



Take it away Consortium

Creative United

Make Some Noise research into inclusive access to music making

Context

- There are 13.9 million disabled people in the UK
- 8% of children are disabled
- 19% of working age adults are disabled
- 45% of pension age adults are disabled

Source: [Family Resources Survey 2016/17](#)

Despite this, there were no existing data sets which described the experiences and participation levels of disabled people with regard to music that provided a national picture of the accessibility of music making opportunities either for disabled children or for disabled adults.

Key findings

Music Learning

- 52% of parents of disabled children told us that their children experienced moderate or severe limitations to accessing a music lesson of any kind.
- 69% of parents with disabled children, 67% of disabled adults, and 89% of music educators told us that finances are a barrier to music making
- Less than 30% of music educators agreed with the statement "I am confidently able to signpost sources of funding to support my students with their music making"

Music Shops

- 59% of music retailers responding to the survey said they are **not aware of any specialist products or adapted instruments that have been developed in order to make music more accessible for disabled people**
- Less than 20% of music educators agree with the statement "High street music shops generally meet the needs of my students in purchasing what they need for their music making"

Musical Instruments

- Less than 25% of parents with disabled children and only 54% of music educators agree with the statement "I know how and where to source an adapted musical instrument"
- Over 50% of music educators tell us that "difficulty accessing a suitable instrument" is a barrier to their students' music making.

Music Performances

- 55% of disabled adults and 57% of parents of disabled children tell us that their opportunity to access a live music event has been moderately or severely limited, and 69% of disabled adults tell us transport is a particular barrier.

Barriers to access

- The barriers to access most frequently cited by disabled adults were
 - Health Condition, Illness or Impairment (cited by 87% of respondents)
 - Disability related reasons (82%)
 - Difficulty with transport (69%)
 - Financial reasons (67%)
- The barriers to access most frequently cited by parents of disabled children were
 - Financial Reasons (69%)
 - Disability related reasons (69%)
 - No opportunities available (63%)
 - Lack of help or assistance (59%)
 - Lack of information (57%)
 - Attitudes of other people (53%)
 - Music educators also cited curriculum changes as a major disabling barrier, with repeated mention in free comment boxes of
 - "A school curriculum which is focused on 'core' subjects" where "music is devalued"
 - "She has highest score in music and has great interest in progressing with keyboard, choir, and woodwind, but school feel it "isn't worth it" to go through the effort of applying and waiting for any help with overcoming obstacles to support her."