance learning. These courses include: FdA Youth Justice, BA (Hons) Youth Justice (progression route), BA Crime, Criminology & Criminal Justice and FdA Criminal Justice. Stuart has a 1st Class (Hons) degree and MSc Criminology from University of Teesside. He is a Fellow of Higher Education Academy and has a PGCE. Stuart is also an experienced External Examiner.

Britten Pears Arts is a pioneering cultural charity based on the Suffolk coast at two, historic visitor destinations: Snape Maltings and The Red House, Aldeburgh. It emerged from the determination of composer Benjamin Britten and his partner, singer Peter Pears, to ensure that everyone could enjoy and experience music. Britten Pears Arts aims to continue their legacy to develop talent, celebrate their heritage and engage with communities. The organisation has a national leadership role in the areas of talent development and music, health and wellbeing. We use music to transform people's lives, to bring communities together and enhance daily life. We want the arts to effect powerful positive change in, and for, society. Or, as Britten himself would have put it, we make the arts "useful." brittenpearsarts.org

Festival Bridge is one of ten national Bridge organisations funded by Arts Council England and the Department for Education to connect children and young people with great arts and culture. An initiative of Norfolk & Norwich Festival, Festival Bridge works across Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Peterborough and Suffolk, supporting and developing cultural education partnerships and practices, to ensure children and young people receive a valuable cultural experience.

Suffolk County Music Service is a free-standing traded service within the Children and Young People's Services directorate of Suffolk County Council and seeks to encourage participation, enjoyment and achievement in music for all children and young people. SCMS delivers the 4 core and 3 extension roles required in the National Plan for Music Education through its tuition in schools, at regional music centres and through an annual 'County Music Groups' programme, ensuring that the young people of Suffolk are supported at every stage of their learning, through clear musical progression pathways. It is also the lead organisation in the Suffolk Music Education Hub.