

Youth Voice Consultation

We wanted to better understand how children and young people across the county experience music, what you want, what's working well and what you would like to be different. We had a huge response from 957 children and young people aged 7 – 25 years old from across Essex.

Here are some of the things you told us:

MUSIC IS IMPORTANT

"Because I use music for everything. Music helps me concentrate more and focus."

You told us that music is important or very important in your lives and you enjoy making music.



PERSONAL BENEFITS OF MUSIC

"Because it's a sense of freedom and a way for me to express myself from things at home."

"Listen every day, helps me get through difficult times."

The positive personal benefits of music are important to you, for example how music relaxes you, makes you happy, helps you to express yourself, escape and to address and alleviate mental health issues.

POP MUSIC

"Listening to music makes me want to get involved in it and see it live or play it myself."

"Want to go to concerts to see favourite artists and bands."

You most enjoy listening to pop music, followed by rap and rock. You also most enjoy playing or creating pop music, followed by classical music.



FINDING OUT ABOUT MUSIC ACTIVITIES

You usually hear about music opportunities from your parents and letters from school, followed by social media.

BARRIERS TO TAKING PART IN MUSIC

"It is quite expensive so not everyone can get involved if they want to."

"More activities and cheaper activities."

"Having more time to be involved in music groups."

The main barriers to taking part in music activities are time and cost, and what's on offer not being in line with your interests. Free and affordable activities and equipment would help you to take part in more music.



ENGAGING IN MUSIC

"I like listening to music and watching live gigs/performances so I want to play like the performers."

The most popular musical activity you engage in is listening to live music followed by performing music. The majority of you also prefer to make music on your own.

RANGE OF MUSIC GENRES

"Variety and range."

You would like to see a greater range of music genres supported and promoted.



ACCESS TO STUDIO SPACE, FESTIVALS AND OPPORTUNITIES



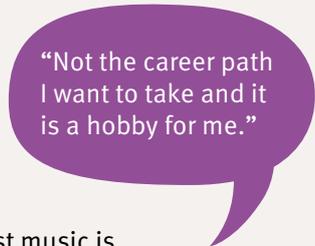
You would like to have more access to studio space, music festivals, opportunities to perform and network with one another, and more workshops/clubs.



LOCAL MUSIC ACTIVITIES

It is important to have local music opportunities that you can participate in.

MUSIC AS A CAREER



Whilst music is important to you, most of you have not chosen to study music at school or college and 65% of you have never considered a career in music.



For those of you who would like to have a career in music the most popular career path is playing music/performing.

Next steps

Here are some of the things Essex Music Education Hub will be doing in response to your feedback:

- Programme activities and opportunities across a broad range of music styles and genres.
- Promote local opportunities offered by local organisations and individuals across Essex through the Hub website and social media, including recording studios and spaces.
- Continue to develop community music schools.
- Set up young producers groups in North, South, Mid & West Essex to find out about what is needed in their local area.
- Offer local organisations and individuals funding opportunities to develop local music activities.
- Provide further training for Essex Music Service managers, music teachers and leaders, to ensure we are able to develop skills to consult with young people on an ongoing basis and to ensure music activities and opportunities meet your needs.
- Introduce rock-band teaching in primary schools and offer half-term rock and pop courses in locations across Essex for bands and individuals.
- Take into account what you have told us when reviewing our business plan, planning activity and looking at funding.
- Look at creating accessible performance opportunities.
- Continue hosting music festivals for young people, with plans for a festival in 2020, where young people will be involved in planning, programming and delivering the event.

We would like to say a huge thank you to you all for taking part.

